

Dr. Miguel Cruz operates the Octet Red384 to study binding of proteins while Dr. Rolando Rumbaut operates the Amnis ImageStream to analyze cell-cell interactions at CTRID.



**HASHEM B. EL-SERAG,
M.D., M.P.H.**

Chair of the
Department of Medicine

CELEBRATING OUR DEPARTMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The first half of 2021 has seen momentous positive changes in the fight against COVID-19. The rapid distribution of the vaccine has resulted in the return to some pre-pandemic operations. We, however, in the Department of Medicine maintain strict adherence to safety protocols, with safety for staff, faculty and patients as our main priority.

Our teams have continued their exceptional work to advance the mission of the Department with unwavering dedication, and we share some of those accomplishments with you.

The mission of the Department of Medicine is to create and apply knowledge in healthcare through research, scientific discovery, and medical education and training; all done with innovation and compassion to advance health and wellness.

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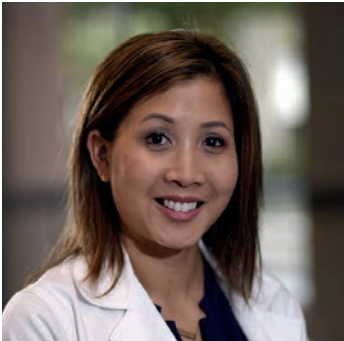
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PROVIDING HOPE FOR PATIENTS



DR. GLORIA LI

Dr. Puneet Garcha leads the Lung Transplant Program at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC). The program's mission is to provide hope and care for patients with advanced irreversible lung diseases by delivering quality-driven, timely, compassionate and innovative transplant care while developing therapies to improve outcomes.

The multidisciplinary team comprises transplant pulmonologists **Drs. Gloria Li, Anupam Kumar and Justin Segraves**, with cardiothoracic surgeons, pulmonary and critical care fellows, intensivists, nurse coordinators, advanced nurse practitioners, nutritionists, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, a pharmacist and a social worker.

The group receives referrals from across as well as outside the country, for patients with interstitial lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, sarcoidosis and, recently, COVID-19-related acute respiratory distress syndrome. Dr. Garcha says, "When a patient comes to us, we decide the need for expedited work and listing for a life-saving transplant or whether we have time to optimize their conditioning, nutrition and other modifiable risk factors." The program offers innovative techniques and advanced treatments, such as extracorporeal membranous oxygen (ECMO) to support as a bridge to transplant, with ex-vivo lung perfusion and donation after circulatory death to expand the donor pool.

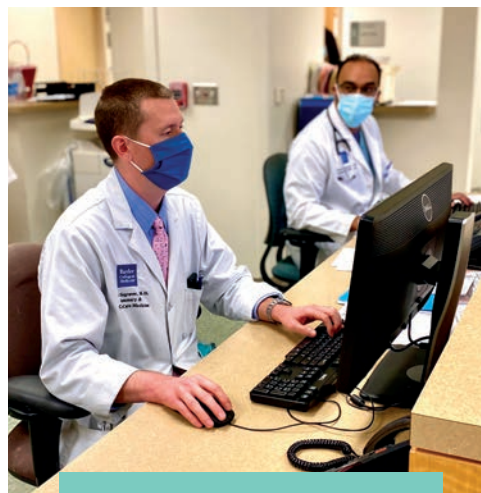


DR. ANUPAM KUMAR

In addition to the 44 lung transplants performed last year, BSLMC was one of the first centers in the world to do lung transplantation on a patient with COVID-19 whose lungs had been severely damaged. This procedure has been performed five more times as of this writing. The team also has experience caring for patients requiring multi-organ (heart-lung, lung-liver) transplantation. Working together, the specialists at BSLMC offer hope and life-saving treatment for patients with advanced lung failure.



Transplant Pharmacist Melissa Manson with Dr. Puneet Garcha



Drs. Justin Segraves and Puneet Garcha

DR. GARCHA

- Just completed an executive MBA
- Is an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan
- Loves to try new cuisines, especially Mexican street food
- Tries to grow vegetables each summer with varying success

HEALTHCARE



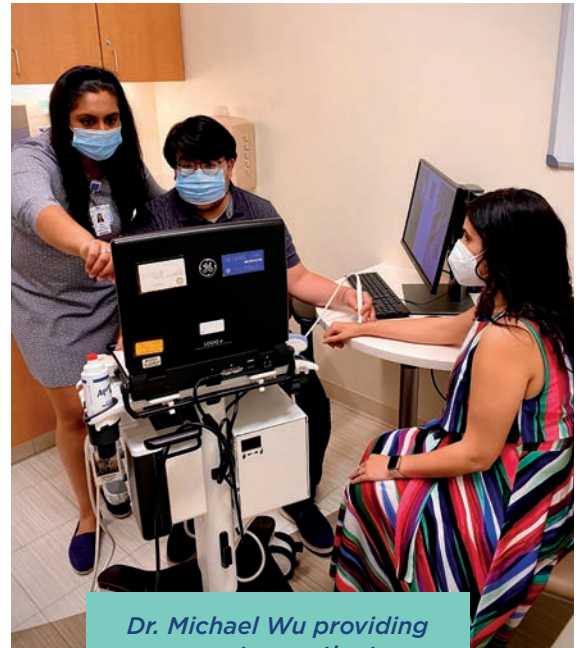
EXPANDING RHEUMATOLOGIC CARE

Some healthcare leaders go beyond what is expected to help the greater community. One of those leaders is **Dr. Sandeep Agarwal**, section chief of Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology. Under his guidance, the rheumatology practice has grown significantly. In addition to the McNair Outpatient Clinic, the group provides inpatient service at Ben Taub Hospital and a new consult service at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center that started in January 2021.

Dr. Rashmi Maganti, medical director of the rheumatology clinic at McNair, leads a group of six physicians and several staff and nurses, including **Ana Tongol**, the lead rheumatology nurse.

The rheumatology clinic is offering new services. **Dr. Michael Wu** specializes in musculoskeletal ultrasound to aid in diagnosis and management of conditions that range from tendonitis to severe inflammatory arthritis (pictured). **Dr. Shalini Jha** directs the Pediatric to Adult Rheumatology Clinic, which meets the unique needs of young adults with pediatric onset rheumatic diseases while researching their clinical outcomes as these patients transition into adulthood. **Dr. Dona Poulouse** works with the multidisciplinary Spine Center, where she excels in care of patients with ankylosing spondylitis. Finally, in addition to providing outstanding patient care, **Dr. Kalpana Bhairavarasu's** research focuses on developing novel educational tools for patients with rheumatic disease. Dr. Agarwal continues his research in autoimmune lung and skin fibrosis and creating a cohort of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and a rheumatic disease biobank of blood and synovial fluid.

Combined with our rheumatologists at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (**Drs. Grace Lo**, Chief of VA Rheumatology; **Onome Ifoeze**; **Anjali Mehta**), our entire team is focused on our educational, research and clinical missions to develop new knowledge and provide outstanding, personalized care for patients with autoimmune and rheumatic diseases.



Dr. Michael Wu providing care to a patient



Upper left, clockwise: Dr. Sandeep Agarwal, Dr. Rashmi Maganti, Dr. Grace Lo, Ana Tongol, Dr. Kalpana Bhairavarasu, Dr. Shalini Jha, Dr. Dona Poulouse and Dr. Onome Ifoeze



TURNING FUNCTIONING CELLS INTO STEM CELLS TO COMBAT CANCER



DR. JASON MILLS

Dr. Jason Mills joins the Section of Gastroenterology and Hepatology along with his team of researchers who are investigating how functional cells could be called back into operation as stem cells. An entire set of genes and mechanisms exists for how those cells can become stem cell-like again, which is an important discovery for how people get and fight cancer. Such cells can be called away from their “day jobs” when the human body becomes injured and they work like stem cells, whose job is to create new cells. An injury or inflammation will drive cells to multiply, but once the injury is no longer an issue, the cells return to their normal path of secreting important proteins. Unfortunately, as the cells revert, they accumulate abnormalities until, finally, they are unable to create the stem cell actions, producing an increased risk to accumulate mutations.

Scientists are just starting to study how these cells act as stem cells. Dr. Mills calls this **paligenosis**, or a return to a regenerative state.

DR. MILLS

- Is married to Professor Indira Mysorekar, the incoming Wagner Endowed Professor at BCM
- Loves languages and could easily have been a linguist
- Commutes to work on his bicycle
- Is building a music studio in his new Houston home

THE GOAL OF THE RESEARCH IS THREEFOLD:

1

TO PREVENT CANCERS

2

TO FIND WHICH LESIONS
ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS

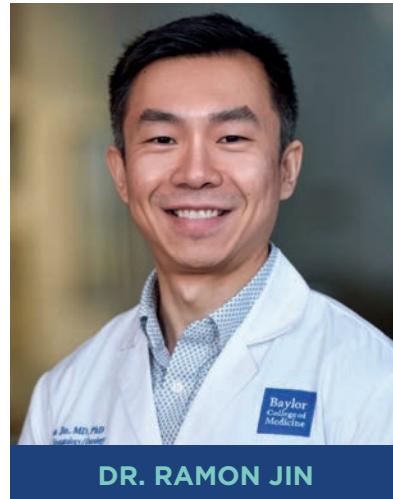
3

IN EXISTING CANCERS, TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT MAKES THEM CONTINUE

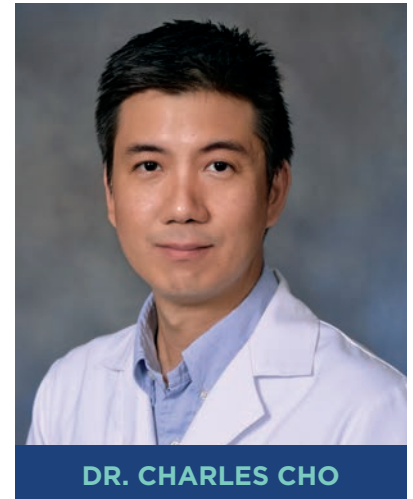
RESEARCH



Dr. Mills brings with him two instructors, a research graduate student and a postdoctoral fellow. **Dr. Ramon Jin**, with a clinical interest in metaplasia, hopes to advance understanding around the origins of esophageal and gastric cancer as well as to use the concept of paligenosis to optimize cancer therapy. **Dr. Charles Cho** is studying the mechanics of how cells undergo paligenosis. The team also brings a large set of organoids—3-dimensional cells grown in the lab—which are derived from an actual patient’s cancer cells as well as genetic mouse strains that have mutant genes for cancer origins.



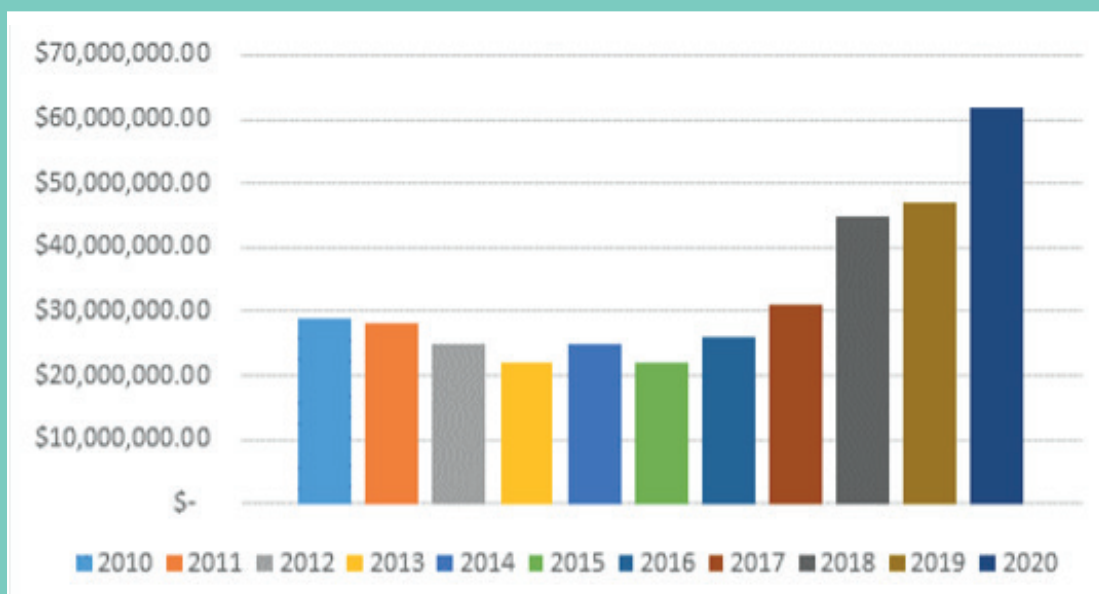
DR. RAMON JIN



DR. CHARLES CHO

Dr. Mills says “Given these organoid resources, we can grow cells from tumors; eventually, we will be able to screen different drugs to test for ideal treatment plans for particular types of cancer.” He foresees the ability to offer personalized medicine to patients with cancer by taking samples of a patient’s own cancer cells and determining in the lab the most effective treatment.

The Department of Medicine has risen from #33 to #30 (out of 115) in the 2020 Blue Ridge ranking, with a \$15 million increase in National Institutes of Health direct funding over last year.



NIH direct funding for the Department of Medicine according to Blue Ridge for 2010-2020

EDUCATION



TRAINING PROGRAMS LIKE NO OTHERS

GRADUATION

Residents celebrated a virtual graduation on June 3 and in July they begin fellowships in their internal medicine subspecialties. Some will assume positions as teaching hospitalists at various Baylor affiliates. One resident will even travel to Argentina to join Doctors Without Borders.

“With 220 residents and 180 subspecialty fellows, the BCM Internal Medicine residency and fellowship training program is one of the largest in the country,” said **Dr. Richard Hamill**, Vice-Chair for Medical Education and Director of Residency Programs in Internal Medicine.

Trainees gain training through exposure to patients and a unique opportunity to get oriented at any type of hospital through our affiliate training sites: Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center (BSLMC), Ben Taub Hospital, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC), Texas Children’s Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Baylor offers subspecialty training in 15 disciplines, including two new fields currently under review by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education.

The seven-month application process begins with an interview and ends on “Match” Day. This year saw an increased emphasis on diversity. In fact, the incoming intern class is the most diverse in our history, with 24% underrepresented in medicine individuals and 46% women.

Ensuring a quality education for residents requires oversight from 20 physicians as well as Associate Program

Directors and Site Directors (**Drs. Galant Chan, Erica Lescinskas, Chirayu Shah, Wilson Lam, Stephanie Sherman, Zaven Sargsyan, Lee Lu, Achilia Morrow, Jeff Bates and Prathit Kulkarni**).

The Education Office is also responsible for the education of medical students and oversees 190 core clerkship students, 110 sub-interns and many elective students. This requires another team, led by **Dr. Andrew Caruso**, Internal Medicine Core Clerkship Director.

It takes a team! “None of this would be possible without a tremendous team of education professionals, their unwavering commitment to excellence and dedication to all things education” says **Joni Owens**,



Department of Medicine Education Office members

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS

Fellowship Programs	Residency Programs
4,000 Applications	4,400 Applications
600 Applicant Interviews	770 Applicant Interviews
75 Fellows Matched	84 Interns Matched

EDUCATION

Manager of the Education Office. Each person below provides a different type of support:

- **Carolyn Mann**, supervisor for residency personnel
- **Linda Johnston**, supervisor for fellowship coordinators (**Michelle Stevenson, Haider Salloomi, Sheba Hopkins and Etinosa Evbuomwan**)
- **Suzanne Taylor**, BSLMC card program manager
- **Yolanda Mendoza** supports Transplant Hepatology training program
- **Kari Booker**, MEDVAMC training program and Grand Rounds liaison
- **Jeannie Diehl** manages reimbursements, concur transactions and budget assistance
- **Franny Garcia** manages interview season and trainee completion of BLS and ACLS certification
- **Joan Smith** manages MedHub, an electronic evaluation system
- **Lisa Camp** is helping coordinate the orientation and interview season
- **Arlene Back** coordinates 190 core clerkship students and 110 sub-interns annually



*Joni Owens and
Dr. Richard Hamill*

Recently, **Dennis Pledger**, Director of Clinical Operations in the Department of Medicine, accepted the task of overseeing the Education Office as part of the department's administration team. Many attribute the program's success to the support of great leadership. Joni Owens says, "It has been an honor and awe-inspiring working with Dr. Hamill over the last 16 years. Not only is he an amazing Vice Chair and Program Director, he is a wonderful mentor and teacher to all of us."

MATCHES FOR FELLOWS	Boston Children's Hospital & Beth Israel Hospital	Oregon Health & Sciences Univ.	Baylor College of Medicine		Univ. of North Carolina	Univ. of Pittsburgh Medical Center
	Vanderbilt Univ.	Baylor Univ. Medical Center	Univ. of Cincinnati	Stanford Univ.	Loma Linda Univ.	MD Anderson Cancer Center
	Boston Children's Hospital & Brigham & Women's Hospital	Univ. of Texas Houston	Univ. of Colorado	Rush Univ.	Baylor, Scott & White - Temple	Univ. of Texas
	Univ. of Michigan	UC San Diego	Henry Ford Hospital	Emory Univ.	Medical Univ. of South Carolina	Duke Univ.
	Univ. of Washington	Texas Heart Institute	National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases	Univ. of Missouri School of Medicine	Texas Children's Hospital	Univ. of Oklahoma

COLLABORATION



CTRID FOSTERS RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND MENTORING



DR. ROLANDO RUMBAUT

The **Center for Translational Research on Inflammatory Diseases (CTRID)** was born out of the Research Strategic Planning Initiative at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) to foster collaborative research and mentor investigators in alliance with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM).

Led by CTRID Director, **Dr. Rolando Rumbaut**, the mission is to improve the health and well-being of veterans by researching inflammation. CTRID launched in 2013 with a weekly research seminar series and a few core research services. By 2016, it had received designation as a BCM Strategic Research Center and in 2017, its seminars received CME accreditation. In 2018, Drs. Rolando Rumbaut and **Miguel Cruz** (CTRID co-director) received funding from NIH for a T32 training program and in 2020, CTRID contributed to one of the largest collaborative grants ever awarded at MEDVAMC, which was led by **Dr. Farrah Kheradmand**, a founding member of CTRID.



Dr. Vinod Vijayan operates the flow cytometer to analyze blood cells.

The Center comprises 17 core faculty with appointments at the VA, 9 affiliate faculty and 7 trainees; while >60% of its members are in the Department of Medicine, it represents 7 academic departments within BCM.

CTRID has received more than \$56 million in new research funding. The MEDVAMC campus manages core research facilities such as platelet function, histology, molecular biology, flow cytometry, advanced microscopy and exercise physiology. These cores support collaborative research ranging from platelet biology (**Drs. Vinod Vijayan and Perumal Thiagarajan**), basic and clinical research on inflammation and thrombosis (**Drs. Fong Lam, Miguel Cruz, Rolando Rumbaut**), pulmonary disorders (**Drs. Lavannya Pandit and David Corry**), cancer biology (**Drs. Farrah Kheradmand and Cathy Yao**) to clinical research on exercise and aging (**Drs. Dennis Villareal and Reina Villareal**), among many others.

Using CTRID core resources, Dr. Cruz and colleagues identified new mechanisms of thrombosis in circulatory devices, which led to new NIH funding in 2021. A paper covering the research was published in 2015 in the journal *Blood*; an accompanying editorial stated “This defines a novel paradigm for understanding the development of thrombosis in mechanical circulatory support devices.”



Exercise physiology laboratory of Drs. Dennis and Reina Villareal.

A LOOK BACK AT SPRING 2021



SELECT FACULTY AWARDS

Department and College Awards

Dr. Hamid Afshar	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Ritwick Agrawal	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Samaya Anumudu	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Maya Balakrishnan	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Reena Chokshi	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Ruben Hernaez	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Molly Horstman	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Leanne Jackson	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Hani Jneid	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Avi Ketwaroo	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Umair Khalid	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Sobia Khan	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Srikanth Koneru	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Dipaben Modi	That's the Way Player of the Month
Dr. Meroë Morse	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Benjamin Musher	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Kalpesh Patel	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Maulin Shah	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Stephanie Sherman	John P McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award in the Clinical Years
Dr. Leo Simpson	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Supriya Singh	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Ms. Isabel Valdez	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Chandan Vangala	Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Kanta Velamuri	Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
Dr. Salim Virani	Clark Faculty Service Award

A LOOK BACK AT SPRING 2021



SELECT FACULTY AWARDS

Department and College Appointments

Dr. Samaya Anumudu	BCM Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Inclusion and Equity Ambassador
Dr. Andrew Civitello	Common Spirit Health National Advanced Heart Failure and LVAD Clinical Standards Committee Co-Chair
Dr. Hana El Sahly	National Diversity and Leadership Conference BCM Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion
Dr. Milena Gould Suarez	GI Fellowship Program Director
Dr. Astrid Grouls	Initiated new elective for medical students – Inpatient Palliative Care
Dr. Jason Hou	MEDVAMC Interim Section Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Dr. Jonathan Lim	Baylor Curriculum Renewal Committee Member
Dr. Eberechi Nwogu-Onyemkpa	Initiated new elective for medical students – Inpatient Palliative Care
Dr. Laura Petersen	National Diversity and Leadership Conference BCM Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion
Dr. Hemant Roy	Herman Brown Endowed Chair in Medicine
Dr. Fidaa Shaib	Board of Governors At-Large Member
Dr. Richa Shukla	BCM GI Fellowship at Ben Taub Hospital Associate Program Director
Dr. Mimi Tan	BCM GI Fellowship at Ben Taub Hospital T32 Associate Program Director
Dr. Umar Waheed	Executive Medical Director of Baylor Medicine Hospitalist Services

National Leadership Awards, Recognitions & Appointments

Dr. Mayar Al Mohajer	American College of Healthcare Executives Fellow
Dr. Christie Ballantyne	<i>Journal of the American College of Cardiology</i> Guest Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Biykem Bozkurt	Association of University Cardiologists Member
Dr. Andrew Chou	<i>Oxford Academic: Open Forum Infectious Diseases</i> Editor's Choice Award Co-Author
Dr. Shweta Dhar	American College of Medical Genetics & Genomics Board of Directors
Dr. Garabed Eknoyan	Garabed Eknoyan Endowed Lectureship

A LOOK BACK AT SPRING 2021



SELECT FACULTY AWARDS

Dr. Hana El Sahly	Lead author, paper in <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>
Dr. Hashem El-Serag	University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology Adjunct Professor
Dr. Traber Giardina	National Academy of Medicine Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence Scholar
Dr. Nicola Hanania	<i>Respiratory Medicine</i> Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Ruben Hernaez	American Gastroenterological Association Institute Clinical Guidelines Committee Member
Dr. Hani Jneid	American College of Cardiology 2021 Gifted Educator Award
Dr. Jordan Kemere	Golisano Health Leadership Award
Dr. Farrah Kheradmand	American Thoracic Society 2021 Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments
Dr. Ayse Mindikoglu	<i>Scientific Reports</i> ' 2020 Top 100 Downloaded Papers Author
Dr. William Mitch	World's Top 2% of Scientists in Nephrology
Dr. June Pickett	NCDR EP Registry Research and Publications Committee FIT Member
Dr. Waqar Qureshi	Texas Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Education Committee Member
Dr. Ivan Rosas	Lead author, paper in <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>
Dr. Jose Serpa-Alvarez	American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene Scientific Committee Intestinal and Tissue Helminths/Cestodes Subcommittee Chair
Dr. Salim Virani	American Heart Association Annual Statistics Update Lead Physician
Dr. Carl Walther	<i>American Journal of Kidney Diseases</i> Reviewer Hall of Fame
Dr. Wolfgang Winkelmayr	<i>Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology</i> 's senior author of the top paper published in 2020

Hospital Recognitions

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer has reaccredited Ben Taub Hospital as an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Center for another 3-year period.

BCM Medicine has received designation from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement as an Age-Friendly Health Systems Participant.

BCM ranks 22nd out of 154 medical schools according to the *U.S. News & World Report* annual list of top graduate schools. Internal Medicine was ranked 25th nationally.

DIVERSITY



HOLDING SPACE TO ADVOCATE IN AN EQUITABLE WAY

Dr. El-Serag tasked the Vice Chair Group for Faculty and Staff Development to convene a group to address our strategy to address racial equity inside and outside the Department of Medicine. The **Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in Action (IDEA)** Committee was born during the Summer of 2020.

Dr. Maureen Kimani and Juni Muhota-Langham, both native Kenyans, co-chair the IDEA committee, which connects 20 members from various DOM sections. Core IDEA members who work behind the scenes on continued agenda-setting include Drs. Joslyn Fisher, Josh Muniz and Kingsley Emelogu. The IDEA mission is to implement actions that build a more diverse, inclusive and equitable working environment.

The IDEA committee released a **Call to Action**, which focused on four areas:

- Increase workforce diversity.
- Educate department members on areas of diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Assess current levels of equity research and support investigative strategies to eliminate health inequities.
- Engage local organizations and institutions with community outreach activities.



Juni Muhota-Langham (left)
and Dr. Maureen Kimani

Spearheaded by Drs. Maureen Kimani and Lavannya Pandit, the committee launched an “**Equity Grand Rounds**” series with national speakers to cover topics such as Achieving Anti-Racism in Medicine, Health Equity and COVID-19 and Advocacy in Action. The series has received consistently positive feedback.

Dr. Fidaa Shaib and Juni Muhota-Langham serve as the DOM representatives in BCM’s **holistic review** pilot project, aimed at devising recruitment tools for Underrepresented in Medicine (UiM) faculty that shifts the lens to look at faculty candidates from multiple perspectives.

Leading the **resident recruitment process** are Drs. Stephanie Sherman, Josh Muniz and Kingsley Emelogu, who host virtual open houses for UiM resident candidates and leverage UiM faculty in the applicant screening and interview process. This has resulted in a marked increase in UiM resident matches for the next academic year.

The IDEA committee members are embracing the chance to empower change within the department. As Juni says, “It is refreshing to have leadership support as a department to become more proactive around issues of racism and equity.”

“It is refreshing to have leadership support as a department to become more proactive around issues of racism and equity.”

CARING IN ACTION



COUPLES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

They say people cross our path for a reason. This is especially true for **Dr. Elisha Acosta** and **Dennis Pledger**, who quietly crossed paths most mornings at the office coffee pot, although Dennis was sure he needed to meet Elisha after seeing her competitive side at an intramural softball game. “She wanted to win, and I liked that. After seeing her there, I sought her out at work.”

When Dennis reached out to Elisha, she reacted in kind. “So many felt positively about him, and that was reassuring; when the opportunity came, it was exciting!” They tied the knot in November 2020.

The couple rarely see each other during the day. “We’re just always at different locations,” Dennis says. “But we look for opportunities to pop in on each other.” When not working, the two fill their free time with a variety of interests, from sports to movies to eating out.

Dennis tells us that his work has been enhanced through knowing Elisha because he gets to see the administrative policies he’s enacting from the faculty’s perspective.



Dr. Elisha Acosta and Dennis Pledger



Drs. Fidaa Shaib and Ihab Hamzeh

Love always brings **Dr. Fidaa Shaib** and **Dr. Ihab Hamzeh** back to each other. They’ve shared 22 years together, starting at the American University of Beirut, where Dr. Shaib was a resident and Dr. Hamzeh was her intern. “When late for rounds, he used to bribe me with bottles of Snapple peach iced tea,” reminisces Dr. Shaib.

The couple bonded over their passion to help patients with a growing wish to move to the U.S. In 1998, she traveled to New York for her fellowship, while he came to BCM for his residency. One year later they were married and Dr. Shaib transferred her fellowship to Houston so they could be together.

They worked at the University of Louisville for nearly a decade before returning to Houston in 2012. Dr. Hamzeh said, “We were both interested in coming back to a bigger program with more career potential like Baylor.”

They prioritize quality time with their family of four by traveling, preparing meals, and always having family dinners together. Spending time outdoors is the preferred family activity and hiking at Lake Louise remains their favorite adventure. Dr. Shaib explains how they make it all work: “For two people in academic medicine, the secret to success is to have a very supportive partner.”

QUALITY



QI TRAINING - THE HOSPITALIST WAY



DR. NEERAJ AGRAWAL

DR. AGRAWAL

- Is married and had his first child one year ago at the start of the pandemic.
- Is an amateur woodworker who has made multiple pieces of furniture for his house.

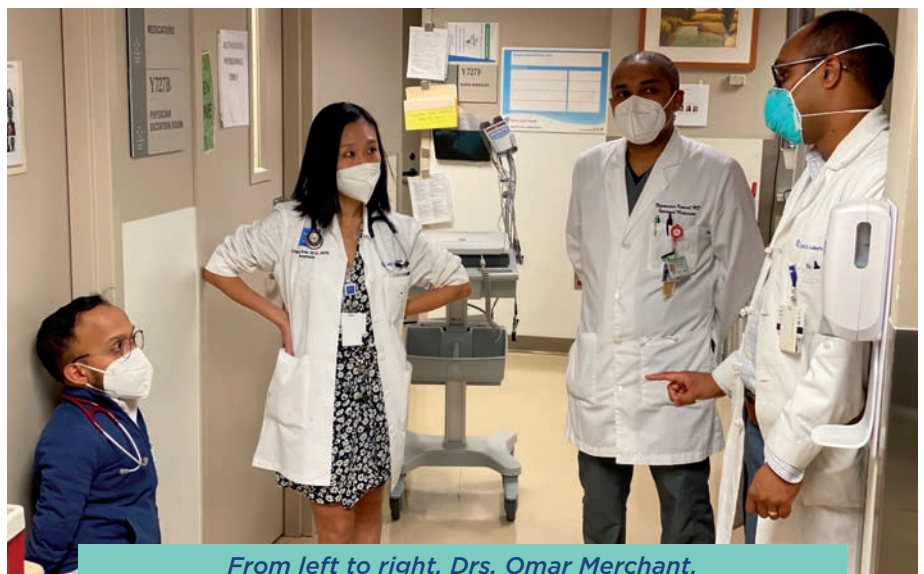
When **Dr. Neeraj Agrawal** saw the impact of the projects developed by the Vice Chair Group for Quality Improvement and Innovation, he wondered why he couldn't do this for his team. So, he did.

He partnered with **Dr. Kyler Godwin** and the Institute for QI/PS to teach six hospitalists during the summer of 2020: **Drs. Kinjal Changela, Omar Merchant, Hillary Kim-Vences, Nejmudin Kemal, Chinkama Ibe and Nehal Patel**. The 3½-month course included didactic lectures every 2 to 3 weeks, which involved quality improvement lessons with hands-on experience. Participants paired up in groups of two to work on their quality improvement projects, with ongoing mentoring for 8 months. Upon completion, participants prepared abstracts and presented their work to leadership.

Drs. Merchant and Changela focused on the culture of safety at BSLMC through improved utilization of IRIS reporting. Drs. Kemal and Ibe partnered with nurse leaders to reduce inappropriate telemetry. Drs. Patel and Kim-Vences created a protocol to reduce unnecessary oxygen use and decrease hospital length of stay by having nurses wean the patients' use of oxygen; their proposal is being presented to various committees to get approval to use it across the hospital.

Everyone who participated continues to educate those around them and implement the knowledge gained in new and exciting ways. Would Dr. Agrawal do it again? Absolutely! "There is definitely interest; more and more faculty members are hearing about it, especially the hospitalists, and see it as a great way to impact the patients and the hospital."

"More and more faculty members are hearing about it, and see it as a great way to impact the patients and the hospital."



From left to right, Drs. Omar Merchant, Hillary Kim-Vences, Nejmudin Kemal and Neeraj Agrawal

QUALITY ACADEMY GRADUATES

The Vice Chair Group for Quality Improvement and Innovation held its annual Quality Academy, resulting in a wide range of inventive submissions (and team names!) this year, with two winning presentations:

MONDAY PRESENTATIONS

1st Place	Go Lightly	Improving Helicobacter pylori Eradication Rates at Ben Taub Hospital
Runner Up	Pancrenstein	Improving Hemoglobin A1c Acquisition Rates in Diabetic Endocrine Patients within the Harris Health System
	Leishmaniacs	Health Maintenance Screening at TSC
	Go Gutters	Improving Access to Gastroenterology Appointments at Smith Clinic
	Gentle Diuresis	Implementation of Protocol to Facilitate Appropriate Utilization of Coronary CTA and Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging at Ben Taub

Go Lightly - Judge Remarks: "Overall outstanding work! Very well-defined problem and excellent presentation of data. Clearly stated aim statement. Great use of QI tools (process map, impact/yield diagram)."

TUESDAY PRESENTATIONS

1st Place	PCCM BSLMC	Improving Mobilization in the ICU
Runner Up	Sleeping Beauties	Increasing SD Download Prior to Telemedicine Appointments to Improve Patient Care
	Oncqualigy	Addressing Patient Education for New Cancer Patients at Smith Clinic
	The Geriatric No Falls	Standardizing Post Fall On-Call Reporting in Long-Term Care
	Quality Beans	Improving the Onboarding Process for Incoming First Year Nephrology Fellows
	Gilboa's Fancy Group	Improving Adherence to Daily SAT When Appropriate in the MICU

PCCSM BSLMC - Judge Remarks: "QI tools (e.g., fishbone or process map) correctly constructed with sufficient detail. Detailed process map."

NEW LEADERS



GRANT COFFMAN

We're happy to announce that **Grant Coffman** has joined the Department of Medicine as our new Director of Finance. Grant has extensive healthcare experience, starting back in 2008 when he worked as a medical assistant while pursuing his undergraduate degree at Lamar University. After graduating in 2011, he went to Southern New Hampshire University to receive his MBA in 2014. Grant started his career at BCM as a clinic manager. He worked his way up to the role of Project Manager and then compensation plan director before coming to the Department of Medicine.

When he's not working, Grant enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters, aged 4 and 7, or on one of his many outdoor hobbies—hunting, fishing or golf. Welcome to the team!

Baylor
College of
Medicine

THE MARGARET M. AND ALBERT B. ALKEK

DEPARTMENT OF
MEDICINE

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MEDICAL CENTER

McNair Campus | 7200 Cambridge St. | Houston, TX 77030

APPOINTMENTS

713.798.1000 | 800.229.5671 | bcm.edu/medicine