

# MEDICINEMATTERS

JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Medicine Matters is a monthly newsletter published by the University of Virginia, Department of Medicine. Inquiries may be sent to the editor, Kim Kelley-Wagner, at kak2cj@uvahealth.org

 **UVA Health** DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

## MISSION

We are dedicated to preventing disease and treating illness, educating and inspiring future leaders in the field of Internal medicine, and supporting innovative biomedical research.

## VALUES

We strive for a sense of community, connection, and synergy among all faculty, staff, and trainees.

## PLEDGE

We will conform to the highest ethical standards, uphold the values of our partner organizations, and give back to our community through public service.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Happy New Year to the entire Department of Medicine Family! We are starting the year with a fantastic edition of Medicine Matters. We highlight the activities of faculty and staff in all of our missions, and I am sure you will be impressed by the scope of nationally recognized work that is going on in our Department daily. I wanted to highlight several items. First, congratulations to Dr. Neeral Shah who is the recipient of a State Council on Higher Education Award as one of Virginia's

top educators. What a tremendous and well-deserved honor that recognizes his long-standing excellence in education. Next, look at the amazing contributions of the Division of Cardiology at the American Heart Association Annual Meeting. In addition, many of our faculty were honored with School of Medicine awards and endowed chairs - congratulations to all of these faculty. Lastly, this edition highlights the Division of Infectious Disease and International Health under the leadership of Dr. Eric Houpt. I encourage you to read about the leading research, education, and clinical care in the Division. The publication list alone is so impressive. As we start the New Year, I wish each of you excellent health and success and thank you for all your dedication and efforts.

With best wishes,

Mitchell H. Rosner, MD, MACP  
Henry B. Mulholland Professor of Medicine  
Chair, Department of Medicine



*“The main focus of my research is to develop molecular tools, think of it like a magnifying*

*glass, that can really finely diagnose the cause of different infections. We apply this to lung diseases, childhood infections, and diarrheal diseases.”*

—Eric Houpt, MD



# DEPARTMENT OFFNOTE

## DOM Financial Update

### Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials November 2024

FY25 as of	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	568,849	573,020	4,171
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	37,269,918	36,272,369	(997,549)
Total Revenues	106,473,447	106,627,514	154,066
Total Expenditures	105,502,055	106,441,392	(939,337)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>971,393</b>	<b>186,121</b>	<b>(785,271)</b>

#### Summary Explanation of Variance:

1. For the fiscal year through November 30, 2024, DOM reported a consolidated net gain of \$186K and an unfavorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$785K.
2. Clinical receipts underperformed budget by \$998K primarily due to impact of lower conversion factor, changes in third party agreements, unrealized budgeted revenue cycle efficiency, budgeted risk withhold for transplant posted to miscellaneous revenue, lower MIPS payments, accrual model adjustments and CrowdStrike software outage.
3. Total revenue includes \$3.2M MC clinical deficit and APP gap coverage revenue accrual, \$1.6M unbudgeted gifts and \$3.1M endowment revenue for the remainder of the fiscal year.
4. Total expenditures and impacted by unbudgeted hires, extra clinic shifts, unbudgeted merit increases unbudgeted sign on bonuses and unrealized budgeted staff and incentive reduction contingencies.

**FOLLOW UVA ENDO**

**FOLLOW UVA ID**

**FOLLOW UVA  
PULMONARY**

**FOLLOW UVA  
NEPHROLOGY**

**FOLLOW GASTRO**

**FOLLOW CARDIO**

**WELCOME**

**NEW**

**FELLOWS**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO US!**

UVA Health University  
Medical Center Named The  
Top Hospital In Virginia In  
Recent Newsweek Ranking



Lakin Underwood



Neeral Shah MD

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

UVA Health recognizes Uteam Members of the Month every quarter for their outstanding service and commitment to UVA's ASPIRE values. Congratulations to **Lakin Underwood**, Clinical Research Coordinator, Gastroenterology, who was honored with a Uteam Member Award, which was celebrated with other awardees during the November Uteam Member of the Month Quarterly Breakfast in the Education Resource Center. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Neeral Shah** (Division of Gastroenterology), who The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Dominion Energy (SCHEV) selected as a 2025 Outstanding Faculty Award Winner. [Read more...](#)

Dr. Michele Golino, a member of Dr. Abbate's research team at the Robert M. Berne Cardiovascular Research Center at the University of Virginia, Dr. Robyn Goodrich, an Internal Medicine resident, and Dr. Antonio Abbate attended the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2024 in Chicago recently. They presented and discussed the critical role of inflammation in cardiovascular disease and highlighted the importance of targeting it, specifically through interleukin-1 inhibition, to improve outcomes for patients with ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction.

The conference was a unique opportunity to share insights, explore cutting-edge research, and collaborate and network with amazing colleagues worldwide.



Dr. Antonio Abbate



Dr. Michele Golino



Dr. Abbate with colleagues who attended the conference and research team members, including Austin Hogwood PhD, post doc, Morgan Hamilton, research coordinator, Kelly Parker, research coordinator, Michele Golino, MD, PhD, senior post doc



Dr. Antonio Abbate



Dr. Robyn Goodrich



Dr. Antonio Abbate speaking

## Faculty Awards Ceremony Celebrates Outstanding Faculty Achievements

The School of Medicine Dean's Office held its faculty awards ceremony on November 21, 2024, in the Claude Moore Education Building. This annual event recognizes faculty for their sustained impact on the success of our students and trainees, patients, colleagues, and the advancement of science and medicine. The ceremony also honors endowed professorship electees. Endowed professorships are made possible by generous gifts from donors, which allows the School of Medicine to recruit and retain some of the best and brightest physicians and scientists in the world. Congratulations to the Department of Medicine members who are among this distinguished group. (Photos: Tom Daly) [Read more...](#)



Recipients of 2023-24 School of Medicine Faculty Awards



2023-2024 School of Medicine Endowed Professorship Electees

- Brian Wispelwey MD**, Professor of Medicine - *Master Clinician Award*
- Amber Inofuentes MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine - *Dean's Award for Clinical Excellence*
- Alden Doyle MD**, Professor of Medicine - *Dean's Award for Clinical Excellence*
- Tushar Chopra MBBS**, Associate Professor of Medicine - *Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching*
- Molly Hughes MD PhD**, Professor of Medicine - *Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching*
- Emily McGowan MD PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics - *Dean's Award for Excellence in Research*
- Taison Bell MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine - *2023-2024 Endowed Professorship Electees*
- Sue Brown MD**, Kenneth R. Crispell Professorship in Internal Medicine - *Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award*
- Suzanne Jan de Beur MD**, Gerald D. Aurbach Professorship in Endocrinology - *Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award*
- J. Michael Mangrum MD**, Ted Turner Professorship in Atrial Fibrillation - *Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award*
- Anne Tuskey MD**, Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professorship in Medicine - *Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award*

# The Department of Medicine *Annual Holiday Party*

On December 19th, 2024, the Department held its holiday party. The food was delicious, and the company was exceptional, with smiles all around! Here's to every University of Virginia Department of Medicine member, and a Happy New Year to all!



Larry Borish, Amy Mathers, Kyle Enfield, and Taison Bell



Lindsay Danburg, Andrew Bowman, Terri Washington, Rachael Boston, Kim Blowe, and Russ Manley



Mitch Rosner and Mohan Nadkarni



Suzanne Jan De Beur and Heather Ferris



Brian Wispelwey and Larry Borish



Eric Houpt, Kyle Enfield, and Amy Mathers



Anuradha Illendula, Bri'Ana Horne (visiting from Univ of Maryland), Queen Naumanga, Andrei Khokhlathev



Justin Mutter and Andrew Parsons



Justin Taylor, Mike Brown, Rahul Sharma, and Vikram Sabapathy



Thomas Platts-Mills and Sun Sang Sung



Stewart Babbott and Sidhartha Pani



Sun Sang Sung and Glenn Glover



Swati Rao, Sanja Arandjelovic, Uta Erdbruegger, Susanna Keller, and Vikram Sabapathy



Russ Manley, Kim Kelley-Wagner, and Terri Washington



Terry Bennett and Joy Hilton



Thomas Platts-Mills, Mohan Nadkarni, and Christopher Kramer

# DEPARTMENT INIMEDIA

## Q&A: Should You Tape Your Mouth Shut Before You Sleep?

UVA's Dr. Eric Davis helps with the answer.

There are people taping their mouths closed before bedtime to try to stop snoring and prevent "potentially sleep apnea," said Dr. Eric Davis, a University of Virginia sleep expert.

The trend started where many do these days, on TikTok and other social platforms. "I will start by saying that this is not an approved treatment for snoring or sleep apnea," said Davis, who heads UVA's Sleep Disorders Center. "The data on this is extremely limited, to the point that I frankly do not recommend it to patients."

Still, the doctor said he has seen "a ton of patients who have done it."

[READ MORE](#)



## Endoscopy in the Age of GLP-1 RAs: 2024 Sees New Risk-Based Perioperative Guidance

Dr. Andrew Wang talks with HCPLive about perioperative guidance for endoscopies for patients taking weight loss medications.

Previous ASA guidance recommended holding GLP-1 RAs in the perioperative period, but new 2024 multisociety guidance suggests a risk-based approach.

The recent rise of GLP-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) has been nothing short of revolutionary for the field of medicine, with no other class of medications matching their profound impact across multiple disciplines.

How Did We Get Here? A Look at the Rise of GLP-1 RAs

[READ MORE](#)

## Dr. Michael Ayers, UVA Health Cardiologist Discusses Wearable Technology Health Benefits

While wearable technology can be useful when trying to achieve fitness goals, it also can warn people of potentially deadly health problems.

"What the Apple Watch has gotten really good at in particular is looking at how regular your heart rate is," said Dr. Michael Ayers with the University of Virginia Health System's cardiology department. He says modern wearable technology can do a lot more than count your steps. It can detect irregular and potentially dangerous heart rate patterns.

"If your watch tells you you have atrial fibrillation, it turned out it was pretty likely you did indeed have atrial fibrillation," Ayers said.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)







**Dr. Patrick Dillon is featured in BioPharma Dive and Yahoo discussing a new potential medication to treat breast cancer.**

An experimental breast cancer drug developed by Eli Lilly met its main goal in a Phase 3 study.

“With such a positive Phase 3 randomized study, it is very likely that imlunestrant will receive an FDA [approval] based on the result of the study,” said Patrick Dillon.

[READ MORE in BioPharma Dive and Yahoo](#)



**Cardiologist Antonio Abatte Raises Awareness About Pericarditis, a Rare Heart Condition**

Dr. Abatte recently appeared in a video with former National Hockey League goaltender Henrik Lundqvist to raise awareness about pericarditis, a rare heart condition that can have serious implications if not properly treated.

Pericarditis occurs when there is inflammation of the pericardium, the thin membrane that surrounds the heart.

**WATCH VIDEO**



**School of Medicine Center for Excellence in Education Hosts Inaugural Teaching Bootcamp for Trainees**

The School of Medicine Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) Teaching Committee hosted an inaugural Teaching Bootcamp for Residents and Fellows on October 17, 2024. Drawing over 50 trainees across diverse specialties within the UVA Health System, the event highlighted the commitment to education present among UVA’s faculty and trainee population.

The Center of Excellence in Education Teaching Committee recognized a gap in access to teaching-focused curricula for residents and fellows. This bootcamp was designed to bridge that gap, leveraging the exceptional educational expertise within the medical school to cultivate essential teaching skills in our residents and fellows,” stated Heath Patel, MD, co-chair of the teaching committee.



**Jie Sun, PhD, and Jen Hendrick, MD, Highlighted in Virginia Magazine About Long Covid Research and Treatments**

Researchers Jie Sun, PhD, principal investigator at UVA’s Carter Center for Immunology Research, and Jen Hendrick, MD, an infectious disease physician at UVA, were featured in Virginia Magazine discussing the impact of long COVID on patients’ lungs and how best to treat it.

**READ MORE**

[Read the full article in the Virginia magazine.](#)

“We take great pride in our longstanding tradition of excellence in medical education at UVA, and this bootcamp exemplifies our continued commitment to preparing housestaff to be both skilled clinicians and educators.”

**READ MORE**

**Dr. Michael Nelson is featured locally, across Virginia, and on TV stations nationally discussing how winter affects people with asthma.**

“The best medications onboard at all times is important to prevent that exacerbation in cold air,” UVA Asthma, Allergy and Immunology division Chief Michael Nelson said. “You can also do some short-term things such as putting a scarf over your mouth to help warm up the air before it hits the airways.”

**WATCH VIDEO**



**Dr. Michael Nelson is quoted in Fortune, FiercePharma, BioPharma Dive, and Yahoo discussing a potential RSV vaccine for kids.**

“The system worked. The safety signal was reached. A proper pause was put in place,” Michael Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., the chief of the asthma, allergy and immunology division at the University of Virginia’s School of Medicine, said during the meeting.

**READ MORE in [Fortune](#), [Yahoo](#), [Fierce Pharma](#), [BioPharma Dive](#)**

**Drs. George Hoke, Amber Inofuentes, and Ben Robinson (a UVA resident) talk with Virginia Business about hospitalists.**

“Medical illnesses are more complicated than 20 to 30 years ago,” notes Dr. Amber Inofuentes, “The acuity and complexity of patients when they’re hospitalized has changed so significantly that the knowledge and skill set that’s needed for the role of a hospitalist is very different.”

As hospitalists have evolved from a purely clinical role to serving broad, operational needs in hospital systems, they’ve become indispensable, according to Dr. George Hoke, “A hospital couldn’t run without hospitalists,” Hoke says. “If we all didn’t show up to work tomorrow, it would be a big problem.” says Hoke. “It’s easy to find work.”

That tracks with what Dr. Ben Robinson has been seeing in the job market. Robinson, a member of the 2025 internal residency program at UVA says there’s a “pretty good market for job openings” for physicians in general, though he’s attracted mostly to the work hospitalists do. “That very broad sense and holistic view of the patient’s well-being was what drew me to general medicine, and working in a hospital is a very satisfying environment.”

**READ MORE**

**Dr. Laahn Foster talks with MedPage Today about the benefits of a medication combo for treating multiple myeloma.**

In this exclusive MedPage Today video, Laahn Foster, MD, of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, discusses the results of the analysis, which was presented at the recent American Society of Hematology annual meeting.

**WATCH VIDEO**



**Dr. Neeral Shah is featured in the Washington Times discussing Dry January.**

Health professionals generally view Dry January as positive but with some caveats. In an interview with UVAToday, Dr. Neeral Shah said, “Taking this month off from drinking can absolutely make a big difference in your health - physically and mentally. Overall, I think with the increase in alcohol use, this concept is more important than ever.”

**READ WASHINGTON TIMES ARTICLE**

**READ UVA TODAY ARTICLE**



## Dr. Patrick Jackson talks with Reuters about a new HIV medication.

“When lenacapavir is used for treatment in people living with HIV, it has to be given in combination with other drugs. If a person stops taking treatment, the virus will return. Lenacapavir is also not a vaccine. If a person using lenacapavir for PrEP stops getting doses, they can be at risk for acquiring HIV.” Jackson said

**READ MORE**



## UVA Health’s Dr. Patrick Jackson explains bird flu and how it’s currently being transmitted.

Bird flu cases are on the rise with a possible human-to-human transmitted case, and confirmed first case in a child in California, increasing the concerns of a wider outbreak.

However, infectious disease expert Dr. Patrick Jackson with UVA Health said while the disease is evolving and becoming more transmissible, it is not time panic.

**WATCH VIDEO**

## It’s in the Genes: Weight and Metabolism Determined by Genetics More Than Diet

New research has found that the way food affects metabolism is controlled more by our genetics than by what we eat.

UVA professors, from left to right, Dr. Heather Ferris, Mete Civelek, Susanna Keller, Sibylle Kranz and Bijoy Kundu conducted the research. (University Communications photo)

**READ MORE**



## Women In Internal Medicine Network would love to hear from you!



*Please share your ideas with us here.*

## Is Your Content Up-to-Date?

Our department websites are one of the most powerful recruitment tools we have, your help is needed to keep content up-to-date and use them effectively.

Researchers and lab managers; have updates made by contacting Kim Kelley-Wagner at [kak2cj@uvahealth.org](mailto:kak2cj@uvahealth.org) or 434.328.0680

Team and research lab photo shoots are also available.

Thanks for making our websites a valuable and dynamic experience!

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE  
**MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS**  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

# CLINICAL TRIALS

**New Hematology/Oncology Clinical Trials (opened since 11/01/2024)**

## **DEVELOPMENTAL THERAPIES**

*Targeted Therapy Directed by Genetic in Testing Patients With Locally Advanced or Advanced Solid Tumors, Molecular Analysis for Combination Therapy Choice (ComboMATCH)*

IRB # HSR230432

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05564377

Sponsor Protocol: EAY191

Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew

Study Contact: Francis Bagley b9up@uvahealth

## **GASTRO-INTESTINAL (GI)**

*A Phase III Multi-center, Open-label, Sponsor-blinded, Randomized Study of AZD0901 Monotherapy Compared with Investigator's Choice of*

*Therapy in Second- or Later-Line Adult Participants with Advanced/Metastatic Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction Adenocarcinoma Expressing Claudin18.2*

IRB # 301467

CT. Gov. ID: NCT06346392

Sponsor Protocol: D9802C00001 / Clarity GC01

Sponsor: AstraZeneca

Principal Investigator: Le, Tri

Study Contact: Bri Speakar ckz3jb@uvahealth.

## **HEAD AND NECK**

*A phase 3 open-label, randomized, controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of petosemtamab compared with investigator's choice monotherapy treatment in previously treated patients with incurable, metastatic/recurrent head and neck squamous cell carcinoma*

IRB # 301362

CT. Gov. ID: NCT03526835

Sponsor Protocol: MCLA-158-CL02

Sponsor: Merus N.V.

Principal Investigator: Kaur, Varinder

Study Contact: Bri Speakar ckz3jb@uvahealth.

## **LYMPHOMA**

*Phase II trial Evaluating Safety and Efficacy of Epcoritamab with Gemcitabine, Dexamethasone, and Cisplatin (GDP) Salvage Chemotherapy in Relapsed Refractory Large B-cell Lymphoma.*

IRB # 300042

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05852717

Sponsor Protocol: HCRN LYM22-565

Sponsor: Hoosier Cancer Research Network

Principal Investigator: Gentzler, Ryan

Study Contact: Jennifer L Garth jlg8tg@uvahealth.

Sandy J Soler kpt7xp@uvahealth. 434-297-8941

*A phase 1 study of mosunetuzumab with polatuzumab vedotin and lenalidomide (M+Pola+Len) in relapsed/refractory (R/R) diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBC of L)*

IRB # 301211

CT. Gov. ID: NCT06015880

Sponsor Protocol: 10601

Sponsor: ETCTN

Principal Investigator: Ayers, Emily

Study Contact: Molly Malone beu5pz@uvahealth. 434-297-7782

## **PBT:PLASMA/BENIGN/T-CELL**

*A Phase 2, Multicohort Open-Label Study of JNJ-68284528, a Chimeric Subjects with Multiple Myeloma*

IRB # HSR230526

CT. Gov. ID: NCT04133636

Sponsor Protocol: 68284528MMY2003

Sponsor: Janssen Research & Development

Principal Investigator: Foster, Laahn

Study Contact: Theresa Leak tol3w@uvahealth.

434-243-4308

## **SARCOMA**

*Randomized Phase 2 Study of Cabozantinib, Ipilimumab, and Nivolumab in Patients with Soft Tissue Sarcoma*

IRB # 301653

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05836571

Sponsor Protocol: 10556

Sponsor: ETCTN

Principal Investigator: Cavalcante, Ludimila

Study Contact: Zoe Hemmer zh7jf@virginia.edu

## **HEAD AND NECK**

*A phase 3 open-label, randomized, controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of petosemtamab compared with investigator's choice monotherapy treatment in previously treated patients with incurable, metastatic/recurrent head and neck squamous cell carcinoma*

IRB # 301362

CT. Gov. ID: NCT03526835

Sponsor Protocol: MCLA-158-CL02

Sponsor: Merus N.V.

Principal Investigator: Kaur, Varinder

Study Contact: Bri Speakar ckz3jb@uvahealth.

## **THORACIC**

*TEMPUS GEMINI NSCLC SURVEILLANCE STUDY: A Longitudinal Multi-Omic Biomarker Profiling Study of Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)*

IRB # 301517

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05236114

Sponsor Protocol: TP-CA-002

Sponsor: Tempus Labs, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Gentzler, Ryan

Study Contact: Yaroslav Shvorak ys7cb@uvahealth. 434-297-7384

## Cancer Center Menu of Data Resources

Have you ever wondered what kinds of UVA cancer patient clinical, genomics, and specimen data are available and how to get them?

If so, please check out the new Menu of Data Resources from the Cancer Center. It answers this question.

## Is Your Division's Website Content Up-to-Date? Need a Team or Research Lab Photo Shoot?

Researchers and lab managers, if you don't already have a research page dedicated to your team, please get in touch with Kim Kelley-Wagner to get started at [kak2cj@uvahealth.org](mailto:kak2cj@uvahealth.org) or 434.328.0680

# FOLLOW UVA IM RESIDENCY



## Follow DOM on INSTAGRAM!

## Get a New Provider ("White Coat") Headshot

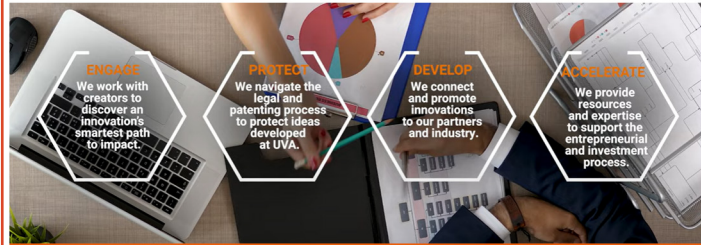
McKim Hall | Ground Floor, Room G045

Physicians and advanced practice providers: get a new or updated headshot taken in 10 minutes or less on dates listed below. No appointment needed. Bring a white coat if you have one; if not, one will be provided.

- Wednesday, January 8th | 8:00 – 11:00 am
- Tuesday, January 14th | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Thursday, January 23rd | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- Monday, October 21st | 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- Monday, January 27th | 9:00 – 12:00 pm

# SUBMIT NEWS

## Are You a UVA Researcher? An Innovator?



Licensing & Ventures Group

## Where research gets *real*

We partner with faculty, researchers, and investors to bring innovations discovered at UVA to the marketplace.

## MINFULNESS MATTERS A Newsletter from the UVA Mindfulness Center



# FOLLOW

## GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Support our local nonprofits

## FOLLOW UVA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## FOLLOW UVA WOMEN IN INTERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK



## UVA Resources for Team Members

support for dealing with crisis and how to stay informed.

# UPDATE

DIVISION

## Message from Infectious Diseases Division Chief, Eric Houpt MD



Happy 2025! The Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health had a strong 2024, and we are pleased to share some updates in this newsletter. Our clinical workload has been extremely busy, particularly our ID consult services, and we are adjusting to accommodate this ever-increasing workload. Every consult patient is complex and time-consuming, and we deploy daily teams of 3 attendings, three fellows, three nurse practitioners, and students and residents to manage this complexity. Our research productivity has risen steadily over the last five years and reached \$25.2M last year, the highest on record. I am even more impressed with number 12, the number of our faculty members who are PI or MPI on NIH R01 grants. We are hoping that the NIH budget for ID hangs in there next year. Our Infectious Diseases fellowship program remains strong, having an excellent match every year, and our fellows emerge with exceptional clinical and research training. Please read below for more details on the 34 faculty and 100+ staff in our Division.

Happy New Year, Eric Houpt MD

## DIVISION RESEARCH

**Reported by Girija Ramakrishnan PhD, Research Associate Professor of Medicine**

The Division of Infectious Diseases awarded one-year seed funding to promote research and scholarship to the following faculty in the Division:

Mayuresh Abhyankar, Matt Crawford and Molly Hughes, Carol Gilchrist, Li Chaofan, Chris Moore, and Cirle Warren.

The Division also has been holding well-attended monthly meetings where an ID faculty member presents their research.



# FOLLOW INFECTIOUS DISEASES

# DIVISION EDUCATION



**By Patrick Jackson MD, Infectious Diseases Fellowship Director**

Program Director Patrick Jackson and Associate Program Directors Stacy Park and Chris Moore lead the University of Virginia’s Infectious Diseases Fellowship. The ID fellowship is a three-year training program that aims to produce excellent clinicians, researchers, and educators. The program has been supported by NIH T-32 training grants for more than four decades and emphasizes rigorous clinical medicine and research training. The program has a unique structure in which first-year fellows dedicate their time exclusively to research. The second and third training years are divided between clinical and research time. During the clinical years, fellows see patients on the general and immune-compromised/transplant inpatient consult services. There are also opportunities to participate in outpatient HIV, general, transplant, mycobacterial, Clostridium difficile, travelers, and musculoskeletal infectious diseases clinics.

Fellows and their faculty mentors work one-on-one in a wide array of scientific projects encompassing basic, translational, clinical, and epidemiologic research at UVA and around the globe. Four fellows graduated from the program in June. Ghassan Ilaiwy is continuing at UVA as a researcher funded by a Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Postdoc Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases. Jacqueline Hodges began a faculty position at Duke, where she continues her work on HIV and substance use disorder. Maria Geba is bringing her ID expertise abroad in international relief work in southern Sudan. Catherine Bielick has appointments at Harvard and MIT, where she is conducting K08-funded research on HIV opportunistic infections utilizing machine learning. We welcomed three new fellows in July - Daniel Bailey (U of Vermont), Ben Fuller (UVA), and Matthew Willis (VCU).

We welcome hearing from residents and students interested in learning more about ID or being connected to research projects in the Division. Please contact Patrick Jackson ([pej9j@uvahealth.org](mailto:pej9j@uvahealth.org)) if you would like to hear more about ID training opportunities.

Current Fellows	Residency	Research	Mentor
Bailey	Vermont	Gram negative infections	Hughes
Flynn	Cleveland Clinic	Diagnosis of acute febrile illness in Peru	Kosek
Fuller	UVA	Malaria in Uganda	Moore
Hicks	UVA	Hospital-acquired infections	Eby
Lehman	Inova	Stewardship/MDROs	Mathers
Meadows	Baptist	Tuberculosis therapy	Heysell
Bailey	Health/Univ of Arkansas	Gram negative infections	Hughes
Oakes	LSU	Antimicrobial stewardship & perioperative prophylaxis	Mathers
Rigo	Cleveland Clinic	C difficile immunity	Petri/Madden
Willis	VCU	Substance use disorder	Thomas

# DIVISION ADDITIONAL NEWS

*In no particular order...*

- **Samantha Alleman-Moreau** and **Brett Moreau** had a baby, Alexandra, in December!
- **Dr. Neena Thomas-Gosain**, U Colorado, is joining the ID faculty in September 2025 (spouse of Surgery recruit).
- The fellowship program under the leadership of **Patrick Jackson** successfully filled our fellowship class in the Match! Only 50.8% of programs were filled this year.
- **Patrick Jackson** received an R56, "*HIV Rev-Rev Response Element Activity Variation in Transmission and Latency.*" Direct costs \$305,251.
- **Tania Thomas** and **Tuyetanh Eichholz** – *Patient Experience Awards* - A provider who achieved  $\geq$  the 90th percentile on Overall Provider level section results.
- **Carol Gilchrist**, received a new R21 AI185530 "*Developing vaccines against the intracellular and extracellular life stages of the Cryptosporidium parasite.*"
- **Mami Taniuchi**: received a new grant titled "*Machine Learning for Blue Line Tracing and Wastewater Surveillance*" from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, totaling \$1.77 million.
- **James Platts-Mills** received a new grant from the Gates Foundation, "*GPDS analysis 3.0,*" which extends support to the Global Pediatric Diarrhea Surveillance Network, now funded until 2027 and has been funded since 2016.
- **Scott Heysell** received an NIH K24 grant, "*Global Infectious Diseases Framework to grow interdisciplinary research.*"
- **Circle Warren** (UVA/prime university) received *The Virginia Catalyst Grant* (\$800,000) awarded to her and **Dr. Joel Linden** (Advocate/industry partner) and **Liwu Li** (Virginia Tech/partner university) for "*A2B receptor blockade for the treatment of Clostridioides difficile infection.*"
- **James Platts-Mills** took over the Gastrointestinal Infections sessions at the George Washington ID Board Review, joining Taison Bell on the ID Board Review faculty.
- **Chris Moore, Tania Thomas, Stellah Mpagama** (Tanzania), **Conrad Muzoora** (Uganda), and **Scott Heysell**- this month completed accrual (N=436) in phase 3 RCT to improve sepsis mortality.
- **Scott Heysell** was selected as Senior Fellow in UVA's Society of Fellows, **Idu Meadows** as Junior Fellow.
- **Amy Mathers** and colleagues hosted the *National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control, and American Society for Microbiology* to UVA on Wednesday, Dec 11, on the topic "*Virginia's Pathogen Genomics Center of Excellence (PGCoE): Infectious Disease Monitoring as a Health System Quality Initiative.*"
- **James Platts-Mills** and **Eric Houpt** are collaborators on a new R01 with **Elizabeth McQuade** (Emory, PI), "*Targeted antibiotic therapy for Shigella among children in low-resource settings,*" which continues our work on diarrheal disease in Haydom, Tanzania with a focus on identification and treatment of Shigella. <sup>16</sup>



- **Jie Sun** and colleagues, Science paper on Organelle control of tissue repair and fibrosis after viral infection including COVID.
- **Claire Fleming**, a Petri group grad student, will receive this year's prestigious PhRMA Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships
- FY25 Promotions – **Amy Mathers** (Professor), **Kate McManus** (Associate Professor), and **James Platts-Mills** (Associate Professor without term).
- **Great recent grant scores:**
  - **Jen Hendrick** K23 on passive and active immunity to Adenovirus 40/41 infection.
  - **Scott Heysell, Chris Moore**, and others U01 on a clinical trial for TB sepsis.
  - **Margaret Kosek** and others U01 Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID) “Western Amazonian Center for Viral Emerging Infectious Diseases.”
- **FY25 Department of Medicine Excellence Awards**
  - Excellence in Clinical Care – **Tarina Parpia**
  - Excellence in Mentorship – **Mami Taniuchi**
  - Excellence in Teaching – **Patrick Jackson**
  - Outstanding Staff Contributor – **LaMoria Alexander**
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award – **Greg Townsend**
  - Diane Snustad Award – **Tania Thomas**
  - Outstanding Team Contribution – *Complicated C. Diff Clinic (ID Group - Cirle Warren, Jae Shin, Shannon Ferguson)*
- Welcome to New Postdoctoral fellows (and Mentors) **Maria Luana Morais** (Cirle Warren) and **Nasif Hossain** (Josh Colston)
- **Josh Colston** received an \$8000 Analytics Resource Award from UVA's Data Analytics Center to support his ongoing research.
- Two post-docs in Bill Petri's lab received awards at this year's DOM Carey, Marshall, and Thorner Research & Scholar's Week:
  - Oral Presentation, 1st Place – **Farha Naz**, “Development of a Next-Generation Vaccine Against *Clostridioides Difficile* Infection”
  - Outstanding Publication – **Jashim Uddin**, “Investigating the impact of antibiotic-induced dysbiosis on protection from *Clostridium difficile* colitis by mouse colonic innate lymphoid cells,” mBio.
- **Jie Sun** was selected for the 2024 Class of the School of Medicine's Pinn Scholars. This prestigious award provides \$120,000 for each recipient's research program at the beginning of the three-year term.
- **Great recent grant scores:**
  - **Jen Hendrick** K23 on passive and active immunity to Adenovirus 40/41 infection.
  - **Scott Heysell, Chris Moore**, and others U01 on a clinical trial for TB sepsis.
  - **Margaret Kosek** and others U01 Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID) “Western Amazonian Center for Viral Emerging Infectious Diseases.”

# DIVISION EVENTS

## Administrative Staff Retreat

To connect with others on the team on matters outside of work and boost overall, we held our second annual Infectious Diseases Administrative Staff Retreat this past September, with team members opting into the activities that fit within their schedule. We began with lunch at Farm Bell Kitchen - always a delicious option.

We decided to vote on this year's afternoon activity, and the winner was completing an escape room at Charlottesville's Unlocked History. Our team worked together and "escaped" the Monticello-themed room "The British are Coming." We then ended the day cooking our dinner at Seoul Korean BBQ and Hotpot.

We thank the Division for the opportunity to connect with our team members again and look forward to the next one.



**Post-Escape Room Success** (from left) Lela Shook, Mutinta Bulanda, Lisa Cook, LaMoria Alexander, Samantha Alleman Moreau, Serhiy Vitko, Emily Kozik



**We escaped!** (from left) LaMoria Alexander, Mutinta Bulanda, Samantha Alleman Moreau, Lela Shook, Emily Kozik, Lisa Cook, Serhiy Vitko



**Lunch at Farm Bell** (from left) Mutinta Bulanda, Luke Aminuddin, Samantha Alleman Moreau, Hyunjin Law, LaMoria Alexander, Lela Shook, Emily Kozik, Serhiy Vitko



**Dinner** (from left) Samantha Alleman Moreau, Lisa Cook, LaMoria Alexander, Mutinta Bulanda, Emily Kozik, Lela Shook, Serhiy Vitko

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH DAY

Monday, February 10th, 2025

Pinn Hall Conference Center



**P'ng Loke, PhD**

Chief, Type 2 Immunity Section  
National Institutes of Health/  
National Institute of Allergy &  
Infectious Diseases

**“Heterogeneity of Type 2 immune responses during  
helminth infections”**

### *Schedule*

### *Location*

10:30 am – 11:30 am	Introduction and Career Panel	PHCC—Auditorium
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lunch and Poster Set-Up	PHCC—Auditorium/Lobby
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Poster Presentations	PHCC— Pinn 2ABC, Pinn G1/G2
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Oral Presentations	PHCC—Auditorium
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break	
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Keynote Address	PHCC—Auditorium
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Awards	PHCC—Auditorium

Scan here to RSVP for Lunch  
RSVP Deadline: December 31, 2024



Learn more about the  
Division of Infectious  
Diseases research by  
visiting their lab website.  
(click on group name)

**MARIE RESEARCH GROUP**

**HEYSELL RESEARCH GROUP**

**HOUPT RESEARCH GROUP**

**PETRI RESEARCH GROUP**

**TANIUCHI RESEARCH GROUP**

**THOMAS RESEARCH GROUP**

**CLINICAL TRIALS (JEDI) GROUP**

**EPIDEMIOLOGY & CLINICAL  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**GLOBAL BIOTHRREATS &  
EMERGING INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES**

**PARASITOLOGY/INTERNATIONAL  
HEALTH**

**PATHOGENESIS & HOST  
RESPONSES TO INFECTIOUS  
AGENTS**

**VIROLOGY & HIV**

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES SEMINARS & LECTURES

**ID Case Conference**

**ID Didactic and Fellows Research Conferences**

**HIV Lectures**

**HIV Case Conferences**

**ID and Global Biothreats Seminar Series**

**ID and Global Biothreats Research-in-Progress**

**ID Clinical Journal Club**

**Translational ID and Global Biothreats Journal Club**

**Transplant Lecture Series**

**Microbiology Seminars**

**Beirne B. Carter Center for Immunology Seminars**

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# DIVISION PROFILE

## STAFF - Emily Kozik



### **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I came to the University of Virginia in the spring of 2023, working as a grants and contracts administrator in the university research and non-profit sectors. Before joining the Division of Infectious Diseases, I managed large DHHS and Dept of State grants for one of the nine U.S. refugee resettlement agencies out of Silver Spring, Maryland. I also worked for many years supporting sponsored programs and research at the University of Florida.

### **Why Research?**

I did not realize that jobs in research administration existed until I fell into one after graduation. I wanted to live and work in Washington, D.C., so I found a globally-minded job that involved managing federal grants, including the Fulbright Program for the Department of State. In that job, I developed valuable knowledge of federal funding mechanisms and a niche skillset in grant accounting that has proved highly applicable across organizations and sectors. I made my way over to research in UVA's Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health because I enjoy the academic environment and love supporting gifted researchers working to improve the lives of people around the globe.

### **What brought you to Charlottesville?**

I've felt a connection to the University of Virginia since visiting as a prospective student more than fifteen years ago. While I ultimately decided to attend another renowned ACC school (sporting a different shade of blue), I still visited Charlottesville regularly while living in North Carolina and northern Virginia and loved the locale. When the chance came to work remotely for the University from my home just over the Appalachian mountains in West Virginia (and enjoy the occasional work

trip to Grounds), I knew it was a good fit for me.

### **What excites you about your work?**

I find genuine satisfaction in streamlining the administrative process for colleagues and researchers. It has been creative and fun to learn how different universities and organizations manage the grant process and consider how best to make small improvements or simply bring along those whose work depends on those processes. My perspective on this career shifted when I realized that I could use my talents to elevate research and programs that are important to me without needing to be a scientist, researcher, educator, social worker, or all of the above.

### **Describe yourself in one word.**

Dedicated. I have a joke with close friends and family that my epitaph will read, "She tried the hardest."

### **What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?**

With three kids, including a nine-month-old baby, it would probably be sleeping in if that ever happened! But in reality, I love splitting my free time between events and festivals in our little mountain town and getting out into the beautiful nature surrounding me here in Virginia.

### **How did you meet your partner?**

Band camp! We were both members of the University of North Carolina marching band. He's 6'5", so I noticed him immediately and decided to get a date. You can bet that we invited the band director to the wedding!

### **What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?**

Buffalo wing sauce! It's also the one thing we always asked American friends and family to bring in their suitcases when they visited us abroad.

### **Do you travel or have a favorite trip?**

My husband's academic work centers on Central Europe and Poland, so I've traveled in that region extensively. We were living in Poland during the Covid shutdown, and since we couldn't leave on our visas, we took trips all over the country and enjoyed the mountains, the Baltic coast, the castle-dotted plains, and many unique cities. I have taken many trips to Krakow in all seasons. Still, the most memorable is probably when we had the generally overcrowded medieval town to ourselves when the borders were closed to outside tourists.

### **What is a talent or skill you don't have that you wish you did?**

Languages! I've studied French, Russian, and Polish for a ridiculous amount of time and still struggle with fluency in all of them. I admire the people I've met who are adept at multiple languages, especially the many folks out there with absolutely perfect non-native English!

### **What is the last book you read for pleasure?**

"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver was an incredible read! The main character (a boy, Demon, as he's growing up) has a unique voice and amazingly catchy diction; you can hear who he is and feel like you know him. I loved that it takes place in a small town in Appalachia that feels similar to mine. If you pick it up, just be prepared to have your heart broken by grim circumstances.



# **DIVISION** PROFILE **FELLOW - Jashim Uddin**



## **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I am Jashim Uddin, a postdoctoral research associate at the Petri Lab at the University of Virginia. I joined UVA as a biomedical science graduate student in 2016. I completed my PhD under Dr. William A Petri's supervision in 2021, studying the host protective immune response to amebic colitis. Currently, I am investigating how antibiotics change the host's immune responses to make the host susceptible to *C. difficile* colitis and how fecal microbial transplantation heals immune dysregulation caused by the dysbiotic microbiota. I am also studying the immunopathogenesis in the lungs caused by the SARS-CoV2 infection using mouse models.

Besides being a researcher, I am the husband of a beautiful wife, a PhD candidate at UVA MIC, and the father of a two-year-old son. On weekends, I spend most of my time playing with my son, watching sports, and visiting friends. I am also a great enthusiast for playing outdoor sports, including soccer and cricket.

## **Why Healthcare?**

Being born in a highly populated rural area of Bangladesh, I have seen very closely how infectious diseases, particularly intestinal infections, could impact the health and nutritional status of children. My knowledge of infectious diseases broadened when I studied helminthic infection in children during my MS thesis at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh. This opportunity provided me with the platform to explore the world of global health research more and diversify my understanding of the health issues facing the lower socioeconomic strata of my home country. I was thrilled to learn that several factors,

including host genetics, host immune responses, host nutritional status, and other environmental factors, can control an infection outcome. I was excited to study host-pathogen interaction and contribute to understanding host-protective immune responses to infections.

## **What brought you to Charlottesville?**

Before coming to UVA, I was a research officer at Bangladesh's International Center for diarrheal disease research center. At that time, I worked on different collaborative projects with some renowned scientists from UVA. With the help of those collaborative projects, I learned that the UVA Division of Infectious Diseases & International Health does ground-breaking research to eradicate infectious diseases from the world. When I was applying for graduate study, UVA was at the top of my list, and after being accepted by more than one school, I decided to join UVA for graduate study. Besides, I heard from my colleagues at UVA that Charlottesville is a beautiful city with its seasonal wonders.

## **What excites you about your work?**

I want to help people with my work, and I can not think of a better way of helping people than by understanding the cause of diseases and trying to discover therapeutics that will help people worldwide.

## **What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?**

On weekends, I spend most of my time playing with my son, watching sports, and visiting friends. I am also a great enthusiast for outdoor sports, including soccer and cricket.

## **How did you meet your partner?**

We both attended the same school and department for our undergraduate years. I first saw my now wife at the department's fresher reception program (She was a freshman, and I was a junior), although I had never talked to her during my undergraduate years. Fortunately, we both worked in the same institution for our first jobs, where I got to know her well.

## **What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?**

Milk.

## **Do you travel or have a favorite trip?**

I like to travel during the holidays. My favorite trip was with my wife (technically, with our son also, although we did not know when she was pregnant) to LAS VEGAS and the Grand Canyon trip back in 2021.

## **Are you a hunter or a gatherer?**

I like to hang around with friends and play games.

## **Who is the person you admire most, and why?**

I admire my elder brother the most. He is the motivation and encouragement for all of my success. He always inspires and supports me.





# DIVISION PROFILE

## FACULTY - Chelsea Marie Braun



### **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I've been at the University of Virginia for fourteen years, nearly my entire professional career! I came to Charlottesville to do a post-doc with Dr. Bill Petri, and while I briefly left for a stint in New Jersey, I was delighted to return and eventually join the faculty. I am originally from Portland, Oregon, and graduated with a BS in microbiology from Oregon State University. I was thrilled to be named an Emerging Infectious Disease pre-doc fellow and spent a year at the CDC in Atlanta before returning to the West Coast to complete my Ph.D. in Pathobiology. I moved to Charlottesville while writing my dissertation, and it stuck.

### **Why Research?**

I originally planned to study Spanish literature but fell in love with infectious disease research after reading "The Coming Plague" by Laurie Garrett during my senior year of high school.

### **What brought you to Charlottesville?**

I came to Charlottesville to do a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Bill Petri on the link between undernutrition and immunity.

### **What excites you about your work?**

The potential for discovery, the intellectual freedom, and the daily challenges of research, but mostly my incredibly smart and passionate colleagues.

### **What do you consider to be your greatest achievement outside the professional realm?**

Raising my daughter and being the best at step aerobics.

### **What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?**

Step aerobics, step aerobics, and more step aerobics!

### **Do you have any pets?**

Yes, Reba, a three-year-old rescue Shiba Inu who loves to bark, and Sassafras, a four-year-old rescue Siberian who is perfect.



Local production of Beauty and the beast at the paramount with Ione and Nikolai my husband.



Halloween on the lawn (we are cats from the musical CATS!)



Swimming with my daughter Ione in Mallorca.

Yes, Reba, a three-year-old rescue Shiba Inu who loves to bark, and Sassafras, a four-year-old rescue Siberian who is perfect.

### **What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?**

SCUBA diving.

### **Who is the person you admire most, and why?**

I think Cliff Morrison, the RN who started the first AIDS unit in the early 1980s, embodies compassion and bravery in the face of fear.

### **What is a talent or skill you don't have that you wish you did?**

My lab has a field site in Dhaka, so I wish I could speak Bangla.

### **Favorite fictional characters?**

Clara del Valle from "La Casa de los Espiritus" by Isabel Allende. She is clairvoyant and always surrounded by animals and flowers.

### **What is the last book you read for pleasure?**

"All Fours" by Miranda July



Step aerobics.



Sassafras



Reba

# **DIVISION** PROFILE **FACULTY - Brett Moreau**



## **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I've been at the University of Virginia (and the Division of Infectious Diseases) for thirteen years, first as a PhD student, then as a postdoc, and finally as an assistant professor. I'm originally from Louisiana and went to Louisiana State University for undergrad. I work primarily with Dr. Bill Petri, performing bioinformatics (and some wet lab) research.

## **Why Research?**

As a kid, I was always interested in science and loved my biology classes in high school. When I got to college, I could work in a microscopy core facility as part of my scholarship, which was my first taste in research. I loved that experience and decided to go to grad school to pursue it full-time. I enjoy the problem-solving aspect of bioinformatics, and the clinical research projects make my work feel like it has a real-world impact.

## **What brought you to Charlottesville?**

I came to UVA for my PhD, and my wife followed a year later. Since moving here, we've fallen in love with the small-city feel and the amenities of having a large university. We've settled here and think it's the perfect place to raise a family.

## **What excites you about your work?**

The diversity of the research. I've been fortunate to work on high-impact projects such as COVID-19, C. difficile, and child health. This has allowed me to work with many different researchers at UVA who share a mix of perspectives. It never dulls the work, as there's always something new around the corner!

## **How did you meet your partner?**

We were in the same first-year orientation group in college and met on our first day. We've been together for seventeen years, married for six, and just welcomed our first child into the family!

## **Do you have any pets?**

We have a ten-year-old cat named Byron.

## **What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?**

I'm a big fan of national parks, particularly the ones on the west coast, such as Joshua Tree, Yosemite, and Banff in Canada. We also love to visit museums, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond and the Smithsonian in DC.

## **What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?**

"Anxiety is the price you pay for the unprepared mind and mouth."

