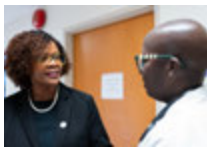
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
UChicago Medicine

Department of Medicine



SOLVING THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

2025 DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

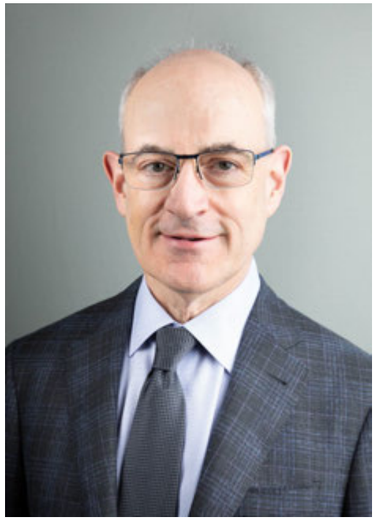
SOLVING THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

I am pleased to present to you the 2025 Department of Medicine Annual Report entitled "Solving the Seemingly Impossible". As part of the University of Chicago, our mission compels us to elevate the human experience through the power of knowledge and health care. Every day, across our teams and disciplines, we confront complexity with curiosity, compassion, and an unrelenting commitment to excellence. We continue to tackle challenges that once seemed insurmountable, transforming research into breakthroughs, improving access to care through systemic change, and pushing the boundaries of innovation in care, education, and discovery. Whether expanding scientific inquiry or healing our community, we lead with heart and purpose. Please join me in celebrating our faculty's amazing work and continued commitment to improving the care of our patients. This year, Medicine investigators successfully competed for $171.8M in total cost research funding and continued to translate basic research into clinical practice with multiple innovative discoveries, publishing nearly 2,000 impactful papers with dozens in high profile journals, and conducting nearly 1,850 clinical research studies. Medicine clinicians continued to provide excellent care to patients in the emergency room, on the inpatient services, in the ICU's and in the clinic. Our expertise in these realms was acknowledged nationally with USNWR recognition for our clinical programs in gastroenterology, cancer, diabetes/endocrinology, pulmonary medicine, cardiology and geriatric medicine, and NIH top 25 recognition in research funding. Medicine educators continued to impact the lives of our 300+ trainees to successfully prepare them for careers in academic medicine.

Other notable departmental highlights from this past year include:

- Appointment of **Neda Laiteerapong, MD, MS** as Chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine effective July 1, 2025
- Appointments of 3 new administrative leaders within the DOM: **Stephen Weber, MD, ScM** as Associate Vice Chair for Faculty Development; **Jeanne DeCara, MD** as Associate Vice Chair for Appointments and Promotions; **Yun Fang, PhD** as Program Director of the Physician Scientist Development Program
- Two institutional leadership appointments: **Hedy Kindler, MD** as Associate Dean of Clinical Science Research, Human Subjects in the Biological Sciences Division; **Sonia Kupfer, MD** as the Director of the Community for Advancement of Physician-Scientists in the Biological Sciences Division
- Three Named Professorships: **Rishi Arora, MBBS** as the Harold H. Hines Jr. Professor; **Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD,** as the Allan L. Lorincz Professor; **Hening Lin, PhD** as the James and Karen Frank Family Professor
- National and state recognition for the outstanding work of our faculty. For example, **Raghu Mirmira, MD, PhD** was elected to the Association of American Physicians; **Sonia Kupfer, MD** and **Akash Patnaik, MD, PhD** were elected to The American Society for Clinical Investigation; **Sonali Smith, MD** was elected Designated Medical Oncologist for the American Society of Clinical Oncology and graduated from the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program; **Stacie Levine, MD** is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Education and Training from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine; **Yoav Gilad, PhD** published a new book titled, "An Intuitive Primer on Effective Functional Genomics and Study Design
- Highly successful residency and fellowship match
- Cultivation of a new generation of translational scientists via our Coggeshall Fellow and Pathway to Independence instructor appointments

I am proud to lead a Department that is comprised of clinicians, scientists and educators that are dedicated and determined to advance our tripartite missions. I commend all our faculty, trainees, and staff for their outstanding contributions to our success over the past academic year.



Everett E. Vokes, MD
John E. Ultmann Distiguished Service Professor
Chair, Department of Medicine
Physician-in-Chief, University of Chicago Medicine & Biological Sciences

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steve White, MD
Vice Chair, Appointments & Promotions

Matthew Sorrentino, MD
Vice Chair, Clinical Operations

Monica Peek, MD, MPH, MSc
Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

John McConville, MD
Vice Chair, Education

Yoav Gilad, PhD
Vice Chair, Research

Raghu Mirmira, MD, PhD
Vice Chair, Reasearch

Ted Naureckas, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Appointments & Promotions

Olwen Hahn, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Clinical Operations

Keme Carter, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Lisa Vinci, MD, MS
Associate Vice Chair, Wellness & Engagement

Sonia Kupfer, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Research

Jing Chen, PhD
Associate Vice Chair, Research

Jeanne DeCara, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Appointments & Promotions

Celeste Thomas, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Quality

Sonali Paul, MD, MS
Associate Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

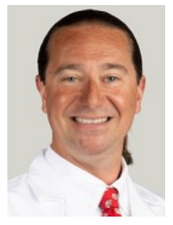
Stephen Weber, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Faculty Development

SECTION CHIEF COUNCIL

Robert Grossman, PhD
Section of Biomedical Data Science

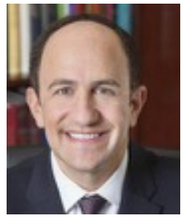
Rishi Arora, MD
Section of Cardiology

Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD
Section of Dermatology



Michael Kurz, MD, MS
Section of Emergency Medicine

Ronald Cohen, MD
Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism



David Rubin, MD
Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

Neda Laiteerapong, MD, MS
Section of General Internal Medicine

Yoav Gilad, PhD
Section of Genetic Medicine

Stacie Levine, MD
Section of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

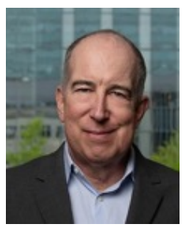
Sonali Smith, MD
Section of Hematology/Oncology

David Meltzer, MD, PhD
Section of Hospital Medicine

Jennifer Pisano, MD
Section of Infectious Diseases & Global Health

Arlene Chapman, MD
Section of Nephrology

Gokhan Mutlu, MD
Section of Pulmonary/ Critical Care



Marcus Clark, MD
Section of Rheumatology

SPECIAL AWARDS

Elected Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Graeme Bell, PhD
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD

Elected Fellows to the American Association for the Advancement of Science
Marisa Alegre, MD, PhD
Yoav Gilad, PhD

Elected Members of the Association of American Physicians
Marisa Alegre, MD, PhD
Mark E. Anderson, MD, PhD
Michael A. Becker, MD
Eugene Chang, MD
Arlene Chapman, MD
Marshall Chin, MD
Marcus Clark, MD
Fredric Coe, MD
Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD
Alan Leff, MD
Bana Jabri, MD, PhD
David Meltzer, MD, PhD
Raghu Mirmira, MD, PhD
Gokhan Mutlu, MD
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD
Eric Pamer, MD
Monica Peek MD, MPH, MSc
Kenneth Polonsky, MD
Mark J. Ratain, MD
Samuel Refetoff, MD
Mark Siegler, MD
Julian Solway, MD
Everett Vokes, MD

Elected Members of the American Society for Clinical Investigation
Marisa Alegre, MD, PhD
Mark E. Anderson, MD, PhD
Rishi Arora, MBBS
Vineet Arora, MD
Michael A. Becker, MD
Eugene Chang, MD
Marcus Clark, MD
Fredric Coe, MD
Elbert Huang, MD, MPH
Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD
Harvey Golomb, MD
Sonia Kupfer, MD
Alan Leff, MD
David Meltzer, MD, PhD
Raghavendra Mirmira, MD, PhD
Gokhan Mutlu, MD
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD
Eric Pamer, MD
Akash Patnaik, MD, PhD
Kenneth Polonsky, MD
Samuel Refetoff, MD
Julian Solway, MD
Everett Vokes, MD
Justin Kline, MD
John Schneider, MD, MPH

Elected Member to the National Academy of Sciences
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD

Elected Members of the National Academy of Medicine
Vineet Arora, MD
Mark E. Anderson, MD, PhD
Graeme Bell, PhD
Marshall Chin, MD
Robert Gibbons, PhD
David Meltzer, MD, PhD
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD
Monica Peek, MD, MPH, MSc
Kenneth Polonsky,MD

American College of Physicians Masters
Mark Siegler, MD

Department of Medicine Named Professorships
Mark Anderson, MD, PhD – Paul and Allene Russell Professor
Vineet Arora, MD – Herbert T. Abelson Professor
Rishi Arora, MD – Harold H. Hines Jr. Professor
Graeme Bell, PhD – Kovler Family Distinguished Professor
Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD – Allan L. Lorincz Professor
Eugene Chang, MD – Martin Boyer Professor
Jing Chen, PhD – Janet Davison Rowley Distinguished Service Professor in Cancer Research
Marshall Chin, MD – Richard Parillo Family Distinguished Service Professor in Healthcare Ethics
Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD – AbbVie Foundation Professor
Robert Gibbons, PhD – Blum Riese Professor
Robert Grossman, PhD – Frederick H. Rawson Distinguished Service Professor
Hening Lin, PhD – James and Karen Frank Family Professor
David Meltzer, MD, PhD – Fanny L. Pritzker Professor
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD – Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor
Monica Peek, MD – Ellen H. Block Professor for Health Justice
Eric Pamer, MD – Donald F. Steiner Professor
Louis Philipson, MD, PhD – James C. Tyree Professor in Diabetes Research & Care
Kenneth Polonsky, MD – Richard T. Crane Distinguished Service Professor
Nanduri Prabhakar, PhD – Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor
Mark Ratain, MD – Leon O. Jacobson Professor
Samuel Refetoff, MD – Frederick H. Rawson Professor
David Rubin, MD – The Joseph B. Kirsner Professor of Medicine
Andrey Rzhetsky, PhD- Edna K. Papazian Professor
Christopher Shea, MD – Eugene J. Van Scott Professor
Sonali Smith, MD – Elwood V. Jensen Professor
Wendy Stock, MD – Anjuli Seth Nayak Professor in Leukemia
Eve Van Cauter, PhD – Frederick H. Rawson Professor
Everett Vokes, MD – John E. Ultmann Distinguished Service Professor

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARDS

Distinguished Service Awards
Joseph B. Kirsner, MD, PhD (2006)
Janet Rowley, MD (2007)
Louis Cohen, MD (2008)
Morton Arnsdorf, MD (2009)
Angelo Scanu, MD (2010)
Keyoumars Soltani, MD (2011)
Jesse B. Hall, MD (2013)
Roy E. Weiss, MD, PhD (2014)
Mark Siegler, MD (2014)
Samuel Refetoff, MD (2015)
Eve Van Cauter, PhD (2016)
Roberto Lang, MD (2017)
Dorothy Hanck, PhD (2017)
Linda Druelinger, MD (2018)
Michelle Le Beau, PhD (2018)
Joseph Baron, MD (2019)
Edward Garrity, Jr., MD (2019)
David Pitrak, MD (2020)
Emily Landon, MD (2020)
Kathleen Mullane, DO (2020)
Philip Hoffman, MD (2021)
Julian Solway, MD (2021)
Harvey Golomb, MD (2022)
Eileen Dolan, PhD (2023)
David Ehrmann, MD (2023)
Andrew Davis, MD, MPH (2024)
Michelle Josephson, MD (2025)
Louis Philipson, MD, PhD (2025)

Arthur H. Rubenstein, MD Mentorship Award
Eugene B. Chang, MD (2007)
Julian Solway, MD (2008)
Jesse Hall, MD (2009)
Roberto Lang, MD (2010)
Marshall Chin, MD (2010)
Frederic Coe, MD (2011)
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD (2012)
Deborah Burnet, MD (2013)
Mary Strek, MD (2014)
David Meltzer, MD, PhD (2015)
Wendy Stock, MD (2016)
Graeme Bell, PhD (2017)
Vineet Arora, MD (2018)
Elbert Huang, MD (2019)
Mark Ratain, MD (2020)
Mark Siegler, MD (2021)
Sonali Smith, MD (2022)
David Rubin, MD (2023)
John Schneider, MD, MPH (2024)
Valerie Press, MD, MPH (2025)

Leif B. Sorensen, MD, PhD Faculty Research Award
Suzanne Conzen, MD (2007)
Marisa Alegre, MD, PhD (2008)
Anne Sperling, MD (2008)
Bana Jabri, MD, PhD (2009)
Eric Svensson, MD, PhD (2010)
Elbert Huang, MD (2011)
Patrick Wilson, PhD (2012)
Konstantin Birukov, MD, PhD (2013)
Lucy Godley, MD, PhD (2013)
John Schneider, MD, MPH (2014)
Yu Ying He, PhD (2015)
Esra Tasali, MD (2016)
Monica Peek, MD (2017)
Yun Fang, PhD (2018)
Megan Huisingh-Scheetz, MD (2019)
Neda Laiteerapong, MD (2019)
Justin Kline, MD 2020)
Valerie Press, MD (2020)
Alexandra Dumistrescu, MD, PhD (2021)
Milda Saunders, MD (2021)
Arshiya Baig, MD (2022)
Alexander Pearson, MD, PhD (2022)
Mai Pho, MD (2023)
Anna Volerman, MD, MPH (2024)
Elizabeth Tung, MD, MS (2025)

Diversity Award:
Monica Vela, MD (2010)
David Howes, MD (2011)
Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD (2012)
Minoli Perera, PhD (2013)
Monica Peek, MD, MPH (2014)
John Schneider, MD, MPH (2015)
James Woodruff, MD (2016)
Doriane Miller, MD (2017)
Milda Saunders, MD (2018)
Kamala Cotts, MD (2019)
Shellie Williams, MD (2020)
Keme Carter, MD (2021)
Sonali Paul, MD (2022)
Celeste Thomas, MD (2023)
Victoria Barbosa, MD, MPH, MBA (2024)
Abdullah Pratt, MD (2025)

#24 IN NIH FUNDING (2024)

$171.8M TOTAL SPONSORED ACTIVITY

$132.8M IN FEDERAL AWARDS

$13.7M IN NON-FEDERAL AWARDS

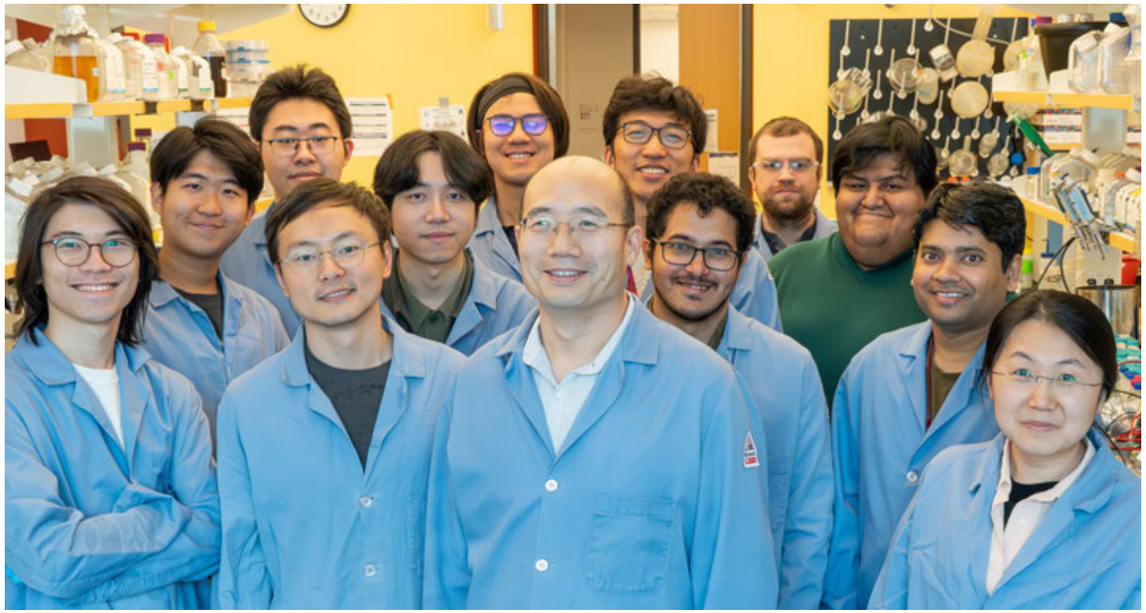
85 NEW/RENEWED FEDERAL AWARDS

$25.3M CLINICAL TRIALS EARNINGS

13 T SERIES

1K12 TRAINING PROGRAMS

26 (CAREER DEVELOPMENT) GRANTS



From left to right: Haochi Chen, Simon Yeom, Jiahe Wang (back), Hui Shen (front), Yizhen Jin, Zhenquan Sun, Hening Lin, Wenzhe Chen, Suryadeep Chakraborty, Will Wertjes, Bryan Arpi, Sadhan Jana, Qian Zhao

The Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago drives a robust and diverse research enterprise that spans fundamental discovery, translational investigation, and clinical innovation. Faculty lead internationally recognized programs focused on understanding disease mechanisms, developing new diagnostics and therapeutics, and improving patient outcomes. With strengths across all of its sections the department fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and provides trainees with unparalleled opportunities to engage in high-impact research. These programs not only advance scientific knowledge but also accelerate the translation of discoveries into meaningful improvements in human health.

A powerful example of this scientific momentum is reflected in the work of Dr. Hening Lin. Dr. Lin joined the University of Chicago in July 2024 as a Professor of Medicine and Chemistry, bringing internationally recognized expertise in chemical biology and enzyme regulation. As a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, Dr. Lin's pioneering research integrates organic synthesis, biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology to understand how enzymes control protein post-translational modifications that govern key cellular processes. His work has revealed novel enzymatic activities and regulatory mechanisms that connect metabolic pathways to disease pathogenesis.

At UChicago, Dr. Lin's laboratory is advancing efforts to translate fundamental enzyme biology into new therapeutic strategies for cancer, inflammation, neurodegeneration, and cardiovascular disease. His group designs and develops small-molecule inhibitors to probe enzyme function and identify potential drug targets. Through the Center for Chemical Biology and Therapeutics, Dr. Lin is fostering collaborations among chemists, biologists, engineers, and physician-scientists to accelerate the discovery of innovative treatments and strengthen the bridge between basic science and clinical application.

The Department is also proud to recognize Dr. Elizabeth Tung, the 2025 recipient of the Leif B. Sorensen, MD, PhD Faculty Research Award. A nationally recognized social epidemiologist and health services researcher, Dr. Tung investigates how structural factors, such as neighborhood conditions, poverty, and community violence, influence health outcomes. Her widely cited scholarship, sustained NIH funding, and innovative programs like Recovery Legal Care have reshaped approaches to addressing violence, improving access to essential services, and informing policy at local and national levels. Dr. Tung's work exemplifies the department's commitment to advancing research that meaningfully improves the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Together, these achievements reflect the Department of Medicine's deep commitment to advancing discovery across the scientific spectrum, from molecular mechanisms to community-level interventions. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, supporting visionary investigators, and translating breakthrough findings into clinical and societal impact, the Department continues to drive innovation that shapes the future of medicine.

Everett Vokes, MD, Elizabeth Tung, MD, MS and Yoav Gilad, PhD

CLINICAL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW


Rebeca Ortiz Worthington, MD & Jennifer Rusiecki, MD

The Department of Medicine is driven by a steadfast commitment to delivering outstanding patient care and advancing health through innovation. With a dedicated team of renowned clinical innovators, the Department provides comprehensive, evidence-based care across the full spectrum of medicine and subspecialties. Our clinicians are deeply engaged in the diagnosis and treatment of highly complex diseases, offering individualized care that reflects the latest advances in medicine. Through multidisciplinary collaboration, cutting-edge technologies, and a focus on quality and outcomes, we continue to meet the needs of a diverse and growing patient population. Institutionally, the Department is widely recognized for its leadership in clinical excellence and its significant impact on patient outcomes, programs that are essential to the University of Chicago Medicine's reputation for high-quality, compassionate, and innovative care.

One hallmark of this work is the Comprehensive Care Program, which was designed to solve the challenge of discontinuity in care. Too often, patients have one doctor in the clinic and another in the hospital, leading to fragmented care and poorer outcomes, especially for those with multiple medical conditions. The Comprehensive Care Program includes two innovative models: the Comprehensive Care Physician (CCP) Program and the Comprehensive Care, Community, and Culture Program (C4P). Both give patients a dedicated physician who cares for them in both the hospital and the clinic, building strong, lasting relationships that improve satisfaction, mental health, and reduce hospitalizations. C4P extends this model by addressing social determinants of health, providing patients with assessments and community health worker support for needs such as housing, food security, and access to public benefits. Together, these programs demonstrate how integrating medical care with social support can transform patient experiences and outcomes, while serving as a national and international model through the Comprehensive Care Learning Collaborative.

The Department also leads inclusive, specialized programs that expand access to care. The Primary Care Group Gender-Based Care Clinic, led by Drs. Jennifer Rusiecki and Rebeca Ortiz Worthington, provides comprehensive adult care to people of all genders. Originally focused on cervical cancer prevention, the clinic has broadened its services to include breast cancer prevention and genetic counseling, reproductive health and family planning, menopause symptom management, and gender affirming care. With Dr. Ortiz Worthington's expertise, the clinic has also become one of the few sites at the University to offer specialized lactation medicine. Through both inpatient and outpatient consultations, she helps new mothers, including those with serious medical conditions, maximize their chances of meeting their breastfeeding goals, bringing compassionate, evidence-based innovation to an underserved need. This clinic also serves the primary training site for internal medicine and med-peds residents who participate in the women's health and gender-based care track.

Equally central to the Department's mission is a strong culture of quality and safety. This past year, faculty and staff advanced initiatives that strengthened prevention, chronic disease management, and inpatient care. Collaborative teams expanded screening and follow-up efforts, broadened cancer prevention services, and introduced innovative approaches to managing conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. In the hospital setting, targeted efforts improved care transitions, enhanced documentation, and reduced healthcare-associated infections. These initiatives reflect a Department-wide commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, and collaboration, all aimed at ensuring that patients receive the safest and most effective care possible.

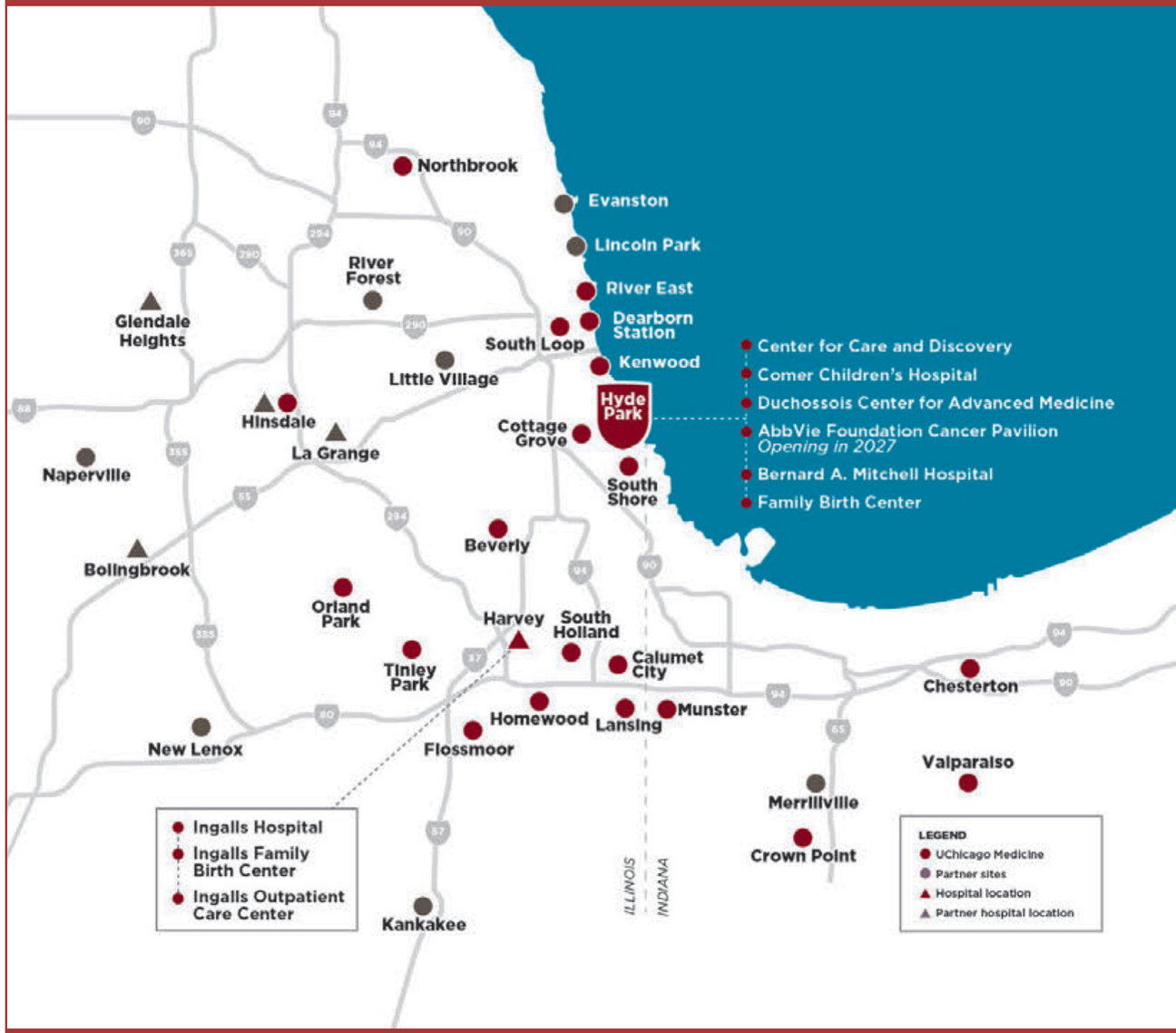
Together, these clinical programs and quality initiatives reflect the Department's unwavering dedication to advancing innovative models of care, expanding access, addressing social needs, and ensuring that every patient receives the highest standard of compassionate, evidence-based care.

#1 CANCER PROGRAM IN ILLINOIS
UChicagoMedicine Comprehensive Cancer Center
BEST HOSPITALS U.S.News CANCER 2025-2026

27TH CONSECUTIVE "A"
LEAPFROG HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADE

#75 TOP DOCS IN COOK COUNTY
TOP DOCS IN COOK COUNTY

UCHICAGO MEDICINE LOCATIONS



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

From left to right: Ryan Sachar, MD; Layne Keating, MD; Kari Tyler, MD; Megan O'Hara, MD; Susan Feldt, MD; Nikita Deshpande, MD; Varun Subashchandran, MD; Chukwunedum Aniemeka, MD

The Department of Medicine continues to be a national leader in graduate medical education at the University of Chicago, providing exceptional residency and fellowship training that prepares physicians to become innovators, educators, and leaders in academic and clinical medicine. Grounded in the University's tradition of intellectual rigor and discovery, the department's programs foster curiosity, compassion, and a lifelong commitment to learning and service.

Across its four residency programs, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Medicine-Pediatrics, and Dermatology, the department offers diverse and comprehensive experiences that reflect the breadth of modern medical practice. The Internal Medicine Residency combines rigorous clinical preparation with mentorship, scholarship, and a deep commitment to advancing health access. Situated on Chicago's South Side, trainees care for a diverse and medically complex patient population, gaining insight into the social determinants of health and the values of service and inclusion. The Emergency Medicine Residency provides high-acuity, team-based training that emphasizes rapid decision-making, procedural mastery, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The Medicine-Pediatrics Residency equips physicians to provide lifelong, holistic care for patients across the lifespan, with a focus on advocacy and community engagement. The Dermatology Residency offers outstanding clinical and research opportunities across medical, surgical, and procedural dermatology, cultivating future leaders in the field.

Beyond residency, the department's subspecialty fellowship programs, including cardiology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, pulmonary and critical care, and geriatrics, build on this strong foundation. Fellows benefit from individualized mentorship, robust research opportunities, and exposure to cutting-edge clinical innovation. Programs such as the Physician-Scientist Development Program provide dedicated support for trainees pursuing research careers, while education and leadership initiatives nurture the next generation of clinician-educators.

Through these programs, the Department of Medicine affirms its enduring commitment to excellence in patient care, discovery, and teaching. Its culture of mentorship, collaboration, and innovation continues to attract outstanding trainees and faculty, sustaining a proud tradition of shaping physicians who advance medicine and make a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

190
RESIDENTS

142
FELLOWS

37
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

4
RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

# of trainees	PROGRAMS
1	Advanced Endoscopy
1	Advanced Fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
1	Advanced Fellowship in Nephrology (Nephrology Research Fellowship)
2	Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology
1	Advanced Infectious Disease Track HIV and AIDS Medicine
2	Advanced Training in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
1	Bone Marrow Transplantation/Cellular Therapy
1	Cardiac Amyloidosis
2	Cardiac Imaging
17	Cardiovascular Disease
3	Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
3	Department of Medicine Coggeshall Fellowship
2	Dermatopathology
2	Emergency Medical Services
2	Emergency Medicine Administration
1	Emergency Ultrasound
5	Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism
13	Gastroenterology
1	Gastroenterology Clinical Nutrition
3	Geriatric Medicine
1	Global Emergency Medicine
23	Hematology and Oncology
2	Hematology-Oncology Research, Advanced
3	Hospice and Palliative Medicine
1	Hypertension Diseases
7	Infectious Disease
2	Interventional Cardiology
1	Interventional Pulmonology
3	Medical Education Fellowship (Emergency Medicine)
8	Nephrology
2	PITCH Fellowship
2	Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Research
13	Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
4	Rheumatology
4	Sleep Medicine
1	Transplant Hepatology
1	Transplant Nephrology


ELEVATING
HUMAN


THE
EXPERIENCE

BUILDING AI MODELS FOR CLINICAL AND RESEARCH USE

From left to right: Victoria Zaksas, MS; Noah Metoki-Shlubsky, PhD; Aarti Venkat, PhD & Anirudh Subramanyam, MS

Large language models (LLMs) are not always accurate in delivering query results. That is problematic when cancer researchers are trying to understand genomic mutations for precision oncology. At the Center for Translational Data Science, Aarti Venkat, PhD, an assistant professor and the center's director of clinical informatics, is addressing this by building AI-powered systems to quantify the baseline accuracy of cancer genomics LLM queries.

This is important because in precision oncology, researchers often use public knowledgebases to check variants' frequencies against their own cohort data. LLMs quickly answer the queries but often hallucinate, providing inaccurate results. Venkat's research found that somatic variant frequencies in baseline LLM responses are systematically underestimated, compared to the Genomic Data Commons (GDC), the world's largest data commons for cancer research. She constructed an evaluation dataset with over 6,000 queries spanning frequencies of simple somatic mutations, copy number variants, and microsatellite instability. A team of the Center's experts then validated them.

Typically, researchers use external databases like the GDC, visualizing graphs to determine single mutation frequencies. But for more complicated queries, looking for the frequency of two genetic mutations in one patient, the researcher needs to understand how the API and the compute works. "You can actually write a program to do this," Venkat says. "The point of our query augmented generation tool (QAG) is to make it easier for these types of queries."

Researchers query QAG with natural language. "The system infers that they're asking about mutations, copy number variants, or microsatellite instability, and then automatically puts it together and executes against the GDC. It returns a response about the final frequency."

That response takes seconds, compared to hours when done manually. QAG software is currently accessible in open-source Hugging Face and GitHub platforms. While prototyped on the GDC, "the framework is generic. It can eventually be used for cardiovascular, diabetes, or any kind of germline diseases, or on any other knowledgebase system," she says.

Using AI to predict hospitalized patient trajectories

Clinical experience helps doctors understand what to expect when treating hospitalized patients for various medical conditions. AI models are beginning to help with predictions, though.

AI can increasingly synthesize full electronic health records, detecting patterns, and predicting responses for what usually happens next in similar contexts. Brett Beaulieu-Jones, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, is building a foundational model to detect unusual events in real time.

"Usually it's one of three things: a data entry issue, a clinical variation where the clinician is doing something the model doesn't expect, or the patient has a surprising turn of events where they're suddenly deteriorating, and there's no observed confounders that would allow us to predict that," he says. These "high surprise events" are linked to patient deterioration. With alerts, clinicians can review the case and potentially make changes.

BIOMEDICAL DATA SCIENCE

SECTION CHIEF
ROBERT GROSSMAN, PHD

From left to right: Michael Burkhart; S'Khaja Charles; Deanna Kelly; Brett Beaulieu-Jones, PhD; David Chen

Beaulieu-Jones and his lab are working to understand how important any one event is for the model. He is also trying to find the sweet spot for alerts. "If a best practice alert is not surprising, the clinician probably already knows it. If it's not important, it's just going to annoy the clinician," he says.

As part of this project, lab members developed ProtoECGNet, an interpretable deep learning model that reads 12-lead ECGs using clinically meaningful prototypes. The model links a patient's ECG segment to a real and similar example, showing when the reading looks like a known rhythm or injury pattern. He explains that ProtoECGNet matches how cardiologists actually read ECGs, producing case-based explanations that physicians have rated as clinically clear.

Beaulieu-Jones applied ProtoECGNet to hospitalized patients' electronic health records, finding ECG prototype signals associated with conditions like heart failure, kidney disease, respiratory failure, and sepsis. These prototypes may act as physiologic biomarkers, helping identify real clinical phenotypes. While Beaulieu-Jones was not surprised that so much could be learned from the ECG, "it was surprising to us that we never explicitly trained AI for that task," he says.

Creating affordable small to midscale AI models for institutional use

Today, the leading AI large language models (sometimes called frontier models) scrape up all the data available on the internet and process it using large data centers costing at least a billion dollars. Robert L. Grossman, PhD, professor of medicine and computer science, and chief of the biomedical data science section is leading a research group that is extending his prior work developing data commons to build what he calls AI Commons. "In areas like biology, medicine, and healthcare, where we have specialized data and most of that data never leaves the healthcare system, the researchers' lab, or is in a specialized database or data commons, there's another approach," says Grossman.

One of Grossman's projects is to show that with curated, high-quality data, an institution can build smaller AI models that are just as performative as some frontier models. Most institutional high-quality data is not available to the larger companies, as it is not online and public. "The data does not have to leave the AI Commons to build small to midscale models to use," he says. It can remain safely behind the organization's firewall.

The team's work is now being published in a series of papers, which share the models' successful application for cancer survival prediction, cancer detection, and radiology report generation. The team will be tackling other applications in the coming year. The papers also share the methodologies to build effective AI models using open source software, with fewer computational resources. With sufficient training and knowledge, any organization's staff can create and update their own models, without the data ever leaving their control.

Frontier models will continue playing an important and growing role in medicine and healthcare over time. "It is just as clear that a large amount of extremely valuable medical data will remain within the firewalls of academic medical centers and large healthcare providers, and will not be available to the large commercial AI companies due to privacy, security, risk management, and other concerns," he says.

$28.6M
Total Grant Funding

11
Publications

SECTION RECOGNITION

8 Open AI and Machine Learning Models

8 Open Source Software Projects

14 Open Data Resources

Infiltrative Cardiomyopathy Program Team – From left to right: Andrew Kucharski, PhD; Syeda Hasan, MD; Rachel Campagna; Nitasha Sarswat, MD; Samantha De Santiago; Elizabeth Hushka, APN; Jeremy Slivnick, MD

CARDIOLOGY RESEARCH AND TREATMENTS SPAN THE SPECIALTIES

When Nitasha Sarswat, MD came to the University of Chicago in 2015 to build the Infiltrative Cardiomyopathy Program, only a handful existed nationwide. Programs have since proliferated, along with understanding and treatments. Infiltrative cardiomyopathy includes disease groups like amyloidosis, sarcoidosis, and Fabry's disease. The disease state that has gained the most traction, amyloidosis, is caused by abnormal proteins accumulating in the heart muscle, potentially resulting in heart failure and other issues.

When the program launched, TTR amyloidosis, a highly prevalent type, had no FDA-approved treatments; knowledge of it among doctors and patients was low. Yet this systemic disease can affect multiple organs. Without treatment, patients can die within a few years. With earlier diagnosis and treatment, some patients live longer, avoiding hospitalizations, and improving quality of life. This has turned a potentially fatal and morbid disease into a chronic one.

The Infiltrative Cardiomyopathy Program has become one of the nation's leading multidisciplinary and collaborative programs, integrating cardiology, hematology, neurology, GI, cardiac imaging, and genetics, spurring research projects and clinical trials.

With greater awareness, specialists can diagnose and treat amyloidosis earlier. "A lot of physicians used to think it was a rare disease, underdiagnosing it," Sarswat says. She has identified amyloidosis champions in each specialty to facilitate patient diagnosis and advocacy for timely patient care and clinical trial involvement. She also started an amyloidosis grant-funded fellowship; the fellow participates in clinics, research, and patient care improvement.

UChicago's amyloidosis research projects include screening high-risk patients for earlier diagnosis, a CRISPR gene editing trial to prevent amyloidosis protein production, gene silencer studies, prevention studies, and trials where monoclonal antibodies consume amyloid in the myocardium.

In 2020, the program partnered with Endeavor Health, a 9-hospital Chicagoland system. This includes coordinated support groups, programmatic patient cohorts, clinical trials and research, case study meetings, clinical care, and advocacy.

Sarswat is also actively reaching out to and working with doctors, patients, advocacy groups, and community organizations, to dispel disparities as the hereditary type may affect 4% of African Americans. "I teach patients about the disease, to advocate for themselves, and about the importance of genetic testing for their families, so they can help. We see a lot of patients with heart failure, and they don't understand why they have it."

Improving cardiac care for marginalized patients

As a general cardiologist, Amber E. Johnson, MD treats many patients with hypertension, and is concerned about how social determinants of health (SDOH) impact the outcomes. "We still don't know why outcomes are as bad as they are for so many

Amber Johnson, MD, MS, MBA

populations," says Johnson, an assistant professor of medicine. "Is it stress? Epigenomics? Access to care? The answer is important."

While hypertension treatments are available, she tries to be practical. "If people can't get or don't take generic medications that have been around for 50 years, do we really think people will be able take a novel medication?" These questions led her to study hypertension and SDOH to have the greatest impact on the most people.

Johnson is midway through a five-year NIH K23 award. She is using mobile health technology to help marginalized patients better control their blood pressure. In the study, she is assessing the facilitators and barriers to blood pressure self-management. Participants in various socioeconomic levels will have hypertension. She plans to analyze cardiovascular outcomes to determine associations by race, ethnicity, sex, socioeconomics, and other demographic factors.

Some participants will use a mobile health app paired with a blood pressure cuff at home; the app provides patient education and hypertension management tips. This supplements the usual clinical care; the control group will only receive the usual care.

"My goal is to demonstrate that these types of technology are usable and feasible to implement. And at least preliminarily, we hope to see improvements in blood pressure outcomes," she says.

Treating atrial fibrillation with genetic therapy

The U.S. has an estimated 6 million people with atrial fibrillation (AFib). AFib is a disease associated with aging. Given the aging population, AFib could double in the next 10-15 years, says Rishi Arora, MBBS, Harold H. Hines Jr. Professor of Medicine, and chief of cardiology. Ablation treatment, the therapeutic cornerstone, is suboptimal. "It works well in the early stages when atrial fibrillation comes and goes, but once it's more persistent, it is less effective," he says.

Arora's lab focuses on understanding the mechanisms for heart rhythm disorders and is developing a gene therapy approach for AFib. "We are on the verge of a potentially new, groundbreaking treatment," he says.

The lab uses a mechanism-guided gene therapy approach targeting key molecular mechanisms un-

Above: Arora Lab - From left to right: Rishi Arora, MBBS; Ana Aboonabi; Andy Wasserstrom, PhD; Wenwei Zhang; Fabio Recchia, MD; Jorge Otero Cure; Aleksei Mikhailov; David Johnson; Shin Yoo, PhD; Maria Potsi; Niko Gorgodze; Karim Ullah

derlying AFib. In developing this approach over two decades, the lab used electrophysiological, molecular biology, and bioengineering tools. Given the difficulty delivering engineered genes into human heart cells, the lab spent the last several years developing a novel gene delivery method to transfect the majority of the cells in the heart's upper chambers (atria). Once fully developed, the procedure should be available for clinical electrophysiologists to deliver these genes in human hearts in the cardiac catheterization lab. "The procedure will not kill the atrial tissue, the goal of current ablation procedures, but deliver a gene that can regenerate heart muscle," says Aleksei Mikhailov, MD, a staff scientist with electrophysiology training. The method has successfully prevented and reversed AFib in large animals at UChicago.

Gene therapy has been used for congestive heart failure and other disease systems for years. It is used in the lower heart chamber for congestive heart failure to restore ventricular function. Arora's lab is likely the first attempting to do this for AFib.

Providing gene therapy in the heart is challenging, as researchers typically use viral delivery. This has led to some high profile adverse events in human clinical trials. Arora's lab is using plasmids, a nonviral DNA delivery approach, which has worked well in the atria. The lab is almost finished adapting it for the lower chambers, and may test the delivery in humans in the next two years.

In addition to gene therapy, the lab is studying the interaction of the heart's different tissue types, which result in accelerated aging. "We are working on the novel mechanisms types, and also the cross-talk between the tissue types," says Shin Yoo, PhD, a research associate professor.

CARDIOLOGY

SECTION CHIEF
RISHI ARORA, MBBS

$2.6M
Total Grant Funding

113
Publications

34,922
Ambulatory Visits

5,193
Procedures

$572K
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Rishi Arora, MBBS
- Leo Gozdecki, DO
- Anthony Kanelidis, MD
- Manreet Kanwar, MD
- Jay Khambhati, MD
- Adam Vohra, MD, MBA
- Markus Rottman, PhD
- Shin Yoo, PhD
- Asish Ghosh, PhD

SECTION RECOGNITION

Premier 50 Top
Cardiovascular Hospitals 2025
Winner UCM #17

Rishi Arora, MD named the Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor

U.S. News & World Report
2024-25 Rankings
Cardiology ranked #32
(#38 prior year)

Castle Connolly
2025 Accolades
Cardiology ranked **#2**
Top Health System and
#1 Top Hospital in IL

Chicago Magazine
Top Doctors 2025

Rishi Arora, MBBS
Michael Davidson, MD
Jeanne DeCara, MD
Sara Kalantari, MD
Matthew Sorrentino, MD
R. Parker Ward, MD
Atman Shah, MD
Roberto Lang, MD
Sandeep Nathan, MD, MSc
Jonathan Paul, MD

THE NEW FOCUS ON INCORPORATING AI IN CLINICAL CARE AND PATIENT COMMUNICATIONS

Arlene Ruiz De Luzuriaga, MD, MPH, MBA and Cynthia Garcia

Health systems and clinicians are thinking a lot about how to incorporate AI and technology with research and improving patient outcomes. But ideas on how to do that vary. Arlene Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD, MBA, MPH explores these issues not only as an associate professor of medicine in the dermatology section, but as director of innovation and digital technology at University of Chicago's Bucksbaum-Siegler Institute for Clinical Excellence. At the Institute, she is trying to understand the range of perspectives from healthcare providers, which will shed light on where to direct research attention. The Institute focuses on how to strengthen the relationships between doctors and patients through teaching and research, she says.

As part of this inquiry, Ruiz de Luzuriaga is asking questions like how to implement large language models (LLMs) in response to patient inquiries via patient portal messages. She's wondering if the portal is a good way to produce information with AI's help, and if patients will receive helpful or erroneous information. She questions whether patients will feel comfortable receiving automated responses to their queries. "We need to think about these questions now so we can influence the way it's implemented," she says.

To get answers, it is important for physicians to participate in discussions about these technologies, "so our patients who use them can understand them and use them wisely." The goal is to use these new tools to improve healthcare outcomes for UChicago patients. As an example, she has explored whether patient handouts produced by LLMs for specific reading levels are comparable to those produced by people.

While AI and technology will increasingly be important to the patient/physician relationship, it is also vital to supporting clinical researchers. Ruiz de Luzuriaga notes that the Institute is in the early stages of addressing these questions and more, and she plans to introduce a survey in the coming months to understand the spectrum of opinions from medical students to practicing physicians.

Ruiz de Luzuriaga says her love of technology dovetails with her love of dermatology. One way she uses technology in her Pigmented Lesion Clinic is through total body photography and digital dermoscopy, a systematic way to photograph a patient's entire body surface. The systematic approach and highly technical equipment allow physicians to accurately compare new and prior images side by side, to look for changes over time. This is especially useful for patients with multiple moles or melanomas. "It allows us to minimize unnecessary biopsies, and it catches things that may have subtly changed over time," she says. It also provides reassurance to patients.

Total body photography and digital dermoscopy are not offered at many places in Chicago, let alone Illinois. And many of those offering it, Ruiz de Luzuriaga says, may not be accepting new patients. Patients are grateful to receive it at UChicago.

"I think it's really important for us as physicians and clinicians to partner with technology, to make sure it helps increase the likelihood that it's going to improve our patients' outcomes," she says.

DERMATOLOGY

SECTION CHIEF
DIANA BOLOTIN, MD, PHD

$1.3M
Total Grant Funding

22
Publications

36,568
Ambulatory Visits

19,666
Procedures

$134K
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Gaurav Agnihotri, MD
- Audrey Fotouhi, MD
- Molly Hales, MD, PhD
- Maria Estela Martinez-Escala, MD, PhD

PROMOTIONS:

- Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD (Professor)
- Oluwakemi Onajin, MD (Associate Professor)
- Arlene Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD, MPH, MBA (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Castle Connolly 2025 Accolades
Dermatology ranked
#3 Top Health System and
#1 Top Hospital in IL

Castle Connolly Top Doctors
Arlene Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD, MPH, MBA

Christopher R. Shea, MD

Castle Connolly Exceptional Women in Medicine
Arlene Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD, MPH, MBA

Sara L. Stein, MD

Master Educator of the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators, University of Chicago:
Sarah L. Stein, MD

***Newsweek* American's Leading Doctors, Dermatology:**
Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD

***Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors 2025**
Mark Hoffman, MD

Victoria Barbosa, MD, MPH, MBA

Arlene Ruiz De Luzuriaga, MD, MPH, MBA

Christopher Shea, MD

Sarah Stein, MD

Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD

Michael McCartin, MD

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT INNOVATES WITH TRAINING AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Long after Michael McCartin, MD, enlisted in the Air Force to become a pararescue specialist (PJ) at 18, he wanted to help train new PJs through clinical rotations. The dream came true this year. The pararescue pipeline involves several years of training, including airborne, combat dive, military freefall, and advanced medical training. While PJs are best known for performing search and rescue in a combat environment, they also respond to civilian emergencies—from lost hikers to downed aircraft.

Following his honorable discharge, McCartin completed medical school, residency, and an EMS fellowship at UChicago. He's now an assistant professor of medicine, among other roles.

When a former pararescue teammate contacted McCartin this year, asking for UChicago to become a clinical training site, McCartin jumped at the opportunity. He brought together trauma surgeons, CRNA anesthetists, emergency department nurses and doctors, administration, and the UChicago Aeromedical Network (UCAN) to host 15 students over two intensive four-week rotations. "It's hard to prepare PJ trainees for what you see in combat—the severity of the injuries—especially blast injuries," McCartin says. During deployment, PJs refer back to their time in hospital and EMS rotations. "These rotations are the foundation of their clinical experience, and it's vital they have strong clinical exposure when they get to their teams." UChicago provided that exposure.

The initial group's daily hands-on experience included participating in UCAN helicopter transports, "which has never been done before for pararescue," McCartin says. The opportunity to assess and treat patients in the complex aeromedical transport environment will help prepare students for challenges they'll face on real rescue missions.

The students weren't the only beneficiaries. The experience strengthened bonds between UChicago departments, helping create a joint military environment; trauma surgeons work with Army trainees as well. The ED nurses found the extra hands so helpful that they wanted to hold a graduation ceremony for the students. The program will continue with additional cohorts, potentially expanding in size in the future.


Kimberly Stanford, MD, MPH

Proactively addressing syphilis in the ED

As a new ED faculty member at UChicago in 2019, Kimberly Stanford, MD, MPH was treating many pregnant patients who received limited prenatal care or had symptoms of sexually transmitted infections. The section already followed screening guidelines for HIV, but there were none for syphilis screening at UChicago or nationally. "It felt like something we had to try," Stanford, an associate professor of medicine says. Using an opt-out model for all ED patients, the program went from screening 200 patients a month for HIV, to 2,000 per month for HIV and syphilis. "I told leadership that I had no idea if we'd find syphilis. No one had ever done this," she says.

The screening program found that 1.7% of UChicago's general population had untreated syphilis—many who were asymptomatic. That included three pregnant women on average annually, who came for unrelated issues. "We have successfully linked all of them to care," Stanford says, which is important as syphilis can cause congenital birth defects, miscarriage, or stillbirth. While the program was initially funded internally, Stanford later received a K award to study the results.

The program coincided with a rise in cases nationally. UChicago's ED screening program was the first in the nation. The CDC is working on its next set of screening guidelines, and may suggest routine screening for syphilis as a result. The California Department of Health now recommends routine screening for syphilis in the ED, and a 2024 AMA toolkit for community practice also now recommends screening.

"The ED provides a unique opportunity to reach people," Stanford says, as it serves the most vulnerable communities who have limited access to care. "I'm looking at the highest yield things to do for them," she says, which is diagnosing issues and connecting them to care. This has the potential to improve patient health while decreasing the ED burden over time.

"The emergency department is where public health has to happen because there's a large portion of our population who is not accessing care elsewhere," Stanford says. One in three community members visit an ED annually but only about one in 10 see a primary care practitioner. "We've not traditionally thought of this as in the ED's purview, and we all have to understand this is where it's going. We have to put solutions into place now to help people."

Dhara Amin, MD, MS

Expanding ED access through collaboration with advanced practice providers

No one likes to wait in the ED, and sometimes patients leave before they are seen. Dhara Amin, MD found a solution: increasing access to care through advanced practice providers (APPs). This provides a shorter wait time, even without enough examining rooms. Amin's pilot began in December 2024, focusing on patients with low acuity problems, like a sprained ankle. Qualified patients agreed to wait in a separate area to be seen by an APP. The initial pilot showed that fewer patients left the ED with a "treatment incomplete" status.

Amin, associate medical director of the Emergency Department and assistant professor of medicine, expanded the pilot in August 2025 to include sicker patients, with APPs supervised by physicians. Physicians volunteered as collaborators, increasing the number of patients who could be seen in this pilot. This results showed about a 20% increase in patients served through the supervisory model. "The ED is high stakes management," Amin says, so it's important that the APPs can escalate issues and ask the doctors questions. Most patients in this program are now seen through an APP and attending physician collaboration; the APPs are no longer working in silos.

It's not a perfect situation, as the APP waiting and treatment areas are in hallways with little to no privacy. However, providing timely care is a national quality metric, and these pilots are improving that care provision. "If the bottleneck is the waiting room, we need to be innovative and change it up," Amin says. "Innovation is not always through technology. It's also thinking outside the box and working within your means and your resources."

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

SECTION CHIEF
MICHAEL KURZ, MD, MS

$4.2M
Total Grant Funding

44
Publications

$477K
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Marina Del Rios, MD, MS
- Bernice Fokum, MD, MPP
- Lauren Friend, MD
- Alyssa Kinford, MD
- Jamie Staudt, MD
- Michael Woods, MD (Clinical Associate)
- Vishnuvardhan Rao, MD (Clinical Associate)

PROMOTIONS:

- David Beiser, MD, MS (Professor)
- Alfredo Garcia, PhD (Associate Professor)
- Alejandro Palma, MD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Faculty Marshal for the PSOM Class of 2025 Divisional Academic Ceremony (2nd year in a row)
Keme Carter, MD

Pritzker School of Medicine Favorite Faculty Awards

Keme Carter, MD

Abdullah Pratt, MD

Alejandro Palma, MDL

***Crain's Chicago Business* "40 Under 40"**
Abdullah Pratt, MD

Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) "40 Under 40"
Michael McCartin, MD

2025 American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines

Marina Del Rios, MD, MS

Ameera Haamid, MD

Michael Kurz, MD, MS

55+ YEARS OF RESEARCH AND BREAKTHROUGHS ON THYROID DISEASE

Samuel Refetoff, MD and Alexandra Dumitrescu, MD, PhD

Congenital thyroid disease occurs in around one in 2,000 newborns, but until recently, the causes were unknown. Since 1969 at UChicago, Samuel Refetoff, MD, has been studying these diseases through the Thyroid Study Unit. In 2000 he was joined by Alexandra Dumitrescu, MD who completed her PhD under his mentorship and is currently an associate professor of medicine. Since then, these clinicians and researchers have seen genetic testing thrive, identifying defects quickly and in more detail.

Through translational research, their approach is to identify the genetic defect in families with inherited phenotypes. After uncovering a novel genetic defect, they study the mechanism by creating an animal model. They can then devise therapeutic options and work with the treating physicians on care and monitoring long term.

With the growth of genetic testing came an increase in referrals to centers for rare, congenital, and inherited disorders. Genetic counselors and doctors are reaching out from across the country and globally. "The study of families has been key to success of this research on inherited thyroid effects," says Dumitrescu.

Dumitrescu emphasizes the importance of finding the cause for genetic diseases in some families that have struggled for years to understand the problem. Providing answers and explanations gives them some closure.

A majority of thyroid diseases can be treated with thyroid hormone. For some patients this is ineffective because there is improper response to the hormone, says Refetoff. This is because the hormone does not enter the cells, is not properly activated, or it fails to bind to the receptor.

The NIH has funded the Thyroid Study Unit work for 52 years without interruption; the researchers have received blood and tissue samples from 54 countries.

A discovery Refetoff is most proud of is more recent. When Refetoff could not identify a gene for a specific thyroid issue, he discovered that the mutations were located in an unusual area of DNA. "There was no genetic code," he says. "This was the first intergenetic mutation causing a thyroid abnormality."

It's one of a handful of diseases caused by similar mutations in an area of DNA believed to be a "desert," with no known function. "Now it appears to have a function, namely, to control a gene distant from the mutation," Refetoff says. Until recently, technology only looked at coding DNA areas for genetic defects. "We have to extend the search into areas of DNA that are not encoded for specific genes," he says. This expands and complicates how researchers find the cause of diseases that have remained elusive so far. This finding was recently reported in Nature Genetics.

Their research also involves developing gene therapies, including for fetuses in utero. This is important, as thyroid hormones are necessary for intrauterine brain development. Missing that critical timing is irreversible.

"As we advance, we try to find these challenging defects and we are putting in all the efforts to try to improve the quality of life of these patients and families," Dumitrescu says.

ADULT AND PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND METABOLISM

SECTION CHIEF
RONALD COHEN, MD

$9.8M
Total Grant Funding

41
Publications

21,170
Ambulatory Visits (Endocrinology)

3,198
Ambulatory Visits (Pediatric Endocrinology

$511K
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Leanne Duge, MD
- Margo Emont, PhD
- Federico Salas-Lucia, PhD

PROMOTIONS:

- Ronald Cohen, MD (Professor)
- Rajesh Jain, MD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Raghu Mirmira MD, PhD was elected to the Association of American Physicians and was named Associate Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation.*

Matthew Ettleson, MD was awarded a grant from the NIH to study "Redefining and Improving Hypothyroidism Care Using Real-World Data."

Silvana Pannain, MD was awarded the Steelman-Seim Educator Award for Excellence in Academics from the Obesity Medicine Association.

Samuel Refetoff, MD co-authored the European Thyroid Association Guidelines on the diagnosis and management of genetic disorders of thyroid hormone transport, metabolism and action.

Eve Van Cauter, PhD, was named a Foreign Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium.

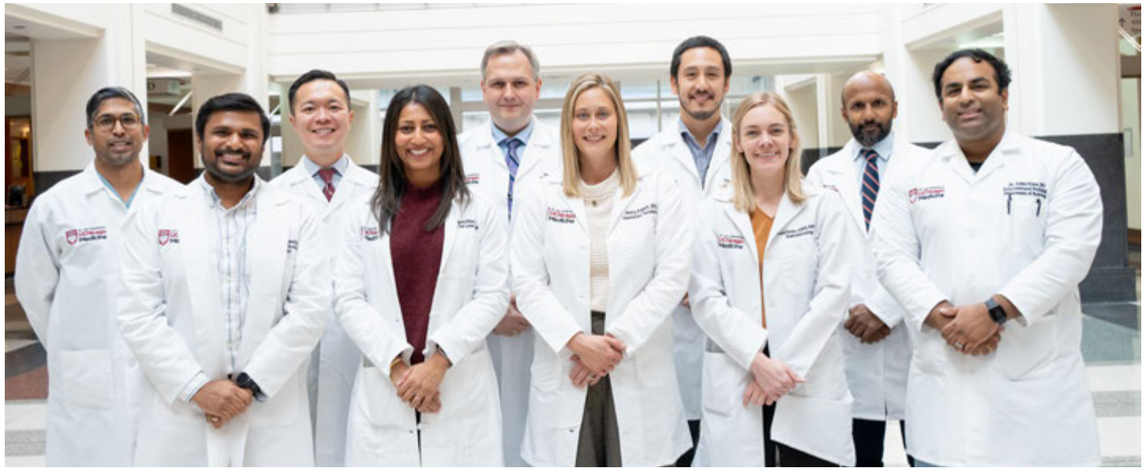
Federico Salas-Lucia was awarded an Emerging Group Leader Award from the International Society of Neurochemistry.

Rajesh Jain, MD co-authored a manuscript "Biases in the performance of FRAX without BMD in predicting fracture risk in a multiethnic population with diabetes: The Diabetes & Aging Study" in the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research.*

Chicago Magazine Top Doctors 2025

Ronald Cohen, MD
Dianne Deplewski, MD
Siri Greeley, MD, PhD
Brian Kim, MD
Raghu Mirmira, MD, PhD
David Sarne, MD
Louis Philipson, MD, PhD

From left to right: Front – Rohan Katipally (radiation oncology), Anjana Pillai (transplant hepatology and director), Jessica Kropack (nurse navigator), Leah Kania (nurse practitioner), Abdul Khan (interventional radiology)
Back – Rakesh Navuluri (interventional radiology), Andy Liao (oncology), Piotr Bachul (transplant surgery), Joseph Franses (oncology), Kumaran Shanmugarajah (transplant surgery)



LIVER TUMOR PROGRAM FOCUSES ON TRANSPLANT ONCOLOGY, ATTRACTING PATIENTS INTERNATIONALLY

Primary liver cancer, largely due to hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the third leading cause of cancer-related mortality globally. In the U.S., there's a rise in hepatobiliary cancers, while many other cancers are declining. The concept of transplant oncology was first introduced in 2014, to include primary and secondary liver cancers beyond HCC, including colorectal liver metastases, hilar and intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, neuroendocrine tumors, and a few others.

The idea of transplant oncology gained mainstream attention for its potential cancer cure, replacing the diseased organ with a healthy one. "We were at the forefront of this," says Anjana Pillai, MD, a transplant hepatologist and director of the Liver Tumor Program. In the U.S., the vast majority of liver transplantation for oncologic indications is for HCC. Less than 5% of transplants are performed for the aforementioned cancers. "That's why UChicago is so unique. We transplanted our first intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma patient in 2017 and our first colorectal liver metastases patient in 2020. We've had protocols for these other indications for quite some time."

Patients with malignant or complex benign tumors are seen through UChicago's multidisciplinary Liver Tumor Program, which Pillai built and launched in 2016. It incorporates hepatology, surgery, medical and interventional oncology, diagnostic imaging, and others. The program treats patients in one location, streamlining medical visits so patients can meet with multiple specialists together or sequentially, enhancing the patient experience. The multidisciplinary approach minimizes potential gaps in the cancer care continuum; a nurse navigator coordinates visits and treatments. Research shows that patients treated in a multidisciplinary setting can have earlier cancer detection, are more likely to receive curative treatments, and experience increased survival rates compared to traditional clinics.

"The vast majority of primary liver cancer happens in the background of chronic liver disease. Many of our patients are dealing with two competing mortalities: cancer and advanced liver disease," Pillai says. It's important not to harm the liver while treating the cancer, so the patient is in optimal condition to receive a liver transplant, liver resection, or other therapies.

The program conducts weekly liver tumor boards, discussing treatment plans with multiple specialists. The first question is always whether there's a curative option, and if yes, how to attain it. If not, the board considers meaningful ways to improve the patient's quality and quantity of life.

Patients also can participate in research. The Liver Tumor Program is part of many multicenter trials, and UChicago is an NCCI designated cancer center.

UChicago is unique in having co-located treatment settings. "Multidisciplinary clinics are resource-heavy, asking multiple specialists to have clinic at the same time," Pillai says. It requires enough physical space so patients don't have to travel throughout campus for appointments. "Not many clinics do what we do."

As a result, the Liver Tumor Program with its transplant oncology focus attracts patients internationally and domestically. In addition to a rise in some cancers, more people are diagnosed without risk factors and presenting much younger. "People are looking for answers to an unthinkable diagnosis," Pillai says. "We do our best to come up with the right solutions."

GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY & NUTRITION

SECTION CHIEF
DAVID RUBIN, MD

$12.5M
Total Grant Funding

108
Publications

29,495
Ambulatory Visits

15,214
Procedures

$1.0M
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Benjamin McDonald, MD, PhD
- Christopher Kasia, MD

SECTION RECOGNITION

American College of Gastroenterology DEI Committee Chair
Sonali Paul, MD

American Society for Clinical Investigation Elected Member
Sonia Kupfer, MD

Inaugural Member of the Academy of Clinical Excellence
Carol E. Semrad, MD

Distinguished Achievement Award in Basic Science, American Gastroenterological Association
Eugene B. Chang, MD

Chair of the International Organization for the Study of IBD (IOIBD)
David T. Rubin, MD

Castle Connolly 2025 Accolades
Gastroenterology ranked **#2** Top Health System and **#3** Top Hospital in IL

***Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors 2025**
Russell Cohen, MD
K. Gautham Reddy, MD
Maru Rinella, MD
David Rubin, MD
Carol Semrad, MD
Uzma Siddiqui, MD
Helen Te, MD


Sachin Shah, MD

HOW A REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING PROGRAM IS IMPROVING HYPERTENSION CONTROL

Patients with hypertension often have difficulty maintaining control when only seen every few months by clinicians. Remote patient monitoring (RPM) is changing that, especially for people of color in the Chicagoland area, as this population has higher hypertension rates than the general public.

Sachin D. Shah, MD began an interdisciplinary hypertension RPM program in 2022, part of a greater plan to address major chronic diseases with significant morbidity and mortality. The associate professor of medicine and pediatrics, and chief medical information officer at UChicago Medicine chose a digital approach to improve blood pressure control and health disparities.

RPM patients are equipped with blood pressure monitors synched to their smartphones, automatically sending readings to the electronic medical record. Population health nurses review the readings, contacting participants weekly to make adjustments and suggest lifestyle changes, per a written protocol. That includes reviewing medication adherence from the pharmacy fill, adding and titrating medications, and ordering basic blood work as needed. Nurses develop relationships with the patients, always reaching out to the same ones. The resource team includes physicians in different specialties, pharmacists, and digital navigators for enrollment.

The program has 150-200 active patients at a time; nearly 5,000 have completed the program. "Two-thirds of those enrolled go from uncontrolled to controlled blood pressure in a median time of six to seven weeks, where it used to take months or years," Shah says. Over 80% of enrollees are Black, addressing the 9% disparity in hypertension control rates between Black and non-Black patients. The RPM program is available in primary care practices, where physicians see the greatest number of uncontrolled hypertension patients, and in some nephrology and cardiology clinics.

The results were recently published, as Shah's manuscript, written with UChicago cardiologist Amber Johnson, MD. "We're seeing significantly improved blood pressure control and more engagement with self-management," Shah says. Long-term, he expects participants to experience a decrease in heart attacks and strokes, but it's too early for those results. Shah is now building a similar RPM program for diabetes.

Shah implemented another impactful technology program, partnering with Abridge to create clinical charting using ambient AI scribes. With a phone app and patient consent, clinicians conduct patient visits while the app generates full clinical notes. "It's been a transformative piece of technology," Shah says.

The July 2024 pilot included 200 providers across 46 specialties and 60 locations, finding that users experienced 20% reduced documentation time, 47% lower cognitive load, and 58% increase in undivided attention. Thirty-eight percent of clinicians who previously expressed burnout, reduced that burnout. The tool also improved work satisfaction.

Patients appreciate it too; Press Ganey scores reflected significant gains in patient experience metrics. "The pilot showed off-the-chart improvement," Shah says, as clinicians can be far more present in the clinical conversation. They finish documentation faster, with greater productivity. While not the goal, clinicians are also more willing to see additional patients when needed.

Now about 1,000 clinicians across UChicago Medicine have access to Abridge. Shah's team will introduce more capabilities in the months ahead, capturing orders for medications, lab testing, and imaging studies; streamlining billing; and offering clinical decision support.

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

SECTION CHIEF
DEBORAH BURNET, MD, MAPP
RETIRED 6.30.25

SECTION CHIEF
NEDA LAITEERAPONG, MD, MS
EFFECTIVE 7.1.2025

$13M
Total Grant Funding

135
Publications

49,949
Ambulatory Visits

NEW FACULTY:

- Jennifer Hwang, DO, MS
- Claudia Leung, MD
- Hannah Matthews, MD

PROMOTIONS:

- Valerie Press, MD, MPH (Professor)
- Nabil Abou Baker, MD (Associate Professor)
- Mim Ari, MD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Mim Ari, MD, recipient of the **Frederick L. Brancati Mentorship and Leadership Award**, Society of General Internal Medicine; selected as **Fellow of the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators**, Pritzker School of Medicine

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARDS, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Jason Alexander, MD
Distinguished Educator and Leader (Junior)

Jennifer Rusiecki, MD
Distinguished Clinician (Junior)

Harita Shah, MD
Distinguished Community Service and Advocacy (Junior)

Anna Volerman, MD
Distinguished Community Service and Advocacy (Senior)

Andrew Davis, MD, MPH
Distinguished Clinician (Senior)

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE FACULTY AWARDS

Lina Khamis, MD
Clinical Productivity – Patient Visits Award

Kamala Cotts, MD & **Jason Alexander, MD**
Medical Resident Teaching Award

Elizabeth Tung, MD, MS
Leif B. Sorensen, MD, PhD, Faculty Research Award

Valerie Press, MD, MPH
Arthur H. Rubenstein Mentorship in Academic Medicine Award

PRITZKER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FAVORITE FACULTY AWARDS

Vineet Arora, MD, MAPP

Wei Wei Lee, MD, MPH

James Woodruff, MD

CHICAGO MAGAZINE TOP DOCTORS 2025

Deborah Burnet, MD

Adam Cifu, MD

Kamala Cotts, MD

Mindy Schwartz, MD

GENETIC MEDICINE

A NEW APPROACH TO DEVELOPING STATISTICAL METHODS FOR INSIGHTS INTO COMMON DISEASES

Andrew Dahl, PhD

Xuanyao Liu, PhD

More biological samples and higher sample sizes are better for research, right? Not always, says Andrew Dahl, PhD, assistant professor of medicine. His lab focuses on building statistical methods to gain insights into common diseases such as asthma and diabetes. Drawing a line connecting the genotype and disease has been a helpful and standard tool for 20 years. "We've squeezed all the juice from it. Yet the majority of the field continues to go further in that direction," he says.

Instead of using accessible samples, like 10,000 blood draws, Dahl might obtain synovial fluid samples from 10 patients with flaring rheumatoid arthritis, for genetic measurements. He's examining smaller but more careful data sets with less power but more resolution. "Do you want a powerful answer to a useless question, or a low power answer to the right question?" he asks. He can't guarantee his lab's approach will work, but feels the traditional path is a dead end.

"I want to bring back the biology, which is funny for me to say because I'm a math person," he says. The genetic effects on immune diseases like lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and multiple sclerosis act through individual cell types rather than through a person's blood, muscle, or organs, he says. Collecting larger scale single cell RNA sequencing data sets can help scientists discover and characterize context-specific genetic effects on complex disorders. The lab is disease agnostic, building tools applying to any disease.

Dahl recently released open-source software for polygenic score context-aware predictions (PGS-C), to help make genetic predictions of disease risk for clinical use. It can predict a patient's odds of getting breast cancer by a certain age with up to 10% more accuracy than without the statistical mode, for example. While Dahl says 10% is a modest improvement, it addresses health equity while potentially better targeting disease diagnostics and interventions for those at higher risk. The statistical method factors in nongenetic differences between people (e.g. males and females) to inform clinical recommendations. It can be used on 50 diseases.

Xuanyao Liu, PhD, assistant professor of medicine is also building computational models to uncover the genetic basis and biological mechanisms of disease. "Genetically-supported drug targets are much more likely to succeed—typically a 2-5 times higher probability of success across clinical phases," she says. There are hundreds, even thousands of associated genes for complex disorders like Alzheimer's disease and asthma. "We can't target all of them, and most aren't truly central to the disease process." Liu is working to find the small number of "core genes" most relevant to diseases.

She developed a computational method leveraging large-scale multiomic data to identify core genes—novel for the disease and harder to discover with existing approaches, due to natural selection. She works closely with UChicago collaborators to test predictions using CRISPR-based in vitro screens and in vivo mouse models. For asthma, nearly all her identified core genes are previously unknown; most were validated in cells and mice by her collaborator. These genes illuminate new biological pathways and surface promising new therapeutic targets.

GENETIC MEDICINE

SECTION CHIEF
YOAV GILAD, PHD

$14.5M
Total Grant Funding

43
Publications

NEW FACULTY:

- Dario De Jesus, PhD
- Koseki Kobayashi-Kirschvink, PhD

PROMOTIONS:

- Ran Blekhman, PhD (Professor)
- Anindita Basu, PhD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Hening Lin, PhD was named the James and Karen Frank Family Professor

Yoav Gilad, PhD published a new book, "An Intuitive Primer on Effective Functional Genomics Study Design"

NEW LABS

De Jesus Lab - Dario De Jesus' research centers on defining how molecular mechanisms regulate metabolism, health, and disease, with a particular emphasis on RNA modifications, diabetes, and aging. With over a decade of experience in molecular biology and metabolism, his work builds on foundational training as a Fulbright Research Scholar at the Joslin Diabetes Center and PhD studies at the University of Porto, where he investigated epigenetic reprogramming of hepatic metabolism. Following appointments at Harvard Medical School and the Joslin Diabetes Center, his independent research program, supported by the EASD, ADA, and an NIDDK K99/R00 award, now focuses on elucidating how RNA modifications, especially m^6A, shape metabolic regulation and the biology of aging.

Kobayashi-Kirschvink Lab – Koseki Kobayashi-Kirschvink leads an interdisciplinary research group that integrates physics, machine learning, and genomics to investigate dynamic biological processes at single-cell resolution. The lab develops new optical and molecular tools to reveal how cells self-organize into complex multicellular structures—such as embryos and tissues—and to elucidate immune-cell function within the tumor microenvironment. The group is particularly focused on a "live-cell omics" approach that measures genome-wide expression in living single cells, which is nearly impossible with conventional omics methods. These methods enable longitudinal tracking of genomic changes in individual cells, illuminating the molecular mechanisms of cell-fate determination and disease progression. The lab also builds next-generation, label-free microscopes that reduce the long acquisition times of conventional instruments, opening new possibilities for large-scale studies of molecular dynamics in vitro and in vivo.

SIMULATION TRAINING HELPS IMPROVE PATIENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Margaret Putman, DO and Heather Leeper, MD

Shellie Williams, MD

Medical students and post-graduate trainees need more than just clinical knowledge. People skills are also essential, whether talking through difficult diagnoses with patients and families, or enhancing patient interview techniques. UChicago's simulation center is at the heart of this practice, but it's not the only place to gain experience.

Heather Leeper, MD and Margaret Putman, DO are currently running a patient communications program for neurology residents. The simulation scenario is a stroke; the patient declines during a complicated hospitalization. Each resident talks with a patient actor while two facilitators and a small learner group observes, pausing throughout to debrief and receive feedback. "The residents have multiple opportunities to deliver the difficult news and have conversations about what is happening, and helping the patient but also the family," says Leeper, an associate professor of medicine. The residents also help family members who, over time, are making the healthcare decisions. Together they create a care plan aligning with the patient's goals and values, while teaching family members to recognize and name their emotions.

"These serious illness communications skills are not intuitive, but can be taught through simulation," says Putman, an assistant professor of medicine. Residents learn how to approach and personalize these scenarios.

The framework helps participants develop their voices. "I call them micro-skills, that palliative care doctors use to make the conversations more effective," says Putman. Residents can develop stress and anxiety over conversations about serious illness and care goals, especially without enough formal training. "We're trying to demystify that. It's not a skill we're born with," she says.

Fellows appreciate the training too. Last year, Putman held a 3-hour simulation training for geriatric fellows. It included "standardized patients"—actual patients trained on how to provide medical information and feedback. Informally, the fellows said they wish they had this training sooner.

Simulation bolsters geriatric assessments

Medical students get the opportunity to focus on patient-centered care, through standardized encounters for geriatrics and palliative care. Students learn to understand what matters to the patient, especially in the context of illness: how it impacts daily life and what's most important to them. Students learn how to optimize a patient's overall health by looking at 4 Ms: what matters, medications, mentation, and mobility. They spend time with standardized patients to assess the 4 Ms. This may include helping patients establish a healthcare power of attorney (what matters), review medications that may put them at risk (medications), screen for cognitive decline and depression (mentation), and assess mobility. "The intent is to build geriatric evaluation skills in medical students, to gain an understanding of how to optimize the function and voice of older adults," says Shellie Williams, MD, an associate professor of medicine and ombudsperson at Pritzker School of Medicine.

UChicago's Elevate 2035 focuses on delivering compassionate care, and part of this teaching students and other clinicians how to do so compassionately, Leeper says. "We're trying to be collaborative in our approach."

GERIATRICS & PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

SECTION CHIEF
STACIE LEVINE, MD

$1.9M
Total Grant Funding

9,785
Ambulatory Visits

NEW FACULTY:

- Thomas Haferkamp, MD
- Changgi Jung, MD
- Samantha Ing, MD
- Margaret Putman, DO

PROMOTIONS:

- Heather Leeper, MD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

American Hospital Association's Next Generation Leaders Fellowship; Advancing Age Friendly Health System Measurement & Evaluation; PALTmed Transitions of Care Subcommittee
Lauren Gleason, MD

American Geriatrics Society Public Education Committee
Changgi Jung, MD

Award for Excellence in Education and Training
Stacie Levine, MD

***U.S. News & World Report* 2024-25 Rankings**
Geriatrics ranked #40
(#43 last year)

***Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors 2025**

Stacie Levine, MD

Monica Malec, MD

LDH Wood Preclinical Teaching Award, Pritzker School of Medicine Class of 2027 & 2028; Department of Medicine Clinical Teacher of the Year Award, University of Chicago
Tia Kostas, MD

University of Chicago, Senior Leadership Academy 2024-2025 Cohort; Senior Faculty Scholar, Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence, University of Chicago
Shellie Williams, MD

CANCER RESEARCH: FROM CELL THERAPIES TO THE DIFFERENCE IN IMMUNE MICROENVIRONMENTS

Daniel Olson, MD

Traditionally, cell therapies like CAR-T are only used for blood cancers. When Dan Olson, MD, assistant professor of medicine joined the UChicago faculty in 2021, the movement was beginning to test cell therapies in solid tumors. Immunotherapy treatments modify a patient's existing T cells; the goal is making them more reactivate against cancer. "It was really new to do that for melanoma," he says. Olson began running some of these trials in the Cell Therapy Program for solid tumors.

While tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy was pioneered in the 1990s, it was only approved for melanoma in February 2024. "Melanoma is a very immunogenic cancer," he says. The tumors are full of T cells, which can be leveraged for cell therapy. Clinicians extract the T cells from the tumor, grow and activate them in the lab, then transplant them back into the patient. "This therapy can drive some patients back into remission," Olson says.

Ari Rosenberg, MD

About half of patients with melanoma can be cured with standard therapies, "but the other half don't go into remission, and TIL therapy is really the only thing available right now with the capability to at least offer long-term control to some patients," he explains.

This logistically complicated procedure is best suited for an academic medical center; it involves multiple specialists and treatment phases. UChicago is the largest program in the Midwest, and the second largest nationally. Olson shares that he is the top individual TIL prescriber in the country.

While tumor shrinkage is the baseline for success, "we're really looking for patients to be potentially cured with it," though so far, that is only a minority of patients who receive treatment. Long-term data show that about 25% of melanoma patients treated with TIL are alive at five years, compared to similar patients who do not receive the treatment, who die within a year without it. "It's not a home run for everyone, but it gives people a chance of remission, which was not possible before."

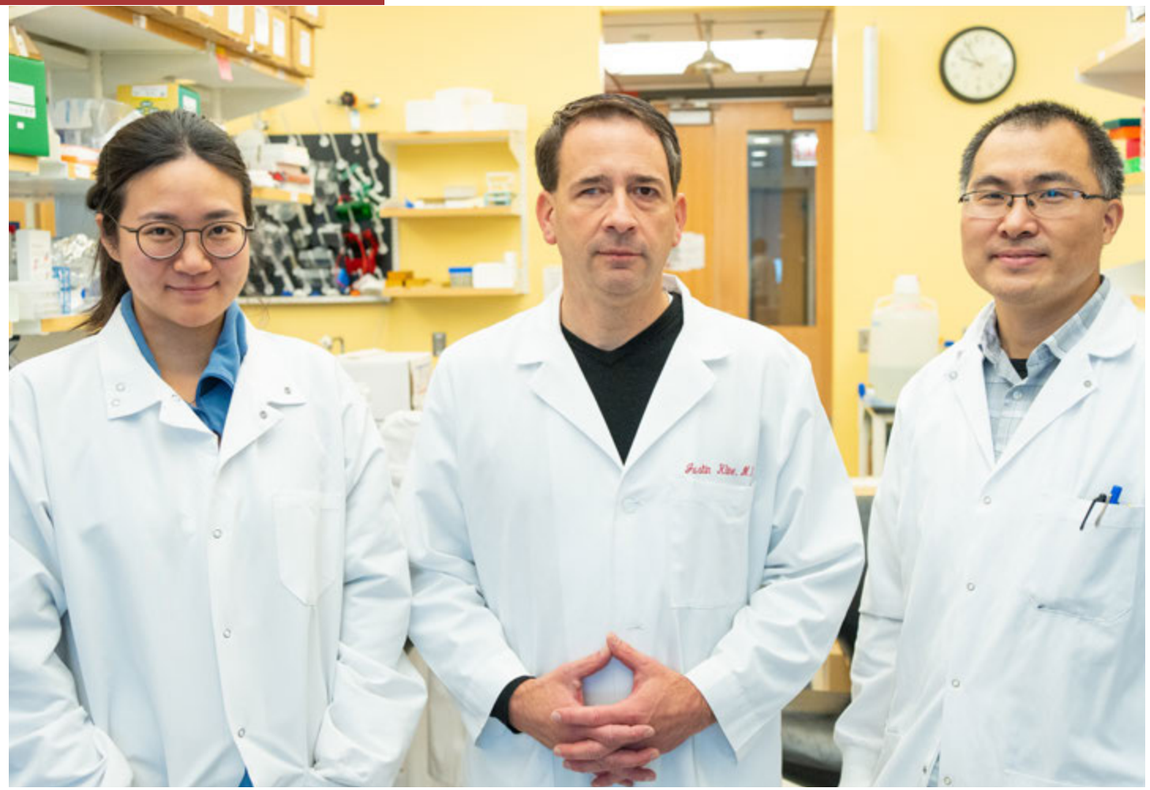
Personalizing de-escalation treatment for head and neck cancer

Head and neck cancers are a disease in "high-value real estate," says Ari Rosenberg, MD, associate professor of medicine, with treatment impacting key functions like eating, swallowing, and speaking. "Not only is survival critical, but we want to optimize long-term function and quality of life." Minimizing side effects is one way to do that, through de-escalating treatment when possible. Head and neck cancer treatment requires a multidisciplinary approach involving surgeons, medical oncology, and radiation oncology.

Some of Rosenberg's research includes trials to test response adaptive de-escalation, which individualizes and lowers radiation intensity based on that patient's response. "This is novel, and we've shown that outcomes are excellent," Rosenberg says, better than many national survival outcomes. Response adaptive de-escalation treatment can decrease feeding tube rates and provide better swallow function. In the future, Rosenberg plans to use circulating tumor DNA analysis to better select patients for de-escalation, and further optimize radiation doses and minimally invasive surgical approaches. Identifying the early dynamics of circulating tumor DNA, along with de-escalated treatment, can be powerful predictive and prognostic biomarkers.

The head and neck group continues focusing on its unique expertise for organ preservation. That includes nonsurgical treatment for advanced head and neck cancers, such as advanced oral cavity or advanced tongue cancers. The physicians use radiation for advanced oral cavity cancer. The UChicago group is organizing a national conference in March 2026 to focus on organ preservation and survival in this population.

The head and neck group is also working on novel therapies for patients with recurrent or metastatic disease, particularly for those with poor survival outcomes. Treatments in development include radio-enhancers, HPV-specific immunotherapies, and several other promising novel drug candidates.



Justin Kline, MD (center) with lab staff members Sidney Wang (left) and Lishi Xie, PhD (right)

The effect of hot and cold immune environments in DLBCL treatment

Researchers are always trying to identify predictive biomarkers that show which patients best respond to specific cancer treatments. Justin Kline, MD, professor of medicine and director of the UChicago Lymphoma Program, has wondered about the role of the immune environment on patients' response to immunotherapy for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL). The answer could help determine which patients respond best to specific treatments. Kline began the research six years ago, when large genomic data sets became available for DLBCL, the most common form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the U.S.

"One question we wanted to ask was if and how specific mutations in the lymphoma cells help differentiate or shape different immune environments," he says. Kline's idea was to use bulk tumor RNA sequencing data to identify or characterize the array of immune environments that might exist across DLBCL patients.

Using genes known to be associated with the two major types of DLBCL, Kline's team identified two DLBCL clusters. Genes associated with other immune cell functions rounded out the four DLBCL immune quadrants (IQs)—environments enriched for particular recurring genomic alterations. He identified the number of genes associated with cold immune environments and a few very strongly associated with hot immune environments. "This suggests that lymphoma cell intrinsic mutations seem to be important in shaping a particular immune environment," Kline says.

Important from a translational perspective, he explains, researchers gained access to RNA sequencing data sets from patients treated with bispecific antibodies or CAR-T cells. After this RNA sequencing analysis, researchers clustered these patients in the IQs, and then looked for any associated benefits. "We found benefit for bispecific antibody therapy in patients whose lymphomas had a hot or inflamed environment to begin with," he says, while outcomes from CAR-T therapy were not affected by a hot or cold environment.

While not immediately useful in clinics today, this research could lead to a less complicated clinical analysis for use in personalized medicine in the future.

HEMATOLOGY/ ONCOLOGY

SECTION CHIEF
SONALI SMITH, MD

$15.3M
Total Grant Funding

330
Publications

$16.8M
Clinical Trials

105,284
Ambulatory Visits

NEW FACULTY:

- Kaloyan Tsanov, PhD
- Noura Choudhury, MD
- Joon Seok Park, PhD
- Greg Roloff, MD
- Jennifer Cooperrider, MD
- Loren Saulsberry, PhD
- Nazila Shafagati, MD
- Michael Hawking, MD
- Nabiel Mir, MD
- Austin Wesevich, MD

PROMOTIONS:

- Peter O'Donnell, MD (Professor)
- Russell Szmulewitz, MD (Professor)
- Chih-Yi Liao, MD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

AWARDS:

Wendy Stock, MD, named Giants of Cancer in Leukemia

Joon Seok Park, PhD, recipient of the Young Investigator Award from the Cancer Research Foundation

Adam DuVall, MD, recipient of the Partners in Hope Award from the Lymphoma Research Foundation

Eileen Dolan, PhD, recipient of the Margaret L Kripke Award from MD Anderson

Sonali Smith, MD, elected to the ASCO Board of Directors

Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD, elected to the 2024 Class of Fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology; recipient of the Champion of Society of Immunotherapy of Cancer Award; recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Association of American Cancer Institutes

Akash Patnaik, MD, PhD, elected as member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation

Gini Fleming, MD & **Wendy Stock, MD**, selected as inaugural fellows of the University of Chicago Academy of Clinical Excellence

FOUNDATION GRANTS:

Brandon Faubert, PhD – V Scholar Award & Hockey Fights Cancer

Joon Seok Park, PhD – V Scholar Award

Nabiel Mir, MBBS – Prostate Cancer Foundation

Caner Saygin, MD – Leukemia Research Foundation

Fred Howard, MD – Breast Cancer Research Foundation

RECOGNITION:

Alexander Pearson, MD, PhD, selected as a Chan Zuckerberg investigator for Chicago Biohub "Quantum ID for measuring millions of immune cells simultaneously"

Michael Drazer, MD, PhD, received ~$10M from a grateful patient to create the Miller Center for Rare Blood Cancers

Daniel Olson, MD, leads the #3 TIL program in the nation and is the #1 physician in the nation for infusion of commercial TIL products for metastatic melanoma

***U.S. News & World Report* 2025-26 Rankings**

Cancer Ranked #12 (#12 prior year, rated highest in IL)

Given Community Access Designation as of 2024

Castle Connolly 2025 Accolades
Cancer ranked #1 Top Health System and Top Hospital in IL

31 *Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors 2025

FOSTERING EMPATHY THROUGH EARLY PAIRINGS OF PATIENTS AND STUDENTS

From left to right: Ciara Smith (social worker), Dr. Grace LaShore, Lakristiana Love (medical assistant), Dr. Joyce Tang, Nancy Galvez (social work manager), Anitra Thomas (RN), and Megan Riddle (social worker)

In medical education, students predominantly learn from physician preceptors. However, "if we are trying to develop physicians who are more empathetic, we really need to change the teaching model: the clinical environment they're in and who we label as teachers," says Joyce Tang, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine. Ten years ago, Tang began exploring this further, implementing and evaluating a longitudinal patient-student partnered clinical experience.

Embedded in the existing clinical skills program for first and early second year medical students, the study randomly assigned some students to a traditional preceptor model where they work solely with physician preceptors, while other students were assigned to the patient-centered model, where they were paired with both a physician preceptor and with patient partners. These students would follow specific patients in multiple clinical settings throughout the year, getting to know them as individuals beyond their medical diagnoses.

Preceptors identified patients who had extended contact with the medical system. Students then proactively checked the schedules for their assigned patients, coordinating their class schedules so they could meet the patient in the waiting area before appointments and attend the visit with them. Students also called patients to check in between visits.

After the year ended, Tang compared these two clinical environment models. The students wrote reflective essays on what was meaningful to them during their experience. She then completed a qualitative analysis, identifying themes arising from the essays. "There were striking differences between the student groups," Tang says.

The first difference was in the domain of learning. Students in the traditional model highlighted biomedical learning—the student saw a disease, looked at an X-ray, or took a history. The patient-centered group shared learning that was focused more on the person's illness experience and healthcare navigation. "They didn't realize how hard it was to live with disease, struggling to make it through a visit, and the difficulty navigating getting medications or appointments," Tang says. "They had an appreciation for the struggle."

The traditional group described their teachers as the preceptors, while the patient-centered group often described the patients and families as their teachers. While both groups learned the value of being empathetic to patients, they came at it in different ways. The traditional track saw their preceptors model empathetic behavior, while the students paired with patients noted that seeing the patients' struggles inspired a desire to advocate for them.

The program has continued at UChicago. While in the first year of the program, the students were randomly assigned to preceptor-only versus preceptor and patient pairings, the students now self-select. Tang notes that this patient-pairing model is not common elsewhere, and the programs have rarely been evaluated.

"As we work as a health system to become more patient-centered, an important goal is thinking about the clinical learning environment and how we shape students' experiences to develop caring physicians," Tang says. Getting to know patients over time through a longitudinal relationship helps with professional development and cultivating more empathetic physicians, she says.

HOSPITAL MEDICINE

SECTION CHIEF
DAVID MELTZER, MD, PHD

$14.4M
Total Grant Funding

47
Publications

PROMOTIONS:

- Matthew Cerasale, MD, MPH (Associate Professor)
- Ram Krishnamoorthi, MD, MPH (Associate Professor)
- Elizabeth Murphy, MD (Associate Professor)
- Andrew Schram, MD (Associate Professor)

NEW FACULTY:

- Ashley Brown, MD
- Jocelyn Ramadan, MD
- Arti Tewari, MD
- Sandeep Tummala, MD
- Dylan Yang, MD
- Sravanti Barla, MBBS
- Mario Candamo, MD
- Melissa Chen, DO
- Jeremy Cohen, MD
- Purav Desai, DO
- Shahd Duzdar, MD
- Joseph Eid, MD
- Nony Ekwempu, MD
- Vanessa Fu, MD
- Muftawu-Deen Iddrisu, MD
- Matthew Lustig, MD
- Funmi Obisesan, MBBS
- Stephen Olaya, MD
- Giancarlo Pizzino, MD
- Abhishek Ravinuthala, MD
- Faryal Shaikh, MD
- Alexander Small, MD

SECTION RECOGNITION

Jeanne Farnan, **MD, MHPE** & **Ram Krishnamoorthi, MD, MPH**, recipients of the Pritzker School of Medicine Favorite Faculty Award

Shannon Martin, MD selected as a *Chicago Magazine* Top Doctor & Castle Connolly Top Doctor

Ethan Molitch-Hou, MD, MPH, recipient of the Doroghazi Clinical Teaching Award, University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine, the Preclinical Teacher of the Year Award, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago and the Alpha Omega Alpha, Illinois Beta Chapter, University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine

David Kim, PhD, recipient of the Distinguished Investigator Award (Junior Faculty), Biological Sciences Division and the University of Chicago & Provost's Global Faculty Award

Gilmer Rodriguez, MD was awarded Fellowship for the American College of Healthcare Executives

Elizabeth Murphy, MD appointed Medical Director of Ingalls Hospital Medicine

Micah Prochaska, MD published "The Effect of Transfusion Strategy on Quality of Life in Patients with Myocardial Infarction and Anemia" *JAMA Internal Medicine*


Christopher Lehmann, MD

INFECTIOUS DISEASE: ACTIVE IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

For most of human history, infections have been a leading cause of death. Antibiotic discovery now allows people to live longer and survive surgery and other treatments. “But with the rise of antimicrobial-resistant infections, we’re walking back into the past,” says Christopher Lehmann, MD, assistant professor of medicine.

Many drug-resistant infections occur in the hospital. When untreatable, patients can die. Antibiotics eliminate most good bacteria, allowing bad drug-resistant bacteria to bloom. Lehmann has seen this in liver transplant and stem cell transplant patients, and began studying whether it’s a general problem for any patient receiving antibiotics. His study is examining hospital patients’ microbiomes. “We’re already learning that antimicrobial-resistant bacteria are expanding in up to one-fourth of hospitalized patients,” he notes, and it is likely to contribute to post-discharge infections.

As part of UChicago’s Duchossois Family Institute, Lehmann is simultaneously creating solutions. They developed a manufacturing facility on campus to create prescription-grade probiotics with organisms shown to promote health and work against harmful pathogens. A phase 1 trial is recruiting patients with liver disease and severely abnormal microbiomes, making them at risk for drug-resistant infections. They will receive prescription-grade probiotics. “The microbiome is a powerful defense,” he says, “and now we’re working to restore it.”


Patricia Zuccaro, MD

Infection control for gene therapy trials

Over recent decades, viral vector therapy trials have gained prominence. These products use modified viruses to deliver therapeutic genes into target cells. While they hold much promise, significant biosafety challenges exist. “Because many of these therapies are not yet FDA-approved, there is limited experience with how they behave in the clinical setting,” explains Patricia Zuccaro, MD, assistant professor of medicine and associate medical director of infection prevention and control. Vectors may remain infectious after administration and can be shed in a patient’s bodily fluids, creating exposure risks.

Zuccaro leads infection control planning for these trials at UChicago Medicine. She conducts detailed risk assessments and designs workflows that support safe administration in clinical spaces. Her plans outline PPE use, isolation requirements, disinfection protocols, waste management processes, occupational exposure response, and staff training.

UChicago is currently conducting eight viral vector trials for bladder cancer, melanoma, B-cell malignancies, and macular degeneration. One innovative trial is a first-in-human porcine liver perfusion study. Researchers genetically modified a porcine liver to provide temporary extracorporeal support for patients with acute liver failure. “Xenotransplantation carries unique and unpredictable infectious risks not seen in allotransplantation,” she says. “Porcine tissues can harbor numerous organisms with varying transmission potential.” Rigorous biosafety planning ensures patient access to these transformative technologies while keeping healthcare providers safe.


Moira McNulty, MD

Increasing access to HIV care

Long-acting injectable antiretroviral therapy (ART) is a novel HIV treatment option, allowing for monthly or bimonthly injections instead of daily pills. But this treatment, which must be administered in a medical setting, is only helpful if patients can access it. For patients who receive care at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), which provide HIV care regardless of ability to pay, that can be problematic, given the complexity of delivering this therapy. Hurdles include access to specialty pharmacies, prior authorizations, strict scheduling, and increased staff burden.

Moira McNulty, MD, assistant professor of medicine, approaches this issue through an implementation and health services delivery research lens. “Injectable ART offers an additional option for people

Above: Elizabeth Bell, MD
Left: IInfectious Diseases & Global Health Fellowship Program: Philip Jurasinski, DO (1st year fellow), Ian Motie, MD (1st year fellow), Chad Hinkle, MD (2nd year fellow), Kaylie Miller, MD (2nd year fellow), Daniel Friedman, MD (Associate Program Director), Elizabeth Bell, MD (Assistant Program Director), Kritos Vasiloudes, MD (2nd year fellow), Aniruddha Hazra, MD (Program Director)

who don't like taking a pill every day or whose life circumstances makes it difficult," she says.

To improve access, McNulty and her collaborators are testing a pharmacy technician–based delivery model at Chicago FQHCs. The technician coordinates complex logistics with the specialty pharmacy and HIV care team to ensure safe and effective initiation and maintenance of treatment, she explains.

"We're trying to improve delivery of long-acting injectable ART across all care settings so that people can receive their preferred treatment wherever they receive care."

Improving transplant infectious disease education

As a fellow at UChicago in 2023, Elizabeth Bell, MD participated in a new city-wide transplant infectious disease conference, where she presented the medical center's case. Given her interest in education and infectious disease, she jumped at the chance to co-lead the conference with a Rush colleague, after becoming an assistant professor of medicine at UChicago. The conference has since expanded across the Midwest, connecting academic centers and trainees, and private infectious disease practices.

It grew from its initial nine institutions to 18, spanning Michigan to Kansas. This year, 35 people attended the in-person symposium.

The presentations include challenging transplant infectious disease cases, from diagnostic dilemmas to complex treatment decisions. "It's a good forum for discussion," she notes. One recent case of tuberculosis in a kidney transplant patient sparked debate about protocols and prevention.

The conference has helped build a growing regional network for transplant infectious disease education. "Fellows enjoy it because they get to learn, to network, and to see cases they may never see at their own institutions," she says. The group is also laying groundwork for multi-center research.

Joint fellowship didactic curriculum

Education is also the focus for Aniruddha Hazra, MD, an associate professor of medicine and director of the infectious disease fellowship program. Approached by University of Illinois Chicago and Loyola a few years ago, he joined in developing a combined didactic curriculum for the three organizations' infectious disease fellows.

The program launched in 2023, now bringing nearly 25 fellows together for weekly joint lectures over Zoom. "By collaborating, we're able to cover a lot more ground," he explains. "Each institution can play to its strengths" and fellows benefit from a broader range of expertise.

Beyond academics, the program is fostering new research conversations and professional connections. "Fellows get protected learning time, exposure to more faculty, and a sense of community across the city."

The model, Hazra adds, can easily be replicated elsewhere. "We're stronger together. This has shown us what's possible."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & GLOBAL HEALTH

SECTION CHIEF
JENNIFER PISANO, MD

$16.9M
Total Grant Funding

57
Publications

5,342
Ambulatory Visits

$206.7K
Clinical Trials

PROMOTIONS:

- Jonathan Lio, MD (Associate Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Stephen Weber, MD and Anu Hazra named *Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors 2025

Christopher Lehmann led on-campus manufacturing of a first-in-human live biotherapeutic for microbiome restoration and successfully enrolled the first patient in a Phase 1 clinical trial of this therapy — a first for academic medicine. Also oversaw the successful match of our first Med/Peds Infectious Diseases fellow into a dedicated Med/Peds ID fellowship, a program that is unique nationwide.

Anu Hazra, MD is the recipient of the 2025 Department of Medicine Postgraduate Teaching Award; recipient of the 2024 PrEP Champion Award from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; recipient of the 2024 Excellence in Partnering Award from the CDC Division of HIV Prevention

Elizabeth Bell, MD is the recipient of the 2025 Department of Medicine Overall Clinical Excellence (New Faculty) Award

Michael Czapka, MD is the recipient of the "Top Viewed Article Award" from the Transplant Infectious Disease Journal

Jade Pagkas-Bather, MD and **Darnell Motley, MD** were awarded an R01 grant focused on Basic Income Guarantee

Moira McNulty, MD was awarded an R01 grant focused on Long-Acting Injectables

Anu Hazra, MD, **Mai Pho, MD, MPH** and **Jessica Ridgway, MD**, were elected Fellows of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in 2025

En-Ling Wu, MD, selected as Joint Fellow in Sociostructural Determinants of Health (SDoH) & Implementation Science, Johns Hopkins University Center for AIDS Research

Jessica Ridgway, MD, is the recipient of the Cesar Augusto Caceres Award for Innovations in HIV Prevention Care, American Academy of HIV Medicine

KIDNEY STONE PIONEER HONORED AT SYMPOSIUM

Center: Fredric Coe
From left to right: Michelle Josephson; Arlene Chapman; Orson Moe; John Asplin; Ronald Thisted; Anna Zisman; James Williams; David Bushinsky; Megan Prochaska; Elaine Worcester; James Lingeman

Frederic Coe, MD, is not only known for his lifelong connection to UChicago. Admitted as an undergraduate at 15, he completed that degree and medical school, plus a residency at Michael Reese Hospital, when it was affiliated with UChicago. He is best known, though, for founding the University of Chicago Medicine's Kidney Stone Prevention Program in 1969. An under-researched area, Coe's lab provided testing to help diagnose the causes of kidney stones, something not done at that time. He also created his own electronic medical record to store patient and lab data in one place, a standardized way to use data for kidney stone research. "In that era, for a mainframe computer, you needed a special room that was chilled," says Elaine Worcester, professor of medicine, who recalls that room from her early days working with Coe.

Perhaps most impactful, Coe, professor of medicine, created a standardized protocol so all patients would undergo the same workup. "He nationalized the idea that kidney stone disease is largely preventable with proper care," Worcester says. Often if someone passes a stone, they're told to return if there's another. "They don't get the preventive care they need, which is actually fairly straightforward." Coe's goal was to provide that.

To help educate the public and physician community, he created and continues running a kidney stone website through UChicago, which receives over 60,000 visits monthly. "He's been writing that faithfully for 10 years. It is enormous, with many articles written for both clinicians and patients," says Worcester. As a result, patients reach out to him with their kidney stone questions and he answers them, providing ideas to discuss with their doctors.

While Coe stepped back from most clinical work in the last decade, he still attends clinic weekly and conducts research. Worcester felt now was the right time to honor his ongoing work, and others agreed, with the Fredric L. Coe Symposium on Kidney Stone Disease and Mineral Metabolism: Honoring a Career Focused on Kidney Stone Research and Patient Care in October.

As a faculty member, Coe's renal physiology teachings influenced many students to become nephrologists. Some of those students are now medical school deans, nephrology section chiefs, and the head of Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases at the NIH. They, and others, came to UChicago for the symposium to celebrate Coe's work while continuing to educate.

As a cofounder of Litholink in 1996, Coe wanted to provide a service that reproduced his lab testing methods for kidney stone prevention on a national scale. It hit its stride, with Labcorp acquiring it in 2006 and continuing to run it.

More than 7,000 patients have been treated in UChicago's kidney stone management program, a legacy that continues to this day.

NEPHROLOGY

SECTION CHIEF
ARLENE CHAPMAN, MD

$1.2M
Total Grant Funding

33
Publications

10,533
Ambulatory Visits

$241K
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Louis Baeseman, MD

SECTION RECOGNITION

***Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors 2025**
Mary Hammes, DO

2025 Department of Medicine Distinguished Service Award
Michelle Josephson, MD

American Society of Nephrology 2025 Barbara T. Murphy Lifetime Achievement Award
Michelle Josephson, MD

American Society of Nephrology 2025 Distinguished Educator Award
Benjamin Ko, MD

American Heart Association Certified Comprehensive Hypertension Center
Mohammed Rafey, MD

American Society of Nephrology Policy and Advocacy Committee, and Joint AST-ASN ACGME Accreditation Task Force
Beatrice Concepcion, MD

National Kidney Foundation of Illinois Professional Advisory Board Executive Committee
Benjamin Ko, MD and Anna Zisman, MD

Primary Care Planning Committee, AHA Council on Hypertension 2025 Conference
Mohammed Rafey, MD

American Society of Nephrology Program Committee
Benjamin Ko, MD

Instructors, GlomCon virtual fellowship
Marco Bonilla, MD and Zainab Obaidi, MD

INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE PROGRAM LEADS IN PULMONARY FIBROSIS TREATMENT, RESEARCH, AND ADVOCACY

Interstitial lung disease (ILD) includes more than 200 chronic lung disorders, many with fibrotic features. Pulmonary fibrosis, characterized by lung scarring, is a common manifestation of ILD. Earlier diagnosis and treatment can help, as lung scarring is irreversible and leads to decreased lung function. "We've been trying to improve outcomes with this underrecognized, underdiagnosed, often serious lung disease," says Mary Strek, MD, director of UChicago's Interstitial Lung Disease Program. They treat patients, run a clinical registry, collect and biobank specimens, and conduct clinical trials.

Launched in 2001, the program was one of the first designated nationally by the NIH to care for pulmonary fibrosis. UChicago was instrumental in forming a coalition for NIH-sponsored clinical investigations to improve outcomes and determine why patients develop it. Studies led to two main therapies for patients with fibrotic ILD. "We really practice precision medicine for lung fibrosis, and we're doing so at the bedside," says Ayodeji Adegunsoye, MD, MS, PhD, assistant professor of medicine and scientific director of the ILD Program.

The clinic is a leader in imaging biomarkers, incorporating AI in the models. UChicago researchers found that certain lymph nodes can independently predict outcomes across the ILD spectrum; physicians use that information for risk-informed patient discussions and surveillance. They also incorporate various exposures (e.g. occupational, air pollution) that can influence patients' lung functioning and outcomes, work spearheaded by Katie Lee, MD, assistant professor of medicine. Genetics can also affect disease progression and outcomes, highlighting those at risk. Pairing these factors with equity issues informs clinical practice.

The multidisciplinary approach includes rheumatology, chest radiology, pulmonary pathology, and lung transplant. While some patients' ILD is idiopathic, the majority have an underlying cause, potentially diagnosed through systematic and comprehensive evaluations. The close relationship with the lung transplant team is critical, "because pulmonary fibrosis is now the leading indication for lung transplant in the U.S. for adults. That continuity from early suspicion of disease, to advanced therapies, to lung transplantation creates real value for our patients," says Adegunsoye.

The team's impact goes beyond UChicago. The clinicians help create guidelines, develop consensus, and refine ILD classification. National guidelines were in their infancy when Strek got involved. "There was barely a recognition of the nomenclature and what we should call it. If you can't name it, you can't cure it," she says.

The team also addresses healthcare equity, starting with measurement and designing assessment programs. "Race-specific assumptions can lead to bias in assessment for risk in patients with ILD," says Adegunsoye.

The team teaches about ILD to UChicago medical students through fellows, and to physicians at national meetings. This helps doctors who screen smokers for lung cancer; smoking is an ILD risk factor. When identifying interstitial lung abnormalities on early CT scans, follow-up is important. "Primary care physicians aren't always familiar with it, and what it might mean. This is a huge opportunity to see patients early and perhaps recognize that their job or other exposures are risk factors for developing interstitial lung disease," Strek says. Earlier detection, earlier treatment, and awareness are key.

PULMONARY/ CRITICAL CARE

SECTION CHIEF
GOKHAN MUTLU, MD

$5.5M
Total Grant Funding

62
Publications

13,443
Ambulatory Visits

1,542
Procedures

$424K
Clinical Trials

NEW FACULTY:

- Cathryn Lee, MD
- Rade Tomic, MD
- Scott Vasher, MD, MS

PROMOTIONS:

- John McConville, MD (Professor)

SECTION RECOGNITION

Chicago Magazine
Top Doctors 2025

Kyle Hogarth, MD

John Kress, MD

Edward Naureckas, MD

Christopher Sola Olopade, MD

Mary Strek, MD

***U.S. News & World Report* 2025-26**
Rankings Pulmonary Ranked #39

CELLULAR THERAPY COMES TO RHEUMATOLOGY

Iazsmin Bauer Ventura, MD, MSc; Cuoghi Edens, MD; Michael Macklin, MD, PharmD; Satyajit Kosuri, MD

Chimeric antigen receptor T-cells (CAR-T) are a well-established cellular therapy in treating blood cancers such as lymphoma and myeloma. But CAR-T to treat lupus, scleroderma, and myositis? That's in clinical trials now, with UChicago among the first to use CAR-T for these diagnoses.

"It's exciting to use the CAR-T platform to help treat patients in another realm of medicine," says Satyajit Kosuri, MD, clinical director of UChicago's cellular therapy program, and a rheumatology section collaborator.

This work follows a successful German trial using CAR-T for patients with treatment-resistant lupus and lupus nephritis. Those patients are now five years out from their treatment, with the majority thriving without immunosuppressive medications, says Cuoghi Edens, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics and medicine in rheumatology.

"The beauty of CAR-T is that it's directed toward cells that make antibodies. That's why it's ideal for rheumatology, because we are a very antibody-based specialty. A lot of our diseases have antibodies associated with them that help us with diagnosis, but now can also help us with treatment," Edens says.

Current rheumatology treatments are not ideal, with significant side effects, including immunosuppression, greatly impacting quality of life. These diseases have significant long-term damage potential. CAR-T takes rheumatology treatments that are focused on antibody-producing cells to a larger scale. CAR-T is also a potential cure, so patients with life-long chronic illnesses may avoid organ damage and long-term treatment sequelae.

UChicago began the rheumatologic CAR-T clinical trial process in January 2024. "We needed to invent it," says Iazsmin Bauer Ventura, MD, MSc, assistant professor of medicine. That included creating the collaboration with the cellular therapy program, navigating regulatory issues, and allocating staffing resources. She notes that this is the most complex clinical trials rheumatology has run, leveraging UChicago's CAR-T expertise.

Several rheumatology patients have received CAR-T cell therapy at UChicago so far, including one pediatric patient, says Bauer Ventura.

Michael Macklin, MD, PharmD, assistant professor of medicine, hopes the treated UChicago patients will enter a sustained period of remission, at a minimum stopping disease progression. CAR-T also has the promise to be a one-time treatment. "Nothing else in development has this potential," says Macklin.

If treatment is successful, in the future CAR-T could potentially treat patients earlier, before they experience high disease activity and incur organ damage.

"Cell therapy clinical trials are in an early stage, but it's potentially a life-changing paradigm," says Bauer Ventura.

This trial was made possible through the collaboration of UChicago's rheumatology and cell therapy programs, where physicians see patients together to discuss the clinical trial and treatment. "It allows patients and their families to understand that we operate as a close-knit team," says Kosuri.

"The University of Chicago is at the forefront of medicine. It's nice to be at an institution where I can help provide some of the sickest patients with some of the most advanced care that's possible right now," Edens says.

RHEUMATOLOGY

SECTION CHIEF
MARCUS CLARK, MD

$8.6M
Total Grant Funding

15
Publications

10,285
Ambulatory Visits

$1.1M
Clinical Trials

PROMOTIONS:

- Reem Jan, MD (Associate Professor)

NEW FACULTY:

- Michael Macklin, MD

SECTION RECOGNITION

Maria-Luisa Alegre, MD, PhD, published "Activation of Tregs during allograft tolerance induction requires mitochondrial-induced TGFb1 in cDC1 cells" in the Journal of Clinical Investigation

Pankti Reid, MD, was elected member of the NCI Alliance irAE Task Force, ACR Planning Committee and Vice President of the Chicago Rheumatism Society

Reem Jan, MBBS is editor of the "Interdisciplinary Rheumatology" book series

Kichul Ko, MD, was awarded the FY27 Fellowship Training Award from the Rheumatology Research Foundation (10th consecutive year)

Marcus Clark, MD, is the recipient of the 2024 University Faculty Award for Excellence in PhD Teaching and Mentoring; appointed to lead medical education for the Berggren Center for Quantum Biology and Medicine; recipient of the Chan-Zuckerberg (CZ) Biohub award for work on "Spatially resolved proteomic characterization"; published "BRWD1 orchestrates small pre-B cell chromatin topology by converting static to dynamic cohesion" in Nature Immunology

Kim Trotter, MD, is the recipient of the 2024 BSD Distinguished Clinician Award and was appointed to the ACR Ethics Committee

Iazsmin Ventura, MD, appointed as Core Croup Leader Myositis Clinical Trials Consortium and Chair of the International Myositis Assessment and Clinical Studies Group

DEPARTMENT FACULTY

SECTION OF BIOMEDICAL DATA SCIENCE

Faculty

Professor
Robert Grossman, PhD (Chief)
Andrey Rzhetsky, PhD

Assistant Professor
Brett K. Beaulieu-Jones, PhD
Aarti Venkat, PhD

Section Administrator
Ann Leu

SECTION OF CARDIOLOGY

Faculty

Professor
Rishi Arora, MBBS (Chief)
Michael Davidson, MD
Jeanne DeCara, MD
Henry Huang, MD*
Manreet Kanwar, MD
Sandeep Nathan, MD, MSc
Atman Shah, MD
Matthew Sorrentino, MD
Gaurav Upadhyay, MD+
R. Parker Ward, MD

Associate Professor
Francis Alenghat, MD, PhD
Karima Addetia, MD
Andrew Beaser, MD
Jonathan Grinstein, MD
Gene Kim, MD
Jonathan Kirk, PhD*
Cevher Ozcan, MD
Jonathan Paul, MD
Tamar Polonsky, MD
Nitasha Sarswat, MD+

Assistant Professor
Zaid Aziz, MD
Mark Belkin, MD
Bow Young Chung, MD
Leo Gozdecki, DO
Martin Gruca, MD*
Amber Johnson, MD, MS, MBA
Sara Kalantari, MD
Anthony Kanelidis, MD
Jay Khambhati, MD
Jonathan Lattell, MD*
Linda Liu, MD*
Nikhil Narang, MD*
Ann Nguyen, MD
Hena Patel, MD
Samuel Reinhardt, MD*
Prateek Sharma, MD
Jeremy Slivnick, MD
Stanley Swat, MD, MSCS
Jeremy Treger, MD*
Adam Vohra, MD, MBA
Srinath Yeshwant, MD

Research Faculty
Asish, Ghosh, PhD
Shin Yoo, PhD

Instructor
Markus Rottman, PhD

Section Administrator
Resham Khiani, MPH

SECTION OF DERMATOLOGY

Faculty

Professor
Diana Bolotin, MD, PhD (Chief)
Yu-Ying He, PhD
Christopher R. Shea, MD
Keyoumars Soltani, MD (emeritus)
Sarah Stein, MD

Associate Professor
Victoria Barbosa, MD, MPH, MBA
Mark Hoffman, MD
Oluwakemi Onajin, MD+
Adena Rosenblatt, MD, PhD
Arlene Ruiz de Luzuriaga, MD, MPH, MBA

Assistant Professor
Angad Chadha, MD
Audrey Fotouhi, MD
Maria Estela Martinez Escala, MD, PhD
Amy Xu, MD

Clinical Associate
Gaurav Agnihotri, MD *
Juliana Basko-Plluska, MD, FAAD
Scott Blaszak, MD
Emily Lund, MD
Bernhard Ortel, MD

Instructor
Molly Hales, MD, PhD *
Kyla Price, MD

Section Administrator
Noel Frierson-Lyttle, MHA

SECTION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Faculty

Professor
David Beiser, MD
Ira Blumen, MD
Keme Carter, MD
Marina Del Rios, MD, MS
Michael Kurz, MD, MS (Chief)
Nanduri Prabhakar, DSC
James Walter, MD
Ying-Jie Peng, PhD

Associate Professor
James Ahn, MD
Chrissy Babcock, MD
Keegan Checkett, MD
Navneet Cheema, MD
Dayle Davenport, MD
Alfredo Garcia, MD
Alejandro Palma, MD
Marshall Segal, MD
Will Sharp, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor
Dhara Amin, MD
Daniel Bickley, MD
Mark Chottiner, MD
Bernice Fokum, MD, MPP
Lauren Friend, MD
Ameera Haamid, MD
Christopher Harris, MD
Alyssa Kinford, MD
Paul Kukulski, MD
Nicholas Ludmer, MD
Isabel Malone, MD
Michael McCartin, MD
Adriana Olson, MD
Nathan Olson, MD
Abdullah Pratt, MD
Jamie Staudt, MD

Clinical Associate
Thomas Bebekoski, MD
Thomas Fisher, MD
David Harter, MD
Julianne Kjolhede, DO
Michael McGee, MD
Vishnuvardhan Rao, MD
Mathew Saab, MD
Michael Woods, MD

Section Administrator
Justin Sullivan

SECTION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Faculty

Professor
Andrew Aronsohn, MD+
Eugene B. Chang, MD
Russell Cohen, MD
Sonia Kupfer, MD
Anjana Pillai, MD
Kapuluru Gautham Reddy, MD
Maru Rinella, MD
David T. Rubin, MD (Chief)
Carol E. Semrad, MD
Uzma D. Siddiqui, MD
Helen S. Te, MD

Associate Professor
Bruce Bissonnette, MD
Sushila Dalal, MD
Robert T. Kavitt, MD
Yanchun Li, MD
Sonali Paul, MD, MS
Joel Pekow, MD
Neil Sengupta, MD

Assistant Professor
Dennis Chen, MD
Alice Cheng, MD, PhD
Tenzin Choden, MD
Bradford J. Chong, MD
Noa Krugliak Cleveland, MD
Nimrod Deiss-Yehiely, MD*
Yichun Fu, MD*
Omar Jamil, MD*
Christopher Kasia, MD
Grace Kim, MD*
Edwin K. McDonald IV, MD
Ross McMillan, MD, PhD*
Eric Montminy, MD
Matthew Odenwald, MD
Lalitha Sitaraman, MD

Instructor
Alan Hutchison, MD, PhD*
Ben McDonald, MD, PhD

Research Faculty
Valerie Abadie, PhD
Bana Jabri, MD, PhD
Cambrian Liu, PhD

Clinical Associate
Nina Gupta, MD
Ariel Halper-Stromberg, MD PhD
Nisha Howarth, MD*
Shilpa Kailas, MD
Benjamin Levy, MD
Nikunj Shah, MD

Section Administrator
Jimmy Jung

SECTION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Faculty

Professor with Tenure
Vineet Arora, MD, MAPP
Marshall Chin, MD, MPH
Elbert Huang, MD, MPH

Professor
Arshiya Baig, MD, MPH+
Adam Cifu, MD
Andrew Davis, MD, MPH
Neda Laiteerapong, MD, MS (Chief)+
Wei Wei Lee, MD, MPH
Doriane Miller, MD
Julie Oyler, MD
Monica Peek, MD, MPH, MS
Amber Pincavage, MD
Valerie Press, MD, MPH
Mindy Schwartz, MD
Lisa Vinci, MD, MS
James Woodruff, MD

Associate Professor
Nabil Abou Baker, MD
Jason Alexander, MD
Irsk Anderson, MD
Mim Ari, MD
Dionne Blackman, MD
Kamala Cotts, MD
Jennifer Rusiecki, MD, MS
Milda Saunders, MD, MPH
Sachin Shah, MD
Elizabeth Tung, MD, MS+
Anna Volerman, MD
Wen Wan, PhD
George Weyer, MD

Assistant Professor
Allie Dakroub, MD, MS
James Fan, MD*
Nathaniel Glasser, MD, MPP*
Rasika Karnik, MD
Brianna Lambert, MD*
Claudia Leung, MD
Hannah Matthews, MD
Rebeca Ortiz-Worthington, MD, MA, CLC
Harita Shah, MD, MS
Todd Stern, MD
Thomas Yates, MD*

Instructor
Jennifer Hwang, DO, MS
Dedeepya Konuthula, MD, MS*
Lauren Mitchell, MD, MS*

Clinical Associate
Lina Khamis, MD, MBA
Susan Nasr, MD, MA

Section Administrator
Cindy Kitching

Section Administrative Director
Morgan Ealey

SECTION OF GENETIC MEDICINE

Faculty

Professor
Luis Barreiro, PhD
Ran Blekhman, PhD
Yoav Gilad, PhD (Chief)
Hening Lin, PhD

Associate Professor
Anindita Basu, PhD
Mengjie Chen, PhD
Hae Kyung Im, PhD
Yang Li, PhD

Assistant Professor
Andrew Dahl, PhD
Dario De Jesus, PhD
Koseki Kobayashi-Kirschvink, PhD
Xuanyao Liu, PhD
Sebastian Pott, PhD
Roshni Roy Chowdhury, PhD
Yuval Simons, PhD
Jingxin Wang, PhD
Joshua Weinstein, PhD
Ada Weinstock, PhD
Jian Zhou, PhD*

Section Administrator
Ann Leu

SECTION OF GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Faculty

Professor
Stacie Levine, MD (Chief)
Katherine Thompson, MD

Associate Professor
Lauren Gleason, MD
Megan Huisingh-Scheetz, MD
Tia Kostas, MD
Heather Leeper, MD
Shellie Williams, MD

Assistant Professor
Thomas Haferkamp, MD
Vasyl Hereha, MD
Samantha Ing, MD
Changgi Jung, MD
Margaret Putman, DO
Elizabeth Zavala, MD

Clinical Associate
Amna Buttar, MD
Melissa Marinelli, MD
Isabel Polsky, MD
Charles Rhee, MD

Section Administrator
Brad Lane

SECTION OF HEMATOLOGY/ ONCOLOGY

Faculty

Professor
Michael Bishop, MD
Jing Chen, PhD
Christopher Daugherty, MD
Mary Eileen Dolan, PhD
Gini Fleming, MD
Marina Garassino, MD
Philip Hoffman, MD
Andrzej Jakubowiak, MD, PhD
Hedy Kindler, MD
Justin Kline, MD
Richard Larson, MD
Olatoyosi Odenike, MBBS
Peter O'Donnell, MD
Olufunmilayo Olopade, MBBS
Blase Polite, MD
Mark Ratain, MD
Sonali Smith, MD (Chief)
Wendy Stock, MD
Russell Szmulewitz, MD
Everett Vokes, MD
Amittha Wickrema, PhD

Associate Professor
Christine Bestvina, MD
Kenneth Cohen, MD
Olwen Hahn, MD
Chih-Yi (Andy) Liao, MD
Rita Nanda, MD
Akash Patnaik, MD, PhD
Alexander Pearson, MD, PhD
Peter Riedell, MD
Ari Rosenberg, MD+
Michael Thirman, MD

Assistant Professor
Manik Amin, MBBS
Mohammad Atiq, MD
Nan Chen, MD
Janet Chin, MD
Noura Choudhury, MD
Jennifer Cooperrider, MD
Elijah Darnell, MD *
Benjamin Derman, MD
Michael Drazer, MD, PhD
Adam DuVall, MD
Brandon Faubert, PhD
Joseph Franses, MD
Frederick Howard, MD
Evgeny Izumchenko, PhD
Satyajit Kosuri, MD
Rafael Madero Marroquín, MD *
Mariam Nawas, MD
Daniel Olson, MD
Joon Seok Park, PhD
Anand Patel, MD
Janane Rahbani, PhD
Greg Roloff, MD
Caner Saygin, MD
Simon Schwoerer, PhD
Ardaman Shergill, MD
Randy Sweis, MD
Madeleine Torcasso, PhD*
Jonathan Trujillo, MD
Kaloyan Tsanov, PhD

Clinical Associate
Ivy Abraham, MD‡
Jalal Baig, MD
Simona Chivu, MD‡
Sylvia Falls, MD‡
Michael Hawking, MD‡
Asad Javed, MBBS‡
Kimberly Kruczek, DO‡
Naina Mahngar, MD
Tabraiz Mohammed, DO‡
Sunil Narula, MD‡
Anu Neerukonda, MD
Murtuza Rampurwala, MD, MPH‡
Shayan Rayani, MD
Nazila Shafagati, MD‡
Adam Stepanovic, MD
Angelica Tolentino, DO‡
Dario Villamar, MD‡
James Wallace, MD‡
Wei Zhao, MD

Instructor
Vivek Behera, MD, PhD*
Robert Cameron, MD*
Nabiel Mir, MBBS
Alexandra Rojek, MD*
Austin Wesevich, MD, MPH

Research Faculty
Yonglan Zheng, PhD

Secondary Faculty
Steven Chmura, MD, PhD
Tom Gajewski, MD, PhD
Dezheng Guo, PhD
Katherine Kurnit, MD
Mark Lingen, DDS, PhD
John Moroney, MD
Adekunle Odunsi, MD
Loren Saulsberry, PhD

Section Administrator
Sara Zent, MBA

SECTION OF HOSPITAL MEDICINE

Faculty

Professor
Jeanne Farnan, MD MHPE
Robert Gibbons, PhD
David Meltzer, MD PhD (Chief)

Associate Professor
Brian Callender, MD
Matthew Cerasale, MD MPH
Marius Chivu, MD
Cheng-Kai Kao, MD
Shannon Martin, MD
Elizabeth Murphy, MD
Gregory Ruhnke, MD MS MPH
Joyce Tang, MD MPH
John Yoon, MD

Assistant Professor
Daniel Aldrich, MD
Ashley Brown, MD
Thomas Chen, MD PharmD
Maylyn Martinez, MD
John Murray, MD
Tokhanh Nguyen, MD
Micah Prochaska, MD MS
Jocelyn Ramadan, MD
Gilmer Rodriguez, MD
Andrew Schram, MD MBA
Divya Singh, MD
Arti Tewari, MD
Dylan Yang, MD
Justin Porter, MD

Clinical Associates
Muhammed Aftab, MD
Ezinne Agrwaramgbo, MD
Danish Ahmed, MD
Habeeb Amatul, MD
Rubeena Anjum, MD
Sravanti Barla, MD
David Beam, MD
Nicole Bendin, MD
Dhruvatej Boddupalli, MD
Alexander Boivin, MD
Sneha Bontu, MD
Mario Candamo, MD
Luis Capuchina, MD
Melissa Chen, MD
Kwang Jin Choi, MD
Tatvam Choksi, MD
Jeremy Cohen, MD
Cameron Dandridge, MD
Purav Desai, MD
Emmanuel Dike-Udensi, MD
Shahd Duzdar, MD
Dana Edelson, MD MS
Jeremy Eid, MD
Nony Ekwempu, MD
Vanessa Fu, MD
Sana Hasan, MD
David Hwang, MD
Muftawu Deen Iddris, MD
Blanca Iriarte Oporto, MD
SM Zia Jamalvi, MD
Shalini Jayawickrama, MD
Jody Junia, MD
Ashok Khilwani, MD
Leeseul Kim, MD
Daniel Klarr, MD
Ram Krishnamoorthi, MD MPH
Grace (Berry) LaShore, MD
Matthew Lustig, MD
Farrah Malik, MD
Nathaniel Meadow, MD
Natasha Mehta, MD
Ethan Molitch-Hou, MD
Ghassan Mubarak, MD
Funmi Obisesan, MD
Stephan Olaya, MD
Elvisa Orhani, MD
Michael Papakonstantinou, MD
Giancarlo Pizzino, MD
Schmuel Price, MD
Dragana Radovanovic, MD
Arash Rafiq, MD
Seline Rajan, MD
Bashar Ramadan, MD
Eliot Rapoport, MD
Denise Sakyi, MD
Mohammad Shabbir, MD
Faryal Shaikh, MD
Shyamal Sheth, MD
Florence Shin, MD
Natasha Singh, MD
Caroline Skolnik, MD
Sandeep Tummala, MD
Aisha Uraizee, MD
Maya Viner, MD
Timothy Williams, MD
Chang Yang, MD
James Yang, MD
Madhu Yarlagadda, MD
Maria Young, MD
Alexandre Zaharia, MD
Carlos Zavala, MD
Colin Zepeda, MD

Section Administrator
Catherine Paez

SECTION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

Faculty

Professor
Graeme Bell, PhD
Ronald Cohen, MD (Chief)
David Ehrmann, MD (emeritus)
Raghu Mirmira, MD, PhD
Louis Philipson, MD, PhD
Kenneth Polonsky, MD
Samuel Refetoff, MD (emeritus)
Eve Van Cauter, PhD (emeritus)
Tamara Vokes, MD

Associate Professor
Matthew Brady, PhD
Dianne Deplewski, MD
Alexandra Dumitrescu, MD, PhD
Siri Atma Greeley, MD, PhD
Rajesh Jain, MD
Brian Kim, MD
Rochelle Naylor, MD
Silvana Pannain, MD
Susan Sam, MD
Celeste Thomas, MD

Assistant Professor
Sara Abdelaziz, MD
Madalin Berra, MD
Laura Dickens, MD
Margo Emont, PhD
Matthew Ettleson, MD
Natalie Jacobs, MD
Michelle Lemelman, MD
Katie O'Sullivan, MD
Federico Salas-Lucia, Ph

Clinical Associate
Renee Aronsohn, MD
Leanne Duge, MD
Farah Hasan, MD
Marcelo Ramirez, MD
David Sarne, MD

Research Faculty
Ryan Anderson, PhD
Erin Hanlon, PhD
Manami Hara, PhD
Sarah Tersey, PhD

Section Administrator
Ann Leu

SECTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES & GLOBAL HEALTH

Faculty

Professors
Eric Pamer, MD
Jennifer Pisano, MD (Chief)
Jessica Ridgway, MD
John Schneider, MD
Renslow Sherer, MD
Stephen Weber, MD

Associate Professor
Aniruddha Hazra, MD
Emily Landon, MD
Jonathan Lio, MD
Mai Tuyet Pho, MD

Assistant Professor
Elizabeth Bell, MD
Michael Czapka, MD
Daniel Friedman, MD
Christopher Lehmann, MD
Moira McNulty, MD
Jade Pagkas Bather, MD
En-Ling Wu, MD
Patricia Zuccaro, MD

Research Faculty
Russell Brewer, PhD
Jerel Ezell, PhD, MPH
Eleanor Friedman, MS, PhD
Anna Hotton, MPH PhD
Darnell Motley, PhD

Clinical Associate
Samuel Bunting, MD

Section Administrator
Felipe Briceno

SECTION OF NEPHROLOGY

Faculty

Professor
Arlene Chapman, MD (Chief)
Fredric Coe, MD
Beatrice Concepcion, MD+
Michelle Josephson, MD
Jay Koyner, MD
Rita McGill, MD+
Elaine Worcester, MD
Anna Zisman, MD+

Associate Professor
Patrick Cunningham, MD
Mary Hammes, MD
Benjamin Ko, MD
Tipu Puri, MD, PhD
Bharathi Reddy, MD
Nicole Stankus, MD

Assistant Professor
Louis Baeseman, MD
Marco Bonilla, MD
Yvonne El Kassis, MD
Samantha Gunning, MD
Sambhavi Krishnamoorthy, MD
Yousuf Kyeso, MD
Zainab Obaidi, MD
Megan Prochaska, MD, MPH
Mohammed Rafey, MD
Ryan Song, MD*

Section Administrator
Matthew Lagen

SECTION OF PULMONARY/ CRITICAL CARE

Faculty

Professor
Ayodeji Adegunsoye, MD, MS, PhD +
Yun Fang, PhD
Douglas Kyle Hogarth, MD
John Kress, MD
John McConville, MD
Septimiu Murgu, MD
Gokhan Mutlu, MD (Chief)
Edward Naureckas, MD
Julian Solway, MD
Mary Elizabeth Strek, MD
Esra Tasali, MD
Rade Tomic, MD
Steven White, MD

Associate Professor
Nickolai Dulin, PhD
Alejandra Lastra, MD
William Parker, MD, PhD+
Bhakti Patel, MD+
Jason Poston, MD
Ajay Wagh, MD, MS+
Krysta Wolfe, MD+

Assistant Professor
Anila Naz Khan, MD
Lucas Kimmig, MD
Franco Laghi, MD*
Cathryn Lee, MD
Shreya Podder, MD*
Deepa Ramadurai, MD
Nathan Schoettler, MD, PhD
Gorav Sharma, MD
Jennifer Christine Houpy Szafran, MD
Scott Vasher, MD

Research Faculty
Robert Hamanaka, PhD
Bohao Chen, PhD

Instructor
Obada Shamaa, MD, PhD

Section Administrator
Elizabeth Fitzgerald, MPA

SECTION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Faculty

Professors
Maria-Luisa Alegre, MD, PhD
Marcus Clark, MD (Chief)
James Curran, MD
Malay Mandal, PhD
Boris Reizis, PhD*
Amy Weinmann, PhD

Associate Professor
Reem Jan, MBBS
Kichul Ko, MD
Pankti Reid, MD+
Kimberly Trotter, MD

Assistant Professor
Martina Damo, PhD
Coughi Edens, MD (Pediatrics)
Michael Macklin, MD
Lin Shen, MD, PhD
Craig Smuda, MD, PhD
Iazsmin Ventura, MD

Clinical Associate
Nithin Pusapati, MD*
Andrea Ramirez-Gomez, MD

Section Administrator
Matthew Lagen

*FY26 New Faculty
+FY26 Promotion
‡Medical Group

RESIDENTS

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENTS

2026 Chief Residents

Nikita Deshpande
Ryan Sachar
Susan Feldt
Kari Tyler

2025 Chief Residents

Chukwunedum Aniemeka
Layne Keating
Meaghan O'Hara
Varun Subashchandran

Third Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Ezinne Agwaramgbo	III	University of Miami
Ololade Akingbade	III	University of Chicago
Amritpal Bahga	III	Florida Atlantic University
Muriel Battaglia	III	University of Chicago
Manasa Brown	III	Rush University
Cameron Dandridge	III	University of Ilinois
Nikita Deshpande	III	University of Chicago
Emmanuel Dike-Udensi	III	University of Kentucky College of Medicine
Tracy Dinh	III	University of Chicago
Bonaventure Dzekem	III	University of Buea Faculty of Health Sciences (CM)
James Fan	III	University of Chicago
Susan Feldt	III	University of Chicago
Jeremy Klein	III	Temple University
Srisha Kotlo	III	Medical College of Wisconsin
Brianna Lambert	III	University of Chicago
Nicole Lum	III	George Washington University
Marcus Marable	III	University of Colorado
Josef Miller	III	Medical College of Wisconsin
Zoey Morton	III	Emory University
Joanna Obaoye	III	Medical College of Wisconsin
Pooja Parekh	III	University of Ilinois
Geethanjali Rajagopal	III	University of Missouri
Nikhil Reddy	III	Wright State University
Mary Ryan	III	Thomas Jefferson University
Ryan Sachar	III	Washington University
Arman Shahriar	III	University of Minnesota
Divya Singh	III	University of Ilinois
Varsha Swamy	III	Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science Chicago Medical School
Kari Tyler	III	Emory University
Matthew Walser	III	University of Texas, Galveston
Joshua Weinberg	III	University of Ilinois
Edward Yang	III	Virginia Commonwealth University
Carlos Zavala	III	UCLA

Second Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Christine Adib	II	Ohio State U
Leah Alemu	II	U Minnesota
Benjamin Aronson	II	U Illinois-Chicago
Victoria Van Benschoten	II	Baylor
David Cao	II	U Chicago
Michael Chen	II	U Virginia
Tommy Chiou	II	UCSD
Sebastian Dobrow	II	U Virginia
Aaron Goffinet	II	Saint Louis U
Leah Goldberg	II	Temple U
Christina Hannah	II	U Minnesota
Ethan Harris	II	U Illinois-Chicago
Ana Lanier	II	Wayne State
Anie McDermott	II	U Pittsburgh
Rohan Mundkur	II	Medical College of GA
Newsha Nikzad	II	Baylor
Mathew Padanilam	II	Indiana University
Zach Pellis	II	Temple University
Nicholas Pradhan	II	George Washington
Raul Sandella	II	University of Cincinnati
Neal Shah	II	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Shiv Shah	II	Mayo-Clinic Arizona
Camron Shirkhodaie	II	University of Chicago
Kathryn Sommer	II	Thomas Jefferson University
Michael Sun	II	University of Chicago
James Valderrama	II	Boston University
Yael Wollstein	II	University of Pittsburgh
Teresa Xiao	II	University of Chicago
Ryan Yang	II	University of Illinois-Chicago

First Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Anya Agrawal	I	UChicago
Maryam Alausa	I	Upenn
Adam Cardone	I	Loyola
Lendy Chu	I	Umichigan
Meghan Connors	I	TempleU
Michelle Dai	I	Baylor
Ban Dodin	I	UWisconsin
Keaton Erickson	I	Rosalind Franklin
Shannon Gordon	I	UWash
Justin Kahla	I	Baylor
Maria Kaufman	I	UChicago
Harveen Kaur	I	UIllinois-Peoria
Omar Lopez	I	UIllinois-Chicago
Fiona Lutolli	I	Saint LouisU
Caitlin Maloney	I	Rush University
Franke Miralles	I	UFlorida
Yasmeen Murtaza	I	UFlorida
Hana O'Hagan	I	Loyola
Mit Patel	I	Wayne State
Romy Portieles Pena	I	UChicago
Apoorva Ravichandran	I	USF
Adam Scott	I	Uminnesota
Abigail Sneider	I	UChicago
Monika Stoskute	I	UIllinois-Chicago
Elizabeth Terman	I	UChicago
Miles Thomas	I	Virginia Tech
Tova Wasserman	I	IndianaU
Brandon Wheatley	I	Howard
Jessica Yamada	I	Brown

Preliminary

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Aamir Aziz	I	UNevada-Reno
Benhur Ghide	I	Tufts
Douglas Haslitt	I	Central Michigan U
Ethan Glaser	I	UKentucky
Kishan Sangani	I	UChicago
Shreeya Dalla	I	UKansas-Wichita

Physician Scientist Development Program

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Emily Cullum	I	UChicago
Gregory Veldhuizen	I	Maastricht U
Jonathan Matthews	I	UChicago
Zach Beller	II	WashU
Theodora Bruun	I	Stanford
Meytal Chernoff	II	UChicago
Sid Ramesh	II	UChicago
Hani Shayya	II	Columbia
Yifei Hu	I	Stanford
Adam Szmelter	II	UChicago

MEDICINE-PEDIATRICS

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Aleisha Khan	I	Medical College of GA
Gabriela Rodriguez	I	Geisinger
Meagan Matuska	I	Uchicago
Zacharie Hamilton	I	UIllinois
Sara Cooper	II	UIllinois-Chicago
Taylor Ellebb	II	UIllinois-Chicago
Shreeya Joshee	II	UNevada-Reno
Priya Nair	III	Albany
Maya McKee	III	UChicago
Dhruvil Patel	III	Wayne State
Zoie Sheets	III	UIllinois-Chicago
Habib El-Khoury	III	Amer U of Beirut
Rahul Dadwani	IV	UChicago
Anjana Kapadia	IV	Georgetown
Meredith Kline	IV	Emory
Ronay Thinas	IV	Ucincinnati

DERMATOLOGY

Third Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Kelsey Gradwohl	IV	University of Michigan
Victoria Lee	IV	University of Chicago
Mina-Abena (Abby) Maranga	IV	University of Pennsylvania

Second Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Sneha Butala	III	Oakland University
Alanna Shefler	III	University of Michigan
Grace Wei	III	University of South Florida

First Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Chine Chime-Eze	II	Howard University
Grace Duan	II	University of Chicago
Palak Patel	II	Wake Forest University
Katherine Perlman	II	University of Illinois
Amina Ziad	II	Harvard Medical School

EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENTS

Third Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Andre-Todd, Jessica	III	Howard University College of Medicine
Anosike, Lilian	III	Howard University College of Medicine
Aseged, Kalkidan	III	Ohio State University College of Medicine
Barton, Michael	III	Harvard Medical School
Campbell, Karael	III	Ohio University, College Of Osteopathic Medicine
Farley, Charlotte	III	Georgetown University School of Medicine
Franklin, Taylor	III	University of Virginia School of Medicine
Geiser, Andrew	III	Northwestern Un Feinberg School Of Medicine
Harter, Jane	III	Loyola Un of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine
Holstrom-Mercader, Maria	III	Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
Kim, Courtney	III	Columbia Un College of Physicians and Surgeons
Nwankpa, Kenneth	III	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie
Odetunde, Adetoriola	III	St. George's University School of Medicine
Olumese, Ekiomoado	III	Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Oswalt, Alexandria	III	Michigan State Un College of Human Medicine
Patel, Minal	III	Indiana University School of Medicine
Puntasecca, Christopher	III	Stanford University School of Medicine
Williams, Trey	III	Michigan State Un College of Human Medicine

Second Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Coopwood, Carley	II	University of Arizona College of Medicine
Ezeana, Michael	II	Georgetown University School of Medicine
Gragas, Anna	II	Un of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine
Grisel, Braylee	II	Duke University School of Medicine
Hassan, Amera	II	University of Minnesota Medical School
Heinz, Bradley	II	Un of California, San Francisco, Sch of Medicine
Morais, Daelon	II	Baylor College of Medicine
Murray, Julia	II	Ohio State University College of Medicine
Nix, Chad	II	Oregon Health Sciences Un School of Medicine
Okeke, Brandon	II	University of Texas Medical Branch At Galveston
Phouybanhdyt, Cathryn	II	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine
Reed, Tanner	II	Louisiana State Un School of Med In New Orleans
Terian, Emily	II	Washington University School of Medicine
Tsai, Michael	II	Duke University School of Medicine
Watts, Jada	II	Howard University College of Medicine
Wecht, Jaclyn	II	New York Medical College
Wegener, Madeline	II	Tulane University School of Medicine
Zink, Natalie	II	Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine

First Year Residents

RESIDENT	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL
Biel, Alexsandra	I	Oakland Univ, William Beaumont School Of Medicine
Bokor, Maxwell	I	Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Broad, Allison	I	University of Colorado School of Medicine-Denver
Damore, Victoria	I	University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix
Douchee, Jeremiah	I	Columbia Un College of Physicians and Surgeons
Feijoo, Michael	I	Loyola Un of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine
Fillmore, Harrison	I	Columbia Un College of Physicians and Surgeons
Fletcher, Symphony	I	University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
Hollender, Meredith	I	University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
Masterova, Kseniya	I	University of Texas Medical Branch At Galveston
McNellage, Landon	I	University of Alabama School of Medicine
Musa, Lana	I	Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Pham, Tracy	I	Un of Illinois Col of Med (chi/Peor/Rock/Chm-urb)
Schexnayder, Calia	I	Louisiana State Un School of Med In New Orleans
Shammout, Ali	I	Western Michigan Un Homer Stryker School of Med
Smith, Cassandra	I	Un of California, Irvine, College of Medicine
Williams, Sydni	I	Emory University School of Medicine
Wooten, Asia	I	Oregon Health Sciences Un School of Medicine

FELLOWS

CARDIOLOGY

Cardiovascular Diseases

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Ololade Akingbade	IV	University of Chicago	University of Chicago
Amritpal Bahga	IV	Florida Atlantic University	University of Chicago
Siddharth Bhayani	V	Loyola University	University of Illinois
Georg Gussak	IV	Rosalind Franklin University	Loyola University
Meaghan O'Hara	V	Loyola University	University of Chicago
Natalie Van Ochten	IV	University of Minnesota	University of Colorado
Elizabeth Cabrera	V	University of Pittsburgh	Northwestern University
Ashwin Kelkar	VI	Case Western Reserve University	Weill Cornell Medical College
Akash Patel	V	Northwestern University	University of Texas
Rukmini Roy	V	Southern Illinois University	University of Chicago
Cory Sejo	VI	The University of Texas	Stanford University
Mikail Siddiki	VI	University of Cincinnati	University of Chicago
Mary Acosta	VII	Schmidt College of Medicine	University of Chicago
Kevin Chang	VII	Northwestern University	University of Minnesota
Colin Gallagher	VII	Saint Louis University	University of Illinois
Maria Poonawalla	VI	Loyola University	University of Chicago
Christian Selinski	VI	Drexel University	University of Virginia

Cardiac Imaging Cardiology

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Jia Guo	VII	University of Chicago	University of Chicago
Giancarlo Saldana	VII	University of Illinois	University of Chicago

Interventional Cardiology

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Christopher Fernandez	VII	University of Illinois	University of Chicago
Kunjan Udani	VIII	K.J. Somaiya Medical College	East Carolina University

Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Alex Choy	VII	Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital
Alejandro Plana	VI	University of Chicago	University of Chicago
Corbin Rayfield	VIII	University of Illinois	Mayo Clinic Arizona

Advanced Heart Failure

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
John Gatti	VII	Georgetown University	Georgetown University
Sonya Hui	VII	McMaster University Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine	McGill University

Preventive Cardiology

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Colin Gallagher	VII	Saint Louis University	University of Illinois

Cardiac Amyloidosis

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Syeda Ayesha Hasan	V	University of Illinois	University of Illinois

DERMATOLOPATHOLOGY

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Kyla Price	V	University of Illinois	University of Southern California (Dermatology)
Raheel Rizwan	V	Dow Medical College	Geisenger Commonwealth School of Medicine

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Emergency Medical Services

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Clarke, David	V	Un of Missouri, Columbia School of Medicine	University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine
Heffernan, Matthew	V	Northwestern Un Feinberg School Of Medicine	University of Wisconsin–Madison
Curry, Zoe	IV	University of Michigan Medical School	Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Olson, Brent	IV	Midwestern Un, Chicago College Of Osteopathic Med	Loyola University Medical Center

Emergency Medicine Administration

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Moss, Douglas	V	R Franklin Un Of Med & Sci/ Chicago Medical School	Mayo Clinic
Bonomo, Matthew	IV	University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine	University of Chicago

Emergency Ultrasound

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Jurado, Ziomara	IV	University of Nebraska College of Medicine	University of Chicago

Emergency Ultrasound

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Sorrentino, Georgina	IV	Un of Illinois Col of Med	Ohio State University

Medical Education Fellowship (Emergency Medicine)

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Farr, Karly	VI	Northwestern Un Feinberg School Of Medicine	Kings County Hospital
Thompson, Sean	V	Un of California, Irvine, College of Medicine	Univeristy of Chicago
Oji, Udoka	IV	University of Cincinnati College of Medicine	University of Chicago

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND METABOLISM

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Caroline Abe	VI	University of Texas Southwestern	University of Texas Southwestern
Fawsia Osman	VI	University of Arizona	University of Chicago
Kareem Al-Qadi	IV	University of Illinois	University of Minnesota
Victoria Wang	IV	Cooper Medical School of Rowan University	University of Utah
Jeremy Winer	VIII	University of Maryland	University of Pittsburgh

ADVANCED FELLOWSHIP IN ENDOCRINOLOGY (NON-ACGME)

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Kerim Kaylan	V	University of Illinois	University of Chicago

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Anne Gandolfi	V	Loyola	Rush
Hansika Narayanan	VI	University of Illinois	Spectrum Health/Helen DeVos Children's Hospital
Rachel Umans	VII	Cornell	Rutgers

GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY AND NUTRITION

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Chukwunedum Aniemeka	V	LA - Tulane Univeristy School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Malek Ayoub	IV	WI - Medical College of Wisconsin	Washington University School of Medicine
Ophir Gilad	VIII	Hadassah Medical School	Tel Aviv Medical Center
Jeremy Klein	IV	PA - Temple University School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Rangesth Modi	VI	Smt. NHL. Municipal Medical College	Tech Tech University Permian Basin
Surya Khadilkar	VI	OH - Case Western Reserve University	Tufts Medical Center
Emma Levine	V	CA - University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine	University of California San Francisco
Rebecca Yao	V	PA - Drexel University College of Medicine	Mayo Clinic
Meredith Yellen	VI	IL - University of Illinois College of Medicine	University of Illinois at Chicago
Emaree Cobb	VI	DC - Howard University College of Medicine	University of Miami/ Jackson Memorial Hospital
Alvin George	VI	IL - University of Illinois College of Medicine	Washgton University
Sriya Muralidharan	VII	RI - Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University	Duke University
Sarah Park	VII	NY - Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva Un	Icahn SOM at Mt. Sinai
Ryan Santos (Advanced Endoscopy)	VII	MO - A.T. Still University	Tripler Army Medical Center
Navneet Natt (Advanced IBD)	VII	CD - University of Toronto	Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Asher Shafrir (Advanced IBD)	VII	Hebrew University	Hadassah Hospital Jerusalem
Pavithra Parthasarathy (Transplant Hepatology)	VI	CD - McMaster University, Michael Degroote School of Medicine	
AbdiGhani Ismail (Clinical Nutrition)	IV	OH - University of Toledo College of Medicine	Indiana University

GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Sara Tonini, MD (Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine)	V	St. George University	Atlantic Health- Internal Medicine
Nyesha White, DO (Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine)	IV	Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine	Capital Health Medical Center- Family Medicine
Destiny Kellam, MD (Palliative)	IV	Wayne State University	Detroit Medical Center- Childrens National
Shannon Doyle Tonellato, MD (Palliative)	VII	Sidney Kimmel Medical at Thomas Jefferson	Medical Center- Pediatrics
Effie Mathew, MD (Geriatrics)	IV	Sidney Kimmel Medical at Thomas Jefferson	Boston University Medical Center- Internal Med
Daniel Tzou, MD (Geriatrics)	IV	Sidney Kimmel Medical at Thomas Jefferson	Lawndale Family Medcine Residency

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Shree Bose	III	Duke University School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Betul Gok Yavuz	IV	Hacettepe University (TR)	University of Missouri - Columbia
Kaitlin McLean	III	University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Maria Moscvin	IV	Universita degli Studi di Torino Scuola di Medicina (IT)	Stanford University
Hemanth Potluri	III	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Bukky Tabiti	IV	Southern Illinois University School of Medicine	Northwestern University
Tina Zheng	III	Un of California, San Francisco, Sch of Medicine	University of Chicago
Elsebaie Maha	VI	Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine - Egypt	John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County
Waqas Haque	V	The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School	New York University Langone
Ashley Hardeman	V	University of Illinois College of MedicineChicago	Baylor College of Medicine
Hannah Johnston	V	Wake Forest University School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Eric Perkey	IV	University of Michigan Medical School	University of Chicago
Reid Shaw	V	University of Rochester School	Loyola University Medical Center
Shrey Sindhwani	V	University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine	University of Toronto
Faith Abodunrin	VI	University of Debrecen Medical School and Health Science Centre - Hungary	Creighton University
Margarite Matossian	V	Tulane University School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Daniel Peiffer	V	Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Sarah Poland	VI	Ohio State University College of Medicine	NYU
Frank Wen	V	University of Chicago Division of the Biological Sciences The Pritzker School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Sulin Wu	VII	Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine	Case Western
Sam Yates	VI	Wake Forest University School of Medicine	University of Chicago

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND GLOBAL HEALTH

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Christopher Lehmann	VIII	Indiana University	Indiana University
John Flores	VI	University of Texas, San Antonio	University of Illinois Chicago
Elizabeth Bell	V	Creighton University	Rush University
Anna Czapar	IV	Case Western Reserve University	University of Chicago
Sabrina Imam	III	Loyola University	University of Chicago

NEPHROLOGY

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Sara Cuadra Aruguete	V	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine	University of Minnesota
Meenhaj Kabir	V	New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of Nyit	Riverside Medical Center
Ashley La	VI	University of Maryland School of Medicine	University of Chicago
Katherine Quinones Cruz	V	University Central Del Caribe Escuela De Medicina	University of Illinois at Chicago
Zeyad Rifai	IV	Des Moines Un, Col Of Osteopathic Med & Surgery	Southern Illinois University
Ali Shah	V	Jinnah Sindh Medical University	The Wright Center
Varsha Swamy	IV	R Franklin Un Of Med & Sci/ Chicago Medical School	University of Chicago
Diego Valenzuela III	IV	Rush Medical College of Rush University	Rush University Medical Center

PULMONARY/CRITICAL CARE

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Hannah Duehren	V		Rush Medical Center
Sophie Gough	IV	University of Illinois College of Medicine	Stanford
Andrew Wade	IV	University College Dublin	Pensylvania Hospital
Sara Kim	IV	University of Illinois College of Medicine	University of Chicago
M. Salman Sheikh (Critical Care 1 year track)	IX	Residency: University of Nevada, Reno	Fellowship (Nephrology): Mayo Clinic Rochester
Shan Guleria	VI	University of Virginia Medical School	Rush Medical Center
Ali Hammoud	V	University of Michigan Medical School	McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University
Nadeem Bandealy	V	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health	University of Chicago
Evan Merryman	V	University of Michigan Medical School	Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Hanna Vollbrecht	VI	University of Chicago	Brigham and Women's Hospital
Jack Zhao	VI	Yale University	University of Chicago
Claire Smith	VI	University of Kansas	University of Kansas
Dylan Douglas	VI	Loyola University	University of Chicago
Christopher Nemeh	VII	University of Illinois	Baylor University
August Sigelko	IV	Wayne State School of Medicine	Boston University

Sleep Medicine

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Charles Chen	VII	Wayne State University	Rutgers New Jersey
John Curran	IV	University of Chicago	Henry Ford Hospital
Matthew Nemoy	VIII	A.T. Still University of Health Sciences Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine	Residency and Fellowship: Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital

FELLOWS (Continued)

PULMONARY/CRITICAL CARE

Interventional Pulmonology

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Karan Singh	VII	Internal Medicine Residency: Baystate Medical	Center/Tufts University School of Medicine Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship: Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine, Hofstra University-Northwell Health, NY

Rheumatology

FELLOW	PGY LEVEL	MEDICAL SCHOOL	RESIDENCY
Daming Shao	IV	Peking University Health Science Center	Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Maja Ivanovic	IV	Northwestern Un Feinberg School Of Medicine	Stanford University
Yomaira Silva	V	UIC	Massachusets General Hospital
Saman Tanveer	V	Army Medical College	Cook County Stroger Hospital

GRADUATES

INTERNAL MEDICINE

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Amritpal Bahga	Cardiology Fellow	University of Chicago
Aniemeka, Nedum	GI Fellow	University of Chicago
Arman Shahriar	Physician	Gallup Indian Health Services
Bonaventure Dzekem	Cardiology Fellow	MGB - Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brianna Lambert	Faculty	PCP Univ Chicago
Cameron Dandridge	Clinical Associate	Univ of Chicago
Divya Singh	Assistant Professor	Univ of Chicago
Edward Yang	Cardiology Fellow	Oregon Health Sciences University
Emmanuel Dike-Udensi	Clinical Associate	Univ of Chicago
Ezinne Agwaramgbo	Clinical Associate	Univ of Chicago
Geethanjali Rajagopal	GI Fellow	University of Cincinnati
James Fan	Assistant Professor	Univ Chicago
Jeremy Klein	GI Fellow	University of Chicago
Joanna O Obaoye	Cardiology Fellow	Medical College of Wisconsin
Josef Miller	PCC Fellow	Washington University in St. Louis
Josh Weinberg	Cardiology Fellow	University of Illinois Chicago
Kari Tyler	Chief Resident	Univ Chicago
Keating, Layne	PCC Fellow	MGB - Brigham and Women's Hospital
Manasa Brown	ID Fellow	Northwestern
Marcus Marable	H/O Fellow	UNC
Mary Ryan	GI Fellow	University of Wisconsin
Matthew Walser	PCC Fellow	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Muriel Battaglia	H/O Fellow	Loyola University Medical Center
Nicole Lum	PCC Fellow	UCLA
Nikhil Reddy	GI Fellow	Wright State University
Nikita Deshpande	Chief Resident	Univ Chicago
O'Hara, Meaghan	Cardiology Fellow	University of Chicago
Ololade Akingbade	Cardiology Fellow	University of Chicago
Pooja Parekh	Assistant Professor	Univ Washington
Ryan Sachar	Chief Resident	Univ Chicago

PRELIMINARY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Alaina O'Rourke	Neurology Resident	University of Chicago
Melanie Martel	Ophthalmology Resident	University of Chicago
Olasubomi J Omoleye	Radiology Resident	University of Chicago
Omer Saeed	Ophthalmology Resident	University of Chicago
Quentin Howlett-Prieto	Neurology Resident	University of Chicago
Tiffani Spaulding	Ophthalmology Resident	University of Chicago

MED-PEDS

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Anthony Carrera	Clinical Assistant Professor	Northwestern
Aretha Boakye-Donkor	Fellow	Northwestern
Eric Sun	Fellow	Yale
Matthew GoodSmith	Fellow	Rush University

PSDP

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Hemanth Potluri	Fellow	University of Chicago
Kaitlin McLean	Fellow	University of Chicago
Shree Bose	Fellow	University of Chicago
Tina Zheng	Fellow	University of Chicago

CARDIOLOGY

Cardiovascular Disease

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Marie Altenburg	Assistant Professor	Rush University
Christopher Fernandez	Advanced Fellow in Intervention	University of Chicago
Jia Guo	Advanced Fellow in Cardiac Imaging	University of Chicago
Linda Liu	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Michael Randazzo	Assistant Professor	University of Pennsylvania
Giancarlo Saldana	Advanced Fellow in Cardiac Imaging	University of Chicago

Advanced Heart Failure

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Orly Leiva	Advanced Fellow in Intervention	University of Kentucky
Dimitar Saveski	Assistant Professor	University of Western Ontario

Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Jeremy Treger	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Jonathan Lattell	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Charishma Nallapti	Structural Fellow	Houston Methodist Hospital

Cardiac Imaging

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Martin Gruca	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Angel De La Cruz Tejada	Clinical Cardiologist/Advanced Cardiac Imaging Cardiologist	UChicago Medicine Medical Group

DERMATOLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Gaurav Agnihotri	Clinical Associate	University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
Colton (Cody) Funkouser	Physician	Dermatology Specialists of Ann Arbor /Hamzaui Dermatology (Ann Arbor, MI)
Liesl Schroedl	Assistant Professor of Dermatology	Duke University (Durham, NC)
Sarah Seeman	Private Practice	Golden State Dermatology (Walnut Creek, CA)
Kayla St. Claire	General Dermatology / Dermatopathology	Pinnacle Derm/QualDerm (Rochester Hills, MI)

DERMATOPATHOLOGY FELLOW

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Maria Estela Martinez Escala, MD, PhD	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Ezinne Akpara	Disaster And Operational Fellow	George Washington University
Matthew Bonomo	Administration Fellow	University Of Chicago Medicine
Jonathan Giuliano	Attending Physician	Advocate Condell
Naeha Haridasa	Social Medicine Fellow	University Of Illinois At Chicago
Jose Bien Rafaelo Hernandez	Attending Physician	Gottlieb Memorial Hospital And Macneal Hospital
Taylor Jordan	Attending Physician	Swedish First Hill
Ziomara Jurado	Ultrasound Fellow	University Of Chicago Medicine
Arielle Kempinsky	Global Emergency Medicine Fellow	University Of Colorado
Natalie Lemon	Ultrasound Fellow	Advocate Christ Medical Center
Jordan Marganski	Attending Physician	Advocate Condell
Udoka Oji	Medical Education Fellow	University Of Chicago Medicine
Hassan Owens	Attending Physician	Ochsner Health
Sara Twadell	Attending Physician	Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Campus
Tajhshea Walden	Associate Medical Director	Methodist North Emergency Physicians
Lauren Wells	Simulation Fellow	Endeavor/University Of Chicago Medicine
Rachel Whittaker	Attending Physician	University Of Kentucky
Eric Young		Locums

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND METABOLISM

Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Matthew Ettleson	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Marcelo Ramirez	Clinical Associate	University of Chicago

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Isabella Marranzini Rodriguez	Attending Physician	LCMC Health

GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY AND NUTRITION

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Ross McMillan	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Omar Jamil	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Jacob DiBattista		Suburban Gastroenterology Naperville, IL
Yichin Fu	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Grace Kim	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Hannah Roth	Assistant Professor	University of Illinois
Nisha Howarth	Clinical Associate	University of Chicago

GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Adam Hockensmith	Attending Physician and Associate Chief of Emergency & Trauma Services	The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital
Quoc-Duy Dinh	Palliative Care Attending	Northwestern
Leeseul Kim	Hospitalist	UChicago Medicine
Rahbia Hussein	Hospitalist	Advocate Christ
Patricia Lee	Geriatrics/Palliative Assistant Professor	UIC

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Vivek Behera	Pathways to Independence Instructors and Elwood V. Jensen Scholars	University of Chicago
Gideon Dosunmu	Assistant Professor	Emory
Wenji Guo	Advanced Fellow	University of Chicago
Rafael Madero-Marroquin	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Alexandra Rojek	Pathways to Independence Instructors and Elwood V. Jensen Scholars	University of Chicago

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND GLOBAL HEALTH

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Erica MacKenzie	Assistant Professor	University of Kansas
Michael Czapka	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago

NEPHROLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Gilad Guez	Fellow	Maimonides Medical Center
Meghan Gwinn	Internist	Henry Ford Health
Nicholas Stanley Kowalczyk	Advanced Nephrology Fellow	University of Chicago
Ryan Song	Faculty	University of Chicago

PULMONARY/CRITICAL CARE

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Kevin Buell	Assistant Professor	Rush University
Nicholas de la Rua	Staff Physician	Northwest Pulmonary Associates
Mark Tancredi	Assistant Professor	Rush University
Mario Fonseca-Paricio	Assistant Professor	University of Miami
Michael Torres Lizardi	Interventional Pulmonology Fellow	Duke University School of Medicine
Nahtan Nowalk	Postdoctoral Research Fellow	University of Pennsylvania

SLEEP MEDICINE

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Franco Laghi	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago
Jin Young Hwang	Assistant Professor	Franciscan Health
Joshua Taylor	Assistant Professor	McGill

INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Shreya Podder	Assistant Professor	University of Chicago

RHEUMATOLOGY

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION
Asha Asthana	Private Practice	UCM
Ailia Ali	Private Practice	Franciscan Alliance

Monica Peek, MD, MPH, MSc & Iris Romero, MD

Nabil Abou Baker, MD; Doriane Miller, MD; Keme Carter, MD; Sonali Paul, MD, MS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The Department of Medicine Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee advances the Department's mission to create an environment that welcomes and promotes diversity of thought and experience as essential features for advancing human knowledge and transformative education. Guided by the principle that authentic engagement with people whose perspectives and experiences differ from our own drives rigorous inquiry and innovative healthcare, the committee works to foster an inclusive climate across academic, research, and clinical settings.

Under the leadership of Monica Peek, MD, MPH, MSc, Keme Carter, MD, and Sonali Paul, MD, MS, the DEI Committee's FY25 accomplishments included supporting the purchase of community-oriented artwork for the Internal Medicine residency suite to make workspaces more culturally congruent with the neighborhoods we serve, and working closely with the BSD DEI office and University leaders to coordinate responses and create safe space for community discussions. The Department of Medicine DEI Committee enjoyed additional successes in FY25:

- Held a Meet and Greet for URM incoming housestaff

- **Keme Carter, MD** was selected as Faculty Marshall for the Pritzker School of Medicine Divisional Academic Ceremony (2nd year in a row!)

- **Alejandro Palma, MD** and **Ross McMillan, MD, PhD** Alpha Omega Alpha Beta Chapter Class of 2025

- **Keme Carter, MD, Abdullah Pratt, MD** and **James Woodruff, MD** were elected as recipients of the Favorite Faculty Award by the Pritzker School of Medicine Class of 2025

- Hosted DOM Grand Rounds on 4/1/2025 with special guest speaker **Ruth Shim, MD, MPH**, Associate Dean of Diverse and Inclusive Education, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of California, Davis School of Medicine

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE 2025

The Department of Medicine's Women's Committee serves as an important mechanism for networking, mentorship, professional development, awards nomination and advocacy for our female faculty. With leadership from Anna Volerman, MD, the Committee is comprised of women from multiple sections within the Department, all of whom are amazing leaders, scientists, clinicians and educators.

The DOM Women's Committee enjoyed several successes in FY25:

- Published two issues of the **"Women at the Forefront"** newsletter, highlighting the accomplishments of women faculty/trainees

- Hosted DOM Grand Rounds 1/7/25 with invited speaker **Dr. Laura Vater**, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, who spoke on "Physician Well-Being: Cultivating Meaning, Joy and Compassion in our Work"

- **Twenty-five women** faculty named Castle Connolly's Exceptional Women in Medicine

- **Thirty women** faculty named ***Chicago Magazine* Top Doctors**

- Lactation support standards formally approved and implemented for Biological Science Division physicians

- Established a partnership with Bright Horizons, providing faculty and staff with up to 10 days of back-up care annually

- Launched a Speaker's Bureau to support the advancement of women faculty by assisting with presentation development and identifying speaking opportunities

- **Sonali Smith, MD**, graduated from the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program

SOLVING THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

Credits: Section Stories Written by Debbie Abrams Kaplan
Photography by Ray Abercrombie at hundredhills.co and
UCM Communications