

FY2025 MID-YEAR REPORT FCM NEWSLETTER

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During the first half of FY2025, the department received significant grants sponsoring our research focused on prevention and population health. Dedicated faculty and staff have begun working on initiatives such as the Texas Comprehensive Access and Resources for Early Lung Cancer Prevention (TEX-CARE) Project funded by CPRIT and Consortium for Translational and Precision Health - The Community and Stakeholder Module funded by the NIH/NCATS. For more information on these new programs, visit our [grant funding web page](#).

Other recent developments include the appointment of **Jacqueline Hirth, Ph.D., MPH** as the director of research and AHRQ's featured profile on **Larissa Grigoryan, M.D., Ph.D., MPH, MSc**. Additionally, we welcomed **Willie Rajvong, DrPH, M.S.** into our Primary Care Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, and celebrated the graduation of **Judith Gutierrez, M.D., MPH** and **Lindsey Laytner, Ph.D., MPH, CPT**. Dr. Gutierrez and Dr. Laytner were in our fellowship program from 2021 to 2024, authoring numerous publications and presentations involving their areas of interest. Read further details regarding their training on [page seven](#).

From July through December 2024, 15 providers joined our faculty teams with Baylor Medicine Family Medicine, Harris Health, and Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston. Our staff grew following six new hires, with **LaTasha R. Smith, MBA, CPC** as our new administrator. Also, I am pleased to highlight the promotions of **Sanjana Bhattarai, M.D., FAAFP**, **Melissa Johnson, M.S., FNP-C**, and **Luis Rustveld, Ph.D., RD, LD**. To everyone in the department, I appreciate each of you for choosing a career that supports the various missions of Family and Community Medicine.

Roger Zoorob, M.D., MPH, FAAFP
Richard M. Kleberg, Sr. Professor & Chair

Baylor
College of
Medicine



ANNIVERSARIES

10 YEARS WITH BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE **Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs**

Dr. Sidani celebrated 10 years with Family and Community Medicine in November 2024. He began his career at Baylor as a professor and the department's vice chair of clinical affairs. Before joining the College, Dr. Sidani held similar appointments at the prestigious Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to his move to Tennessee, he was an assistant professor for nearly a decade in the Department of Family Medicine at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans.



**MOHAMAD SIDANI,
M.D., M.S., FAAFP**

Since February 2015, Dr. Sidani has been the medical director of Baylor Medicine Family Medicine's private practices. As clinical leadership, he manages providers and medical staff delivering primary care and specialty services to patients in the Greater Houston area. In addition, he maintains his responsibilities as service chief at Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital, a role he embraced in November 2014.

Throughout his professional pursuits in higher education, Dr. Sidani has shown great interest in residency training. Currently, he serves as core faculty for our family medicine residency program. The department recognized his academic contributions by presenting him with the Leonard D. Moise Teaching Award in June 2018. He continues to be an excellent preceptor while attending to clinical duties.



**FAREED KHAN,
M.D., DTMH, FAAFP**

25 YEARS WITH BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE **Professor and Vice Chair of Community Health**

Dr. Khan achieved a major milestone in November 2024, celebrating 25 years at Baylor. He has devoted two and a half decades to Family and Community Medicine, starting as an assistant professor and ultimately being promoted to a full professor in the summer of 2021. Dr. Khan has had several departmental roles in clinical and educational capacities, most notably his current appointment as vice chair of community health. Additionally, he is the assistant chief of staff for Ambulatory Care Services with Harris Health.

In his clinical leadership position over the department's Community Health Program, Dr. Khan supervises faculty treating individuals at Harris Health centers and clinics throughout Harris County. As an active physician, he sees patients at the Northwest Health Center. He remains an advocate for providing essential healthcare services to local and international communities. Also, Dr. Khan's positive influence is reflected in our faculty, many of whom are alumni of our residency program, and his continued mentorship of residents and medical students. He is part of our residency's core faculty, with a history as director of the Baylor Family Medicine Residency Program (2007-2013) and associate director of the FCM Clerkship (2001-2007). He received the Leonard D. Moise Teaching Award in June 2020 and 2002, showing his consistent dedication to our mission in education.



RESEARCH

NEW APPOINTMENT FCM Director of Research

Dr. Hirth was appointed as Family and Community Medicine’s director of research in May 2024. She joined Baylor College of Medicine as an assistant professor in February 2021 and was promoted to associate professor by October 2023. She is a skilled epidemiologist with expertise in data management and research interests including behavioral health and cancer prevention. Dr. Hirth has made various departmental contributions through publications, presentations, and grants, as well as her support for our fellows and learners.



JACQUELINE HIRTH,
PH.D., MPH

FUNDING IN FY2025 FCM Faculty as Key Personnel

Texas Comprehensive Access & Resources for Early Lung Cancer Prevention (TEX-CARE): CPRIT | \$449,929

Dec. 1, 2024 - Nov. 30, 2027
Zoorob, PD

Exploring and Improving Type 2 Diabetes Out- comes Using Short-Term Continuous Glucose Monitoring: TAFP Foundation | \$10,000

Dec. 1, 2024 - Nov. 30, 2025
Mendonca, PI

To view current grants with participating depart-
ment faculty, explore our [research web page](#).

Improving Diagnosis and Treatment of Urinary Tract Infections in Male Veterans: Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Seed Award | \$46,842

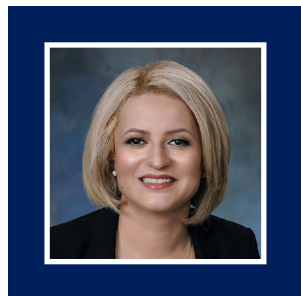
Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025
Grigoryan, Co-I (Trautner, PI)

Consortium for Translational and Precision Health - The Community and Stakeholder Module: NIH/NCATS | \$4,543,939

Sept. 1, 2024 - July 31, 2031
Zoorob, Lead Community Core
(Beech & Kanwal, MPIs)

Be Well Texas (BWTX) Program Renewal: SAMHSA - UTSA - SMH | \$71,152

Sept. 1, 2024 - Aug. 31, 2025
Kowalchuk, Subaward PI (Gilmore, PI)



LARISSA GRIGORYAN,
M.D., PH.D., MPH, MSc

FEATURED FACULTY GRANTEE PROFILE By the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Dr. Grigoryan’s antibiotic stewardship research was under the AHRQ spotlight in, “[Investigating Interventions to Reduce Unsafe Use of Antibiotics](#),” and their [weekly newsletter](#) published in November 2024. Throughout her career with the department, she has focused on improving antibiotic use and minimizing the emergence of antimicrobial resistance, a growing global health threat that makes the treatment of infections increasingly difficult. Currently, Dr. Grigoryan is actively involved in three AHRQ-funded grants totaling more than \$7 million.



RESIDENCY

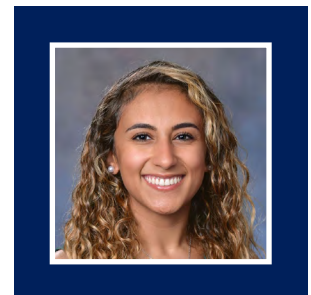
GRANT UPDATES Houston and Lufkin

The department's Baylor Family Medicine Residency Program secured substantial support from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, effective at the beginning of FY2025. Our residency saw an increase in funding to \$207,496, compared to the grant awarded in September 2023. In addition, the Houston track is receiving \$900,000 through June 2026 as part of the Graduate Medical Education Expansion Program.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is also doubling funding for our rural residency program in Lufkin, Texas to \$1,350,000 through June 2026. This integrated partnership to serve East Texas with St. Luke's Health-Memorial Lufkin has been successful in providing training to our family medicine residents. Currently, we have nine residents in the rural residency track.

NEW APPOINTMENT GHHS Residents and Fellows Chapter President

Dr. Samaan, PGY-2 family medicine resident, was elected as the president of the Baylor College of Medicine Gold Humanism Honor Society Residents and Fellows Chapter for FY2025. Previous leadership nominated her to continue nurturing their growing professional community. Since accepting the role, she is most proud of facilitating service project grants provided by the organization to fund a range of initiatives. At the moment, Dr. Samaan is on the core team coordinating the chapter's induction ceremony to be held in March 2025.



SANDY SAMAN,
M.D., MBA

HOLIDAY PARTY HOSTED BY RASHMI RODE, M.D., FAAFP PGY-2 and PGY-3 Residents with FCM Faculty





EDUCATION

NEW APPOINTMENT FCM Director of Medical Student Education

Dr. Sarkar was appointed as Family and Community Medicine’s director of medical student education in October 2024. In this role, he manages initiatives supporting student interest in family medicine, works with faculty on promoting relevant electives, facilitates projects between students and faculty, and encourages faculty development through educational endeavors. Dr. Sarkar has also upheld his duties as the director of the department’s clerkship since January 2023, for which he has made several notable changes to date.



**ARINDAM SARKAR,
M.D., FAAFP**

EDUCATION MEETING Houston and Temple Faculty



Family and Community Medicine leadership from both Baylor College of Medicine campuses were part of a collaborative gathering in October 2024 to discuss academic efforts between the two sites.

FAMILY TIES Baylor Medicine Family Medicine



Naga Srivani Kambala, medical assistant with Baylor Family Medicine – Upper Kirby, was beaming with pride when her son, a Baylor medical student, started his family medicine rotation in October 2024.

FCM EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT Monthly Recurring Donors

The department thanks our contributors for their continued support of our educational endowment. Funding received sponsors opportunities for trainees to maximize resources and gain experience through activities dedicated to family medicine programs. Join our mission by visiting our [donations web page](#).

Scan for
information:



Rashmi Rode, M.D., FAAFP

Hammad Mahmood, M.D., MBA

Arindam Sarkar, M.D., FAAFP

Mike Ren, M.D.

Eric Warwick, M.D.



DEVELOPMENT



**MALVIKA JUNEJA,
M.D., FAAFP**

2024 PRIMARY CARE UPDATE Annual Conference

Family and Community Medicine hosted its annual Primary Care Update on Oct. 26, 2024, with Dr. Juneja, director of faculty development and CME, overseeing the in-person event. Over 90 participants in primary care from Baylor College of Medicine and other institutions registered to attend. This year's conference featured significant topics relevant in today's healthcare climate, such as the Ozempic era, sleep and wellness, disaster preparedness, dermatology, hyperlipidemia, human trafficking, and substance use disorders.

The day began with a fantastic Walkathon organized by department faculty from Harris Health's Vallbona Health Center, followed by a morning of grand sessions. During lunch, attendees took part in interest group networking with focused discussions. The afternoon consisted of didactics and two-hour training sessions. Several FCM faculty members, including Rashmi Rode, M.D., FAAFP, Jacqueline Hirth, Ph.D., MPH, Arindam Sarkar, M.D., FAAFP, and Nidhi Mehrotra, MBBS, presented as speakers at the conference.

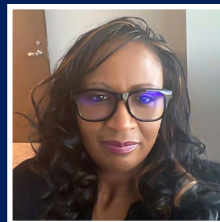


THANK YOU Support Team

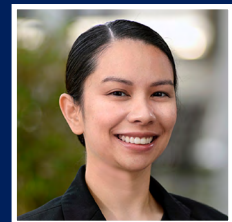
The department thanks the administrative staff members who provided substantial assistance in facilitating tasks that ensured the success of this year's conference.



LISA LOPEZ



PALICIA GARNER



**FARA JULIENNE
ABORDAJE**



KUDOS

MASTER'S PROGRAM GRADUATION

Hammad Mahmood, M.D., MBA

Dr. Mahmood completed the EMBA program in health-care organization leadership from The University of Texas at Dallas in December 2024. He dedicated three years to his graduate studies while fulfilling his current role as the medical director of Harris Health's Casa de Amigos Health Center. Dr. Mahmood has expressed his gratitude to department leadership for their support during this time of educational and professional growth.



FELLOWSHIP GRADUATION

Judith Gutierrez, M.D., MPH

Dr. Gutierrez completed three years of our Primary Care Research Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2024. She explored several topics throughout her training, including prevention, cancer control and epidemiology, chronic disease, substance use, and mental health. Dr. Gutierrez co-authored three manuscripts, with one as first author, and over a dozen presentations. Additionally, she actively participated in community initiatives with our faculty and staff. Following the end of the fellowship, Dr. Gutierrez accepted a position with the department as a staff scientist in research.



FELLOWSHIP GRADUATION

Lindsey Laytner, Ph.D., MPH, CPT

Dr. Laytner also completed our three-year fellowship program in September 2024. She made significant contributions to the department's research mission while focusing on antibiotic stewardship. Dr. Laytner provided authorship for 22 presentations, including submissions to national conferences such as IDWeek and SHEA Spring, and nine manuscripts for which she is the first author of four publications. After graduating from the fellowship, Dr. Laytner continues to explore the complex dynamics of antibiotic misuse in pediatric and adult primary care populations in the United States.



KUDOS

PROMOTIONS

July – December 2024

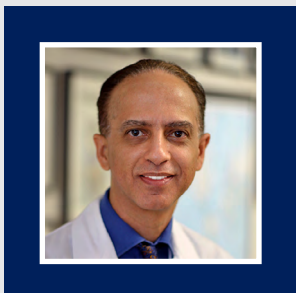
Congratulations to the FCM faculty promoted in FY2025:



SANJANA BHATTARAI,
M.D., FAAFP
Associate Professor



MELISSA JOHNSON,
M.S., FNP-C
Assistant Professor



LUIS RUSTVELD,
PH.D., RD, LD
Associate Professor

FEEDBACK CHAMPION AWARDS

Q1 FCM Clerkship Faculty

- Jordan Kemere, M.D. (volunteer)
- Atul Sachdev, M.D. (volunteer)
- Amna Waqar, M.D.

Q2 FCM Clerkship Faculty

- Stephen Thomas, M.D. (volunteer)
- Ijeoma Anyakorah, M.D.
- Yasmin Uzamere, M.D., MHS

2024 VALLBONA ANNUAL AWARDS

Champion for Patient-Centered Care

- Malvika Juneja, M.D., FAAFP

Champion for Most Valuable Physician

- Diana Atwal, M.D., M.A.

Champion for Citizenship

- Homayoun Ataei, M.D.

Champion for Alignment with BCM Values

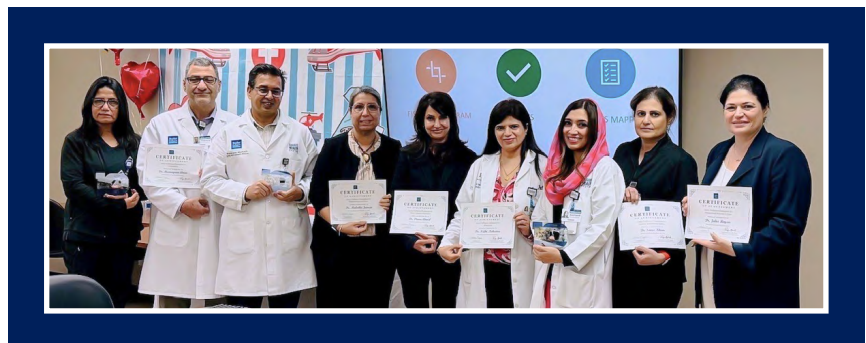
- Anjali Aggarwal, M.D., FAAFP

Champion for Education

- Nidhi Mehrotra, MBBS

Champion for Quality and Patient Safety

- Saira Khan, M.D., FAAP





KUDOS

FCM COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Lisa Lopez

Ms. Lopez was chosen as Family and Community Medicine's Fall 2024 Community Champion, recognized for her professionalism and volunteer work. Since being with Baylor College of Medicine for five years, she consistently provides essential support and anticipates the needs of department leadership. Fareed Khan, M.D., DTMH, FAAFP, vice chair of community health, was among the individuals who recommended Ms. Lopez for the award.

Nomination Submission: "Her volunteerism at the food bank is always of inspiration, but when she goes over and beyond as during Hurricane Beryl and other times of crisis, is most impressive. She herself was out of her home for a lengthy period of time without electricity and basic amenities, but she was there for others."



POP AWARD

Anjali Aggarwal, M.D., FAAFP

Dr. Aggarwal was selected as a recipient of the College's Power of Professionalism Award in July 2024.

CHP RECOGNITION

Fabrizia Faustinella, M.D., Ph.D., MACP

Dr. Faustinella was highlighted in Harris Health's "The Rounds" Newsletter in July 2024 for her compassionate care while treating a patient.

CHAMPION FOR PROFESSIONALISM

Malvika Juneja, M.D., FAAFP

Dr. Juneja was appointed as Champion for Professionalism in Practice at Baylor's Center for Professionalism meeting in July 2024.

RESEARCH MENTOR CHAMPION

Anjali Aggarwal, M.D., FAAFP

Dr. Aggarwal was named a Mentor Champion by Baylor's Office of Student Opportunities for Advancement in Research in November 2024.

PEAR AWARD

Anees Fatima, M.D., FAAFP

Dr. Fatima was acknowledged with the College's Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award in December 2024.

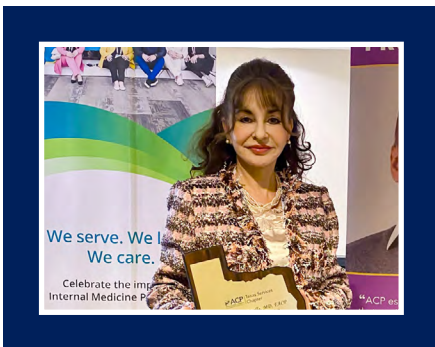


KUDOS



SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP RECOGNITION **Dana Clark, M.D.**

Dr. Clark was named the Academic Mentor of the Year in 2024 by The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. She was presented with the award at the Celebration of Service Luncheon hosted by the fellowship's Houston-Galveston chapter in September. Through her dedication to mentorship, Dr. Clark continues to demonstrate her commitment to training future providers in caring for individuals living in our local communities.



MACP AND TX-ACP RECOGNITION **Fabrizia Faustinella, M.D., Ph.D., MACP**

Dr. Faustinella was bestowed with the Mastership status by the American College of Physicians and given the prestigious MACP honorific designation in October 2024. In addition, she received special acknowledgment from the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians during their annual scientific meeting in November. Dr. Faustinella was honored for her "outstanding dedication, service, and leadership."



TAFP INAUGURAL RECOGNITION **Arindam Sarkar, M.D., FFAFP**

Dr. Sarkar was recognized with the Rising Star Award from the Texas Academy of Family Physicians at the TAFP 2024 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit held in November. He was chosen by his peers through a rigorous selection of candidates. The award reflects Dr. Sarkar's exceptional work in family medicine as a standout leader, with noteworthy accomplishments from his educational and clinical initiatives.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENTS **Baylor Medicine Family Medicine**

- Upper Kirby, River Oaks, and Fannin Tower – Check. Change. Control. Cholesterol™ Gold Award
- Upper Kirby, River Oaks, and Fannin Tower – Target: Type 2 DiabetesSM Gold Award
- Upper Kirby – Target: BP™ Gold+ Award
- River Oaks and Fannin Tower – Target: BP™ Silver Award



KUDOS

APPRECIATION EVENT Family Medicine Faculty at Harris Health

Harris Health hosted a gathering acknowledging family medicine providers in September 2024, with three of our faculty receiving recognition.

Core Values Award

- Janie Anders, MPAS, PA-C
- Lisa Danek, M.D., MBA, FAAFP

Outstanding Service and Dedication Award

- Fareed Khan, M.D., DTMH, FAAFP



APPOINTMENTS Additional Roles

Jessica Garcia, D.O., FAAFP, FAAHPM

- Dr. Garcia was elected as the HCMS Northwest Branch President for 2025 and chosen as a delegate for Harris County at the TAFP 2024 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit.

Malvika Juneja, M.D., FAAFP

- Dr. Juneja was selected as the vice chair of Baylor's Star Awards Selection Committee.

Rashmi Rode, M.D., FAAFP

- Dr. Rode was re-elected to serve as an at-large member on the TAFP Board of Directors for a two-year term from 2025 to 2027, at the TAFP 2024 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit - Member Assembly Meeting.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS Harris Health's Same Day Clinics

Family and Community Medicine faculty attended Harris Health's event commemorating a decade since the same day clinics opened for accessible community healthcare in October 2024.

Several clinicians with the department were recognized for their commitment to Harris Health's mission of providing primary care services to local patients. Kenneth Barning, M.D., medical director of the same day clinics, presented awards to two of our faculty members as well.

Dedicated Service Honorees

- B Joy Blumenreich, M.D., FAAFP
- Ming Chao, ANP-C
- Jenny Khan, MSN, FNP-C, DNP
- Robyn Lacy, MPAS, PA-C
- Shelly States, PA-C
- Prasad Surapaneni, MBBS

Provider Listened Award 2023-2024

- Christina Majd, M.D.

Overall Patient Experience Award 2023-2024

- Ryan Paul Urbi, M.D.





HAPPENINGS

ALSO® COURSES 10TH Educational Event

Anjali Aggarwal, M.D., FAAFP led the 10TH training session of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO®) program in August 2024. The advisor for the instructor course was Lisa Danek, M.D., MBA, FAAFP, with seven participants on the path to teaching the program. Rashmi Rode, M.D., FAAFP was the advisor for the provider course, and 62 residents as well as four faculty were in attendance. Further appreciation is extended to Lisa Lopez and Palicia Garner for providing administrative support during the three-day event.



I-CARE CLINIC Opening Ceremony

Roger Zoorob, M.D., MPH, FAAFP, Alicia Kowalchuk, D.O., FASAM, David Lundy-Weiss, M.D., MPH, Kelly Bush, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, and Rhyon Baker attended the September 2024 ribbon cutting event for the newly renovated I-CARE Clinic at Santa Maria Hostel's Bonita House. Since the clinic's soft opening in August 2023, hundreds of women and children have received primary care, integrated substance use, and mental health treatment. Our dedicated faculty continue to provide family medicine services at the clinic.



SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES Faculty Engagements

Jennifer Okoh, MBBS, MPH, FAAFP and Eric Lee, M.D., FAAFP

- Dr. Okoh and Dr. Lee visited Baylor College of Medicine's Temple Campus in April 2024, representing the Houston Campus Learning Community. Additionally, they welcomed first-year Baylor medical students at the Peer Resource Network (PRN) Orientation Retreat held in July 2024.

Fabrizia Faustinella, M.D., Ph.D., MACP

- Dr. Faustinella was a guest speaker and delivered the presentation, "Advocacy and the Medical Profession," to McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston's Advocacy for Patients with Disabilities student organization in November 2024. She also presented, "The Care of the Homeless," for Baylor's Compassion and the Art of Medicine elective in November.



HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Outreach Opportunities

Adriana Rangel, MPH, RRT, CTTS and Joanna Rodriguez

- Ms. Rangel and Ms. Rodriguez shared information on the effects of tobacco on the body and lung cancer screening to members of the Lufkin, Texas community at the Big Texas Rally for Recovery event in September 2024.

Eber Lopez, MBA and Paula Rosales

- Mr. Lopez and Ms. Rosales attended the Hispanic Health Coalition's 17TH Annual ¡Vive tu Vida! Get Up! Get Moving!® event in October 2024, with Ms. Rosales administering blood pressure checks to Houston area participants.

KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE®

FCM Research Staff



GO2 FOR LUNG CANCER WALK/RUN

FCM Research Staff



GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

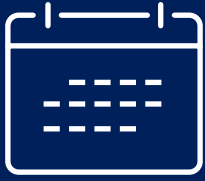
FCM Staff



GIRLS ON THE RUN FALL 5K

Cypress Health Center FCM Faculty





HAPPENINGS

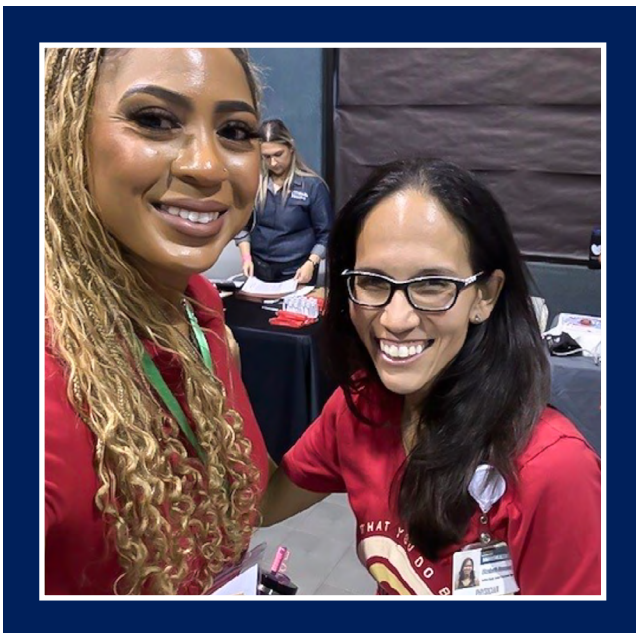
FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER SERVICE
Vallbona Health Center FCM Faculty



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE
Cypress Health Center FCM Faculty



UPLIFT HER WELLNESS DAY
Elizabeth Bosquez, M.D.



WORLD RESTART A HEART DAY
Ming Chao, ANP-C





HAPPENINGS

BCM DISCO PROGRAM SPEAKER
Arindam Sarkar, M.D., FAAFP



NATIONAL APP WEEK
Baylor Family Medicine - Upper Kirby APPs

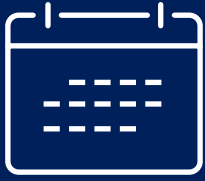


50TH ANNIVERSARY
Northwest Health Center FCM Faculty



PROMOTION CELEBRATION
Melissa Johnson, M.S., FNP-C





HAPPENINGS

NEW HIRES WELCOME
FCM Administrative and Research Staff



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
FCM Administrative and Research Staff



HOLIDAY SPIRIT
Baylor Family Medicine - Upper Kirby Team



WINTER FUN
Baylor Family Medicine - River Oaks Team





SPOTLIGHT



PALICIA GARNER

FEATURED STAFF

Administrative Team Member

Ms. Garner, senior business operations associate, joined the Family and Community Medicine administrative team in May 2024. In her role, she provides support to our Community Health Program's operations in affiliation with Harris Health. Ms. Garner's proactive approach allows her to facilitate tasks assisting faculty, medical directors, and managers. She also applies her extensive work experience in finance, project management, human resources, and compliance.

Ms. Garner is well-versed in healthcare processes, having worked for more than two decades in an ambulatory setting. Before becoming part of Baylor College of Medicine, she was employed with Houston Methodist for several years. She gained many significant skills as a lead patient advocate and multi-site practice manager. Ms. Garner continued to advance in her career with her last title as project manager.

In March 2023, she selflessly stepped down from her duties to care for an ailing relative. Family means the world to Ms. Garner, having been raised in a household with five sisters and three brothers. Her mother was an only child who wanted her children to grow up in a full house. Additionally, Ms. Garner and her husband share four sons and one daughter as a blended family unit. With such a large community of loved ones, Ms. Garner's weekends and holidays are fun and festive. She is a natural host, and at a moment's notice, anyone is welcome in her home to enjoy the company.



Besides hanging out with her family, Ms. Garner appreciates when she can set aside days to travel. She gets excited for a change of scenery and activities to create lasting memories. On a regular basis, Ms. Garner engages in exercises that prioritize her health and wellness, especially after long hours at the office. For the quieter moments, she loves to read a captivating book where she can get lost in its world.

While maintaining a work-life balance, Ms. Garner dedicates time to further her academic development. Currently, she is in the master's in management degree program at Southern New Hampshire University. During her undergraduate studies, she obtained a bachelor's degree with a concentration in administration and a minor in psychology at the University of Houston-Downtown. With her educational background and comprehensive job history, Ms. Garner continues to achieve professional growth in the department.



WELCOME



RAPHAEL YANG, M.D.

Assistant Professor,
Baylor Family Medicine
- Fannin Tower



AYSE NUR AKOGLU, M.D.

Assistant Professor,
Baylor Family Medicine
- Upper Kirby



NADIR MULLA, M.D.

Assistant Professor,
Baylor Family Medicine
- River Oaks



**WILLIE
RAJVONG, DRPH, M.S.**

Research Postdoctoral
Fellow, FCM Kirby Office



**EMAN
ABDELGHANI, M.D.**

Assistant Professor,
Northwest Health Center



**KAREN
NDUBUISI, M.D.**

Assistant Professor,
Strawberry Health Center



**JAYANTHI
RAMU, M.D.**

Assistant Professor,
Gulfgate Health Center



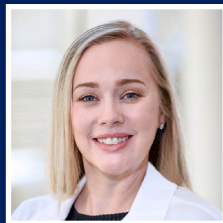
**CASSANDRA ARCENEAUX
BRADBERRY, M.D., MPH**

Assistant Professor,
Gulfgate Health Center



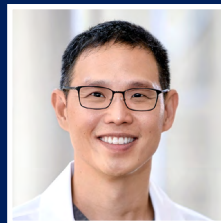
RACHEL TANAS, D.O.

Assistant Professor,
Baylor Family Medicine
- River Oaks



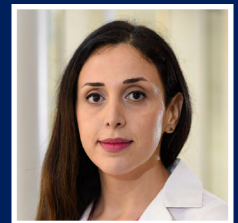
**KAYLI DOZIER JOACHIM,
MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC**

Instructor, Healthcare for
the Homeless - Houston



TERRY LEE, DDS

Instructor/Chief Dental
Officer, Healthcare for
the Homeless - Houston

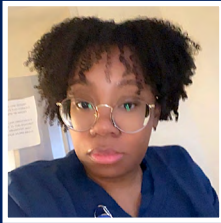


**TARA
BAESMAT, PA-C**

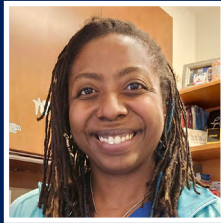
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Family and Community Medicine is accepting applications for our Primary Care Research Postdoctoral Fellowship. Candidates with a Ph.D., M.D., or other relevant doctoral degree qualify for the program. The fellowship offers many opportunities, including authoring publications, attending conferences, showcasing presentations, and receiving mentorship. For more on the curriculum and admissions, view our [fellowship section online](#).



NEWSMAKERS

CONTRIBUTIONS

Baylor College of Medicine News, Momentum Blog, and Social Media

- Ren M. - [Don't let holiday spirits ruin your shopping experience](#). 2024 Nov 25
- Ren M. - [One holiday pain you can actually avoid](#). 2024 Nov 18
- Rustveld L. - [Halloween candy: Trick or treat?](#) 2024 Oct 28
- Ren M. - [Commuters' guide for braving the heat](#). 2024 Aug 6
- Wang V. - [Circumvent poor circulation](#). 2024 Jul 24
- Ren M. - [Keep your medications safe in summer temperatures](#). 2024 Jul 22
- Ren M. - [Holly jolly health tips for Santa \(and you\)](#). 2024 Dec 16
- Rustveld L. - [Fall for colorful produce this season](#). 2024 Oct 3
- Rustveld L. - [Should we be afraid of gluten?](#) 2024 Sep 23
- Ren M. - [Rock out your bouldering workout](#). 2024 Sep 10
- Ren M. - [Turf and grass burns](#). 2024 Aug 29
- Rustveld L. - [Summer food safety guide to mayonnaise and other backyard barbecue classics](#). 2024 Jul 2
- Ren M. - [Spy an ant on your sandwich? Dr. Mike Ren shares how bugs on your food can pose health risks. #FoodSafety](#). 2024 Aug 18

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- Rustveld L. - [How to make fried foods healthier](#). Consumer Reports. 2024 Dec 30
- Ren M. - [Ways Houston residents can avoid, relieve back pain over the holidays](#). KPRC. 2024 Dec 13
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- Khan F. - [Harris Health diabetes 101: Causes, treatments, tips for good health during the holidays](#). Chron.com. 2024 Nov 20
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- Kowalchuk A. - [Lunch for the Soul: Santa Maria Hostel](#). YouTube: FOX 26 Houston. 2024 Oct 9
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- Ren M. - [Hot summer threatens efficacy of mail-order medications](#). The New York Times. 2024 Aug 13
- Ren M. - [Alerta: El calor extremo puede afectar y dañar los medicamentos](#). Telemundo. 2024 Aug 13
- Zoorob R. - [Inhaled marijuana and the lungs: How to answer patients' questions](#). MedCentral. 2024 Aug 8
- Ren M. - [Summer's heat can damage your medicines: Keep them safe](#). HealthDay. 2024 Jul 27
- Ren M. - [Extreme heat and some medicines can be a risky combo. Here's what to know](#). AP News. 2024 Jul 12

MENTIONS AND FEATURES

Fellow/Faculty and Publications/Studies

- [Knowledge gaps among patients seeking antibiotics](#). Physician's Weekly. 2024 Nov 6
- [Our alumnus Paolo Dugo \('19\) shares three privileges he has as a physician assistant to commemorate #PAWeek2024](#). Facebook: Baylor College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program. 2024 Oct 10
- [Inappropriate antibiotic use driven by 'knowledge, beliefs, and expectations'](#). Healio. 2024 Oct 7
- [Survey finds most patients expect antibiotics for illnesses that don't need them](#). CIDRAP. 2024 Sep 24
- [High proportion of patients endorse non-prescription antibiotic use, survey finds](#). CIDRAP. 2024 Sep 9



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Goyal A, Saeed H, Maheshwari S, Abdullah, Jain H, Shamim U, Bansal K. [Abstract 4134744: Trends and disparities in mortality among patients with hypertensive heart disease and congestive heart failure in the United States from 1999 to 2020](#). *Circulation*. 2024 Nov 11;150(Suppl_1)

ELECTRONIC BOOK CHAPTER

Hennekens CH, Seres D, Verheugt F, Swenson S, Botkin NF. [Overview of primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in adults](#). UpToDate. 2024 Sep 24

To view additional Family and Community Medicine publications, visit our [manuscripts web page](#).



PUBLICATIONS

BLOG ARTICLES

Ren M. [How to rock your surgery rotation \(and live to tell the tale\)](#). Blueprint Med School Blog. 2024 Dec 26

Ren M. [A chief resident's guide to rocking your internal medicine rotation](#). Blueprint Med School Blog. 2024 Dec 19

Ren M. [10 Common mistakes on IMG residency applications and how to fix them](#). Blueprint Med School Blog. 2024 Dec 10

Ren M. [Navigating residency interviews during the holiday season](#). Blueprint Med School Blog. 2024 Dec 5

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Ren M. [Top 5 questions about CME for family medicine physicians](#). Rosh Review Blog. 2024 Dec 27

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Ren M. [The ultimate guide to the ABFM ITE](#). Rosh Review Blog. 2024 Oct 31

Ren M. [Spooky nights on call: Halloween tales & tricks for resident physicians](#). Rosh Review Blog. 2024 Oct 18

Faustinella F. [Reflections on medical advocacy](#). Baylor College of Medicine's PolicyWise Blog. 2024 Jul 26



PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL

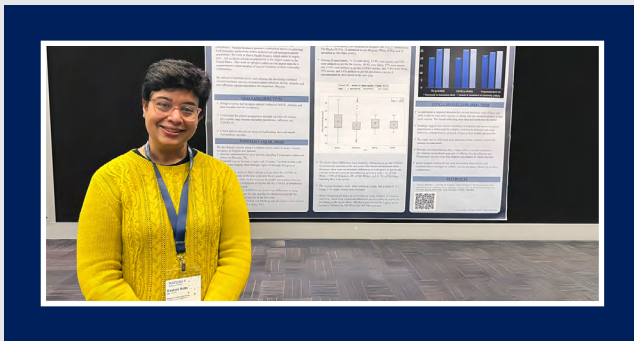
Academy for Professionalism in Health Care's International Virtual Conference - Enhancing Professionalism through Effective Communication: From In-Person to AI | Nov. 22, 2024

Sarkar A, Langley A, Bullerwell M. Yes, no, maybe? Establishing boundaries between educators and adult learners.

52ND NAPCRG Annual Meeting | Nov. 20-24, 2024

Rode R, Hirth J, Juneja M, Lee E, Mehrotra N, Atwal D, Nguyen S, Mahmood H, Mendonca C, Sewell T, Ehondor J, Zoorob R. Understanding hesitancy towards vaccines for respiratory illnesses in under-served patient population.

Mendonca C, Khoury S, Mendonca A, Crumbley C, Juneja S, Hirth J, Rode R. Are we being culturally sensitive? Assessing disparities in cervical cancer screening timeliness.



Ubuntu 2024 | Sept. 10-13, 2024

Atkinson J, Alarcon L, Magzoub A. Workshop 66: Optimizing (mis)treatment.



NATIONAL

American Heart Association's 2024 Scientific Sessions | Nov. 16-18, 2024

Goyal A, Saeed H, Maheshwari S, Abdullah, Jain H, Shamim U, Bansal K. Trends and disparities in mortality among patients with hypertensive heart disease and congestive heart failure in the United States from 1999 to 2020.



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Goyal A, Saeed H, Maheshwari S, Abdullah, Naeem I, Zafar A, Ahmad B, Islam TU, Rizvi SS, Kumari N, Kirmani SGA, Mansoor F, Hasan A, Raja A, Bansal K. Demographic trends and disparities in mortality related to coexisting heart failure and diabetes mellitus among older adults in United States: A large database analysis from 1999 to 2020.

AAAP 35TH Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium | Nov. 14-17, 2024

Hirth JM, Zoorob RJ, Kowalchuk AA. Six-month differences in knowledge, confidence, and intention to implement substance use prevention and treatment among primary care clinicians who participated in online modules.

AMERSA's 48TH Annual National Conference | Nov. 14-16, 2024

Kowalchuk A, Kim-Vences SI, Hirth JM, Schaper K, Grigoryan L, Gonzalez S, Zoorob R. Asynchronous online training increased knowledge, confidence, and intent among primary care clinicians to prevent and treat substance use disorders.

IDWeek 2024 | Oct. 16-19, 2024

Brehm T, Grigoryan L, Olmeda K, Mancera A, Zoorob R, Sidani M, Laytner L, Adams M, Trautner B. Pilot testing of a stakeholder-driven, patient education intervention in primary care to reduce use of antibiotics without a prescription.

2024 PAEA Education Forum | Oct. 8-10, 2024

Salahshor S, Thorpe C, Atkinson J. Equity in practice: Addressing legislative concerns and accreditation standards in the PA profession.

National Medical Fellowships Alumni | Oct. 1, 2024

Torres B, Fagbemi S. The Seeding Excellence series.

Learning Communities Institute Annual Meeting LCI 2024 | Sept. 20-22, 2024

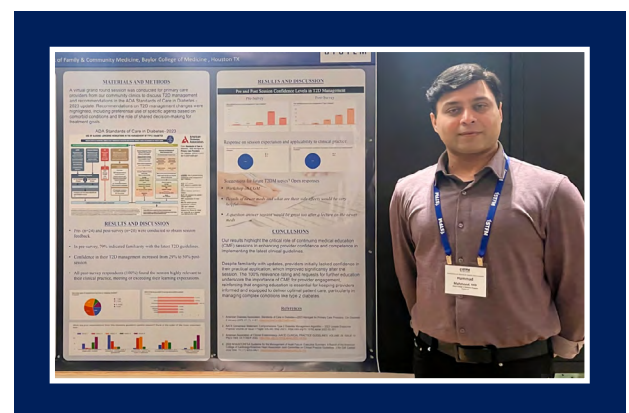
Lee E, MacGinnis C, Morrison A, Eacker A. LC faculty: Best practices for recruitment, selection and retention.

Kugler J, Hong T, Len K, Lee E, Tran C, Basaviah P. A tale of three learning communities: Experiences across the UME continuum.

Scholle T, Lee E, Tran C. Advising the advisors: Faculty development for learning community advisors.

2024 STFM Conference on Practice and Quality Improvement | Sept. 15-17, 2024

Mahmood H, Nambi P, Khan F, Varadarajan S, Rode R. Impacting change: Empowering primary care providers with the latest 2023 Type 2 diabetes management guidelines.





PRESENTATIONS

REGIONAL

TAFP 2024 Annual Session and Primary Care Summit | Nov. 8-10, 2024

Grigoryan L, Olmeda K, Mancera A, Zoorob R, Sidani M, Brehm T, Trautner BW. Reducing use of antibiotics without a prescription in Texas.

TNP's 2024 Annual Conference | Sept. 5-8, 2024

Noor B, Benton K, Vazquez C. Promoting provider adherence to American Diabetes Association guidelines with a diabetes care bundle.

LOCAL

2024 Annual Primary Care Update Conference | Oct. 26, 2024

Rode R. Track 1 - Skill building: Point of care ultrasound hands-on training.

Juneja M, Sarkar A, Hirth J. Track 2 - Faculty development: Inception to submission scholarship and advancement.

Family and Community Medicine Grand Rounds

Wendt E. Improving ECG analysis in the outpatient clinic. | Dec. 10, 2024

Atwal D. A practical approach to managing patients with testosterone deficiency. | Sept. 10, 2024

Juneja M, Sarkar A. Academic medicine as a community of practice. | Aug. 13, 2024

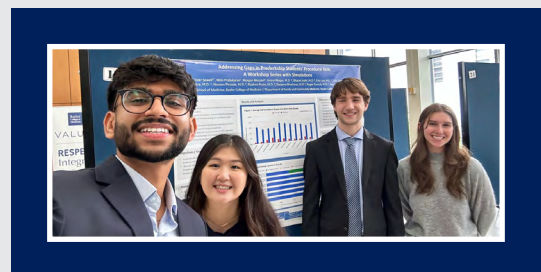
Physician Enrichment Program Specialty Grand Rounds

McCurry V. Post-hospital discharge care: Spotlight on high-needs communities. | Oct. 1, 2024

Furo H. Pain management in addiction medicine. | Sept. 5, 2024

Baylor's 2024 Annual Academy of Distinguished Educators Showcase of Educational Scholarship | Sept. 13, 2024

Selected as a Showcase Finalist in the Trainee Category
Kim J, Sewell T, Prabakaran N, Motakef M, Waqar A, Joshi B, Lee E, Danek L, Mehrotra N, Pirezada N, Rode R, Bhattarai S, Zoorob R, Aggarwal A. Addressing gaps in preclerkship students' procedural skills: A workshop series with simulations.





GLOSSARY

A

- **AAAP** - American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- **AAFP** - American Academy of Family Physicians
- **AHRQ** - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- **ALSO**[®] - Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics
- **AMERSA** - Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance use and Addiction
- **APP** - Advanced Practice Provider

B

- **BCM** - Baylor College of Medicine
- **BFM** - Baylor (Medicine) Family Medicine

C

- **CHP** - Community Health Program
- **CME** - Continuing Medical Education
- **CPRIT** - Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

D

- **DISCO** - Discovery, Integration, Success, Community, Outreach Program at Baylor

E

- **ECG** - Electrocardiogram
- **EMBA** - Executive Master of Business Administration

F

- **FCM** - Family and Community Medicine
- **FY2025** - Fiscal Year 2025

G

- **GHHS** - Gold Humanism Honor Society

H

- **HCMS** - Harris County Medical Society

I

- **IDWeek** - Infectious Diseases Week

L

- **LC** - Learning Communities

M

- **MPIs** - Multiple Principal Investigators

N

- **NAPCRG** - North American Primary Care Research Group
- **NIH/NCATS** - National Institutes of Health/ National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

P

- **PAEA** - PA Education Association
- **PD** - Program Director or Project Director
- **PEAR** - Baylor's Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award
- **PGY** - Postgraduate Year
- **PI** - Principal Investigator
- **POP** - Baylor's Power of Professionalism Award

Q

- **Q1** - Quarter One: July through September
- **Q2** - Quarter Two: October through December

S

- **SAMHSA** - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- **SHEA** - Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
- **SMH** - Santa Maria Hostel
- **STFM** - Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

T

- **TAFP** - Texas Academy of Family Physicians
- **TNP** - Texas Nurse Practitioners
- **TX-ACP** - Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians

U

- **UME** - Undergraduate Medical Education
- **UTSA** - The University of Texas at San Antonio

FY2025 MID-YEAR REPORT FCM NEWSLETTER



The Family and Community Medicine Newsletter is a publication of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

To be added to the newsletter listserv, please email [Fara Julienne Abordaje](mailto:Fara.Julienne.Abordaje).