

SECTION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- General Internal Medicine (GIM) is noted for having award-winning teaching faculty who impact medical students and internal medicine residents at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), with faculty recipients of ten institution-wide educator awards, four institution-wide patient care awards, and four local community recognitions in AY20-21.
- Our educational leaders serve in numerous important roles, including School of Medicine Associate and Assistant Deans and Course Directors, as well as Associate Program Directors for BCM's internal medicine residency program.
- GIM faculty are innovative investigators funded to study diverse topics ranging from telehealth interventions in diabetes care to diagnostic errors to narrative medicine in the curriculum.
- GIM at Baylor Medicine (McNair Campus) is recognized by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement as a participant in becoming an Age-Friendly Health System.
- GIM faculty have served on the frontlines during the pandemic in both ambulatory care settings such as testing centers, vaccination efforts, and telehealth initiatives as well as inpatient COVID units and have led interdisciplinary COVID teams at each affiliate: Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC), Harris Health (Ben Taub Hospital/Smith Clinic), and the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MEDVAMC).
- In FY21, across BCM's affiliates (Baylor Medicine, BSLMC, Harris Health (Ben Taub Hospital/Smith Clinic), and the VA (Prime Care and Inpatient), our GIM team has seen more than 30,000 clinic patients and had more than 100,000 inpatient encounters.



INTERIM SECTION CHIEF

Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH

FACULTY

Section Leadership

Baylor Medicine (McNair)

- Daniel Murphy, MD, MBA, Medical Director

Baylor St. Luke's Hospitals

Medical Center

- Umar Waheed, MD, Executive Medical Director, Hospital Medicine, BSLMC
- Christopher Brann, MD, Associate Medical Director, Hospital Medicine, BSLMC
- Allison Heinen, DO, Associate Medical Director, Hospital Medicine, BSLMC

- Elie Jarrouge, MD, Associate Medical Director, Hospital Medicine, BSLMC

Sugar Land

- Surinder Kaul, MD, Medical Director, Hospital Medicine, CHI St. Luke's Health, Sugar Land Hospital

Vintage

- Shazia Sheikh, MD, Medical Director, Hospital Medicine, St. Luke's Health, The Vintage Hospital

Harris Health (Ben Taub Hospital and Smith Clinic)

- Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH, Chief, SGIM, Harris Health (Ben Taub/Smith Clinic)
- Jennifer Chen, MD, Director, Hospital Medicine, Ben Taub General Hospital
- Lee Lu, MD, Medical Director, Smith Clinic and Director of Ambulatory Services GIM at HHS

Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center

- Andrew Caruso, MD, Director Hospitalist Service, MEDVAMC
- Feibi Chi, Pharm D, Director, Pharm D, MEDVAMC
- Rola El-Serag, MD, Director, Women's Health Center, MEDVAMC
- Himabindu Kadiyala, MD, Director, Prime Care Service, MEDVAMC
- Cory Ritter, MD, Associate Director, Hospitalist Service, MEDVAMC
- Hossam Safar, MD, Director, EC-IM, MEDVAMC

Educational Leadership

Undergraduate Medical Education

- Rajeev Balchandani, MD, Associate Director, Patient Physician & Society 3
- Andrew Caruso, MD, Director, Core Clerkship
- Cara Foldes, MD, Director of Foundational Sciences
- Lindsey Gay, MD, Associate Director, Core Clerkship
- David Hilmers, MD; Colleen Keough, MD, MPH, Pathway Leadership, Global Health of Pathway Leadership
- Nadia Ismail, MD, Associate Dean of Curriculum
- Claudine Johnson, MD, Associate Director, D-DASH
- Lubna Khawaja, MD, Director/Coordinator, Internal Medicine UME Electives
- Anita Kusnoor, MD, Director, Patient, Physician, & Society 3 and Director, Medicine Sub-internship AND Chair, Baylor CPX Exam Committee and Vice Chair, Sub-Internship Committee
- Niraj Mehta, MD, Director, Ben Taub Hospital Bedside Physical Exam Rounds
- Lee Poythress, MD, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
- Katie Scally, MD, Course Co-Director, Transition of Clinics

Graduate Medical Education

- Anoop Agrawal, MD Program Director, Medicine-Pediatrics Residency
- Jaime Rueda, MD, Associate Program Director, Medicine -Pediatrics Residency

- Erica Lescinskas, MD, Lee Lu, MD, Achilia Morrow, MD, MPH, Zaven Sargsyan, MD, Chirayu Shah, MD, Stephanie Sherman, MD, Associate Program Directors, Internal Medicine Residency Program

CME

- Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH; Cara Foldes, MD, MPH, Co-Directors, GIM RSS (CME)
- Stephanie Sherman, MD, Faculty Educator Orientation Series, Co-Director

Faculty: General Internal Medicine

Harris Health System- Ben Taub Hospital and Smith Clinic

Professor

- David C. Hilmers, MD

Emeritus Faculty

- Barry H. Goodfriend, MD
- Ruth Falik, MD

Associate Professor

- Anoop Agrawal, MD
- Joslyn W. Fisher, MD, MPH
- Nadia Ismail, MD, MPH, MEd
- Anita V. Kusnoor, MD
- Erica H. Lescinskas, MD
- Doris Lin, MD
- Lee B. Lu, MD
- Niraj Mehta, MD
- Achilia Morrow, MD, MPH
- Ricardo E. Nuila, MD
- Edward L. Poythress, MD
- Rosa M. Schmidt, MD, MPH
- Chirayu J. Shah, MD
- Wayne X. Shandera, MD
- Diana E. Stewart, MD

Assistant Professor

- Nabid Ahmed, MD
- Salman Ahmed, MD
- Stephen Boone, MD
- Roberto H. Cavazos, MD
- Jennifer A. Chen, MD
- Regina Cuchapin, MD
- Priti Dangayach, MD

- Catherine L. Daniel, MD
- Anna Dolgner, MD
- Christian D. Eckman, MD
- Fabrizio Canepa Escaro, MD
- Cara A. Foldes, MD
- David Garrett, MD
- Ashish Gupta, MD
- Wajeeha Hussain, MD
- Colleen A. Keough, MD
- Riaz Khan, MD
- Lubna U. Khawaja, MD
- Maureen W. Kimani, MD
- Thaddaeus May, MD
- David S. McCants, MD
- Meroe B. Morse, MD
- Hong Loan Nguyen, MD
- Matthew Novakovic, MD
- Edgardo Ordonez, MD
- Vishal V. Patel, MD
- Alec Rezig, MD
- Marc D. Robinson, MD
- Jaime J. Rueda, MD
- Zaven Sargsyan, MD
- Katie Scally, MD
- Vandana Shah, MD
- Mesha Shaw, MD
- Stephanie V. Sherman, MD
- Ryan S. Shook, MD
- Michael H. Siegelman, MD
- Julian Swanson, MD
- Elizabeth Vaughan, DO
- Youshi Yin, MD
- Hal Zhang, MD

Instructor

- Derek Nusbaum, MD

Baylor St. Luke's Hospitalists

Assistant Professor

- Titilola R. Adio-Oduola, MD
- Neeraj Agrawal, MD
- Homaira Ahmed, MD
- Mahmoud Allahham, MD
- Kayley M. Clemings Ancy, MD
- Khannan Athreya, MD
- Heather R. Bartsch, MD
- Alok Bhattarai, MD
- Christopher S. Brann, MD
- Sophia Chang, MD
- Kinjal Changela, MD
- Amy Ciborowski, MD
- Narendra Civunigunta, MD
- Sonal Gadicherla, MD
- Irene Gelman, MD
- Allison Heinen, DO
- Jennifer Hsu, MD
- Chimkama Ngozi Ibe, MD
- Elie Jarrouge, MD
- Safeera Javed, MD
- Nehal Patel Jain, MD
- Surinder Kaul, MD
- Sung In Hillary Kim-Vences, MD
- Ya Li, MD
- James Liu, DO
- Caleb Melancon, MD
- Omar F. Merchant, MD
- Swathishta Murali, MD
- Jackson Murrey-Ittmann, MD
- Roopa L. Nalam, MD
- Robert Obeid, MD
- Nnenna Onochie, MD
- Laura Pierce, MD
- Syed-Saleem Shamsee, MD
- Shazia Sheikh, MD
- Matthew Shieh, MD
- Michael Shieh, MD
- Mona Shiekh Sroujeh, MD
- Umar Waheed, MD
- Catherine M. Wilson, MD
- Ahmed Yousif, MD
- Shireen Zindani, MD

Instructor

- Sai Padmaja Achanta, PA-C
- Atinuke Banjo, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
- Nerville Pis-an Futalan, APRN-CNP
- Angela Pointer Hare, ACNP

Baylor Medicine- McNair

Associate Professor

- Daniel R. Murphy, MD, MBA

Assistant Professor

- Eloy Cavazos Jr., MD
- Sharon W. Chen, MD
- Sobia Khan, MD
- Derek W. Meeks, MD
- Vani Potluri, MD
- Ralph S. Rosenbaum, MD
- Ryan C. Thomas, MD
- Zehra Tosur, MD
- Isabel Valdez, MPAS, PA-C

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Professor

- Joan A. Friedland, MD

Associate Professor Emeritus

- Jagadeesh S. Kalavar, MD

Associate Professor

- Jeffrey T. Bates, MD
- Rola E. El-Serag, MD
- Himabindu Kadiyala, MD
- Anna Kolpakchi, MD
- Sabina M. Lee, MD
- Radha M. Rao, MD
- James W. Scheurich, MD

Assistant Professor

- Adelaide A. Adjovu, MD
- Marnie Bello Aguasvivas, MD
- Rajeev Balchandani, MD
- David Berman, MD
- Jonmenjoy Biswas, MD
- Andrew Caruso, MD

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Assistant Professor

- Daniel S. Debrule, MD
- Megan A. Edmonson, MD
- Yaw Frimpong-Badu, MD
- Lindsey J. Gay, MD
- Utpal Ghosh, MD
- Richa Gupta, MD
- Samir Mohamed Haq, MD
- Kamal Hirani, MD
- Fatima Jafri, MD
- Claudine Johnson, MD
- Jing Kees, MD
- Babin Kurian, MD
- Riyadh Kherallah, MD
- Jonathan Lim, MD
- Almer R. Love II, MD
- Maria Maldonado, MD
- Cody W. Moore, MD
- Jung H. Park, MD
- Glynda Jane C. Raynaldo, MD
- Cory D. Ritter, MD
- Hossam M. Safar, MD
- Tin Sein, MD
- Atur Sheth, MD
- Robert Streciki, MD
- Bryan J. Sowers, MD
- Kelly L. Thomas, MD
- Anne Utech, MD
- Mini Varughese, MD

Instructor

- Sylvester Agbahiwe, Pharm. D
- Christine Aguilar, Pharm. D
- Oluwatoyin Ayodele Arije, Pharm. D
- Erene M. Attia, Pharm. D
- Austin De La Cruz, Pharm. D
- Michael A. Gillette, Pharm. D
- Brittany Gallagher Heyde, Pharm. D
- Stephanie J. Gryzmala, Pharm. D
- Fiona Imarhia, Pharm. D
- Regina Issac, Pharm. D
- Shani King, Pharm. D
- Janeca N. Malveaux, Pharm. D
- Yavonne Martinez, Pharm. D
- John Mbue, Pharm. D
- Angelena McBayne, Pharm. D
- Scott McDowell, Pharm. D
- Jetavia J. Moody, Pharm. D
- Arezo Noormohammadi, Pharm. D
- James Papadatos, Pharm. D
- Christina E. Pereira, Pharm. D
- Caroline N. Pham, Pharm. D
- Shazia A. Raheem, Pharm. D
- Alok Salgia, Pharm. D
- Chandler Schexnayder, Pharm. D
- Shaila Sheth, Pharm. D
- Sania Sultan, Pharm. D
- Tomi L. Swain, Pharm. D
- Matthew A. Wanat, Pharm. D
- Sonya R. Wilmer, Pharm. D

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Anoop Agrawal, MD

- Recipient of the Spring 2021 WISH (Wellness Initiative Supporting Health) Grants for The Great Escape Project

Salman Ahmed, MD

- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Attending (Ben Taub)
- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Professionalism Role Model (Ben Taub)

Rajeev Balchandani, MD

- Received the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for the Spring 2021 cycle

Jeffrey Bates, MD

- Received the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for the Spring 2021 cycle
- Received the Master Clinician Award

David Berman, MD

- Received the VA I-Care Award

Christopher Brann, MD

- Awarded the GIM 2020-2021 Hospitalist of the Year Award

Andrew Caruso, MD

- Received the VA Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Award (VA)
- Received the Graduating Class of 2021 Outstanding Educators Award

Jennifer Chen, MD

- Received the COVID Superhero Award

Narendra Civunigunta, MD

- Received the Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Award (BSLMC)

Priti Dangayach, MD

- Recognized with a PEAR – Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award

Anna Dolgner, MD

- Selected to serve on the ABIM Hospital Medicine Certification & Traditional MOC Item-Writing Task Force

Rola El-Serag, MD

- Was one of the finalists honored at the Junior League for the Greater Houston Women’s Chamber of Commerce Kathryn S. Stream Award for Excellence in Women’s Health

Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH

- Awarded the 2020 recipient of the Kathryn S. Stream, PhD, Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Women’s Health from the Greater Houston Women’s Chamber of Commerce.

Cara Foldes, MD

- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Continuity Clinic Attending (Smith Clinic)

Yaw Frimpong-Badu, MD

- Awarded the 2020-2021 Dr. Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award
- Selected by medical students for the PEAR – Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award



Dr. Frimpong-Badu receiving the Dr. Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award.

Lindsey Gay, MD

- Selected as Associate Core Clerkship Director (IM)
- Selected by medical students for the PEAR – Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award
- Awarded the 2020-2021 GIM Hospitalist of the Year Award (VA)
- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Inpatient Wards (VA)

Allison Heinen, MD

- Received the Power of Professionalism Award for going above and beyond in her patient care at BSLMC
- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Attending (BSLMC)

Kamal Hirani, MD

- Awarded the 2020-2021 Joseph R. Guitreau Consummate Physician Award

Nadia Ismail, MD

- Promoted to Senior Associate Dean of Curriculum

Naveen Kallarackal, MD

- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Continuity Clinic Attending (VA)

Sobia Khan, MD

- Recognized by the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce as a member of their 2020 Hall of Fame
- Awarded the 2021 Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Recognized by the Houston Chronicle as the "Best of the Best" general internists in Houston
- Certified in Functional Medicine by the Institute for Functional Medicine
- Chosen to receive funding by the Department of Medicine's "Scholarly Time FTE Allocation Initiative" on her project "Quality Improvement: Ensuring Correct Intake of Thyroid Hormone Medication Prior to Dose Adjustment"



Dr. Sobia Khan is inducted into the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Women's Hall of Fame 2020.

Maureen Kimani, MD

- Selected as Co-Chair of the Department of Medicine Inclusion, Diversity, & Health Equity Committee

Erica Lescinkas, MD

- Awarded the 2020-2021 D.A.V.E. (Dedicated Academician who Values Excellence in patient care, teaching, scholarship, and service) Award

Doris Lin, MD

- Promoted to Associate Professor

Lee Lu, MD

- Received the Best Continuity Clinic Teaching Award (Smith Clinic)
- Received the Valobra COVID Healthcare Hero Award



Dr. Lee Lu receiving the Healthcare Hero Award and "Defeat the Virus" pin from Valobra Jewelers.

David McCants, MD

- Awarded the 2020-2021 Joseph R. Guitreau Consummate Physician Award

Niraj Mehta, MD

- Received the Outstanding Faculty Teachers Award chosen by Clinical Core Clerkship

Meroe Morse, MD

- Awarded the Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care in December 2020
- Awarded the 2020-21 Dr. Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award (Smith Clinic)

- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Continuity Clinic Attending (Smith Clinic)

Daniel Murphy, MD

- Selected as a recipient of the Department of Medicine Healthcare Innovations Grant 2021 for his project “Developing Electronic Triggers to Understand Telemedicine-Related Diagnostic Errors During the COVID-19 Pandemic”
- Awarded the 2020-2021 Dr. Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award (Baylor Medicine)

Wendy Podany, MD

- Received the Best Continuity Clinic Teaching Award (VA)

Vani Potluri, MD

- Received the BCM Center for Professionalism “Power of Professionalism” Award

Lee Poythress, MD

- Promoted to Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Marc Robinson, MD

- Received the Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Award (Ben Taub)

Jaime Rueda, MD

- Received the Best Continuity Clinic Teaching Award (Smith Clinic)
- Selected Associate Program Director for the combined Internal Medicine Pediatrics Residency Program

Zaven Sargsyan, MD

- Received the Graduating Class of 2021 Outstanding Educators Award

Katie Scally, MD

- Awarded the 2020-2021 Hospitalist of the Year Award (Ben Taub)

Wayne Shandera, MD

- Awarded physician honoree for February 2021 Mission Doctors Association banquet

Stephanie Sherman, MD

- Received the John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award in the Clinical Year Award
- Received the Graduating Class of 2021 Outstanding Educators Award
- Selected to be Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine’s Images in Clinical Medicine

Isabel Valdez, MPAS, PA-C

- Awarded the 2021 Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care

Elizabeth Vaughan

- Recognized for TIME program in community clinics.

Umar Waheed, MD

- Accepted the position of Executive Medical Director of Baylor Medicine Hospitalists Services

Brian Wisnoski, MD

- Voted by the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Best Continuity Clinic Attending (MLK)



Section members have been recognized nationally for their research/scholarly activity in GIM and other closely affiliated sections; for example, Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan's TIME program (Telehealth-support, Integrated Community Health Workers, Medication-access, group visit Education) was accessed through community clinics.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Grants

David Hilmers, MD, EE, MPH, MSEE

- TRISH/NASA; Visiting Scientist – Medical Database Project; \$239,954

Ricardo Nuila, MD

- AAMC; Co-Principal Investigator - Humanities & Narrative Medicine

Ashish Gupta, MD

- HRSA/MedStar; Co-Investigator – Diagnostic Error

Publications

- Academic Medicine (IF **5.354**): 1
- Annals of Emergency Medicine (IF **5.721**): 1
- Diabetes Care (IF **16.02**): 2
- Hypertension (IF **7.017**): 1
- Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (IF **5.562**): 3
- Journal of General Internal Medicine (IF **5.128**): 3
- Journal of Vascular Surgery (IF **4.268**): 1
- The American Journal of Medicine (IF **4.760**): 4

Books and Book Chapters

Wayne Shandera, MD

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – Coronavirus 2019. In: *Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment*