

Emory Family & Preventive Medicine Department News

2023: Volume 6, issue 10



55 Words from the Chair

My prediction(s) for 2024? Exciting developments from our divisions and programs; continuing excellence in education, research, service, and leadership; launching faculty and staff development and mentorship programs; growing via new faculty and staff hires (including a PA Program Director), and 12 months working with the best learners, staff, and faculty! Happy Holidays to all y'all!

Year-End Messages from DFPM

Leadership

Thank you to the department's research faculty and staff (who often work behind-the-scenes, out of the spotlight) for a great year. Here's wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season with high hopes for a more peaceful, productive, and healthy world in 2024.

Mo Ali



Thank you to everyone in Preventive Medicine for your hard work and dedication and congratulations on your many accomplishments over this past year! Wishing you all a joyous and restful holiday season and looking forward to another year of learning and growing with you in 2024.

Rosette Chakkalakal



As the Holiday season approaches and we prepare to welcome the new year, I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Your dedication to strive towards Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles, particularly during these challenging and turbulent times, has been inspiring. Working alongside such a remarkable team of staff



and faculty is a privilege that I cherish deeply. As we celebrate the holidays, let us also take a moment to honor and rejoice in our collective humanity, which is the heart of our department's mission. Wishing everyone a season filled with joy, peace, and continued commitment to the values that bring us together.

Kimberly Curseen

As we approach the winter holidays, I want to thank our incredible staff! This was a year of transition and our staff did a wonderful job keeping the department running smoothly. I also want to thank everyone for welcoming me back to the Department. I look forward to the work ahead and am excited to work with such great people!

Jason Freiji



The Physician Assistant Program sends gratitude to all DFPM divisions, staff, and faculty - we appreciate your support, and could not be where we are today without you! This has been an exciting year of growth and transitions in our leadership, didactic, and clinical teams, and we look forward to continuing to grow patient-centered community-focused PAs and an exciting 2024!

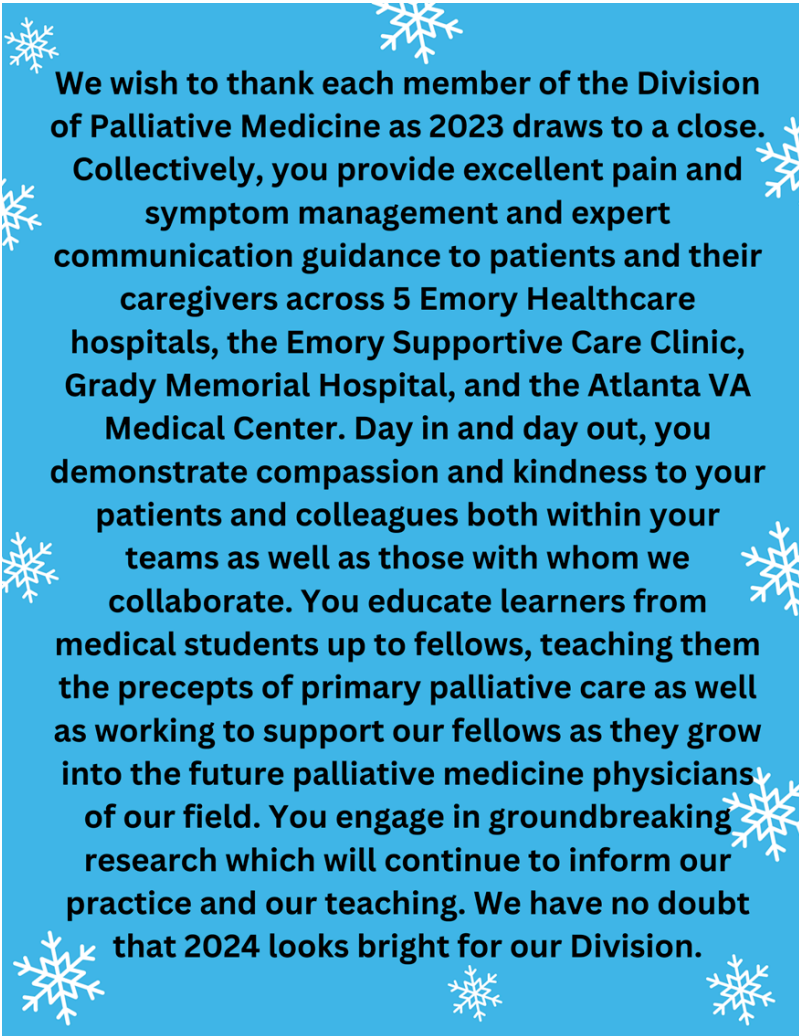
Alex Kendall



Dear friends and colleagues, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season filled with laughter, togetherness, and most of all fulfilling relationships. It has been a joy working with all of you this past year and you all have been a considerable positive influence on me. Finally, here is wishing you all a happily memorable 2024.

God bless,
Guch Nwosu

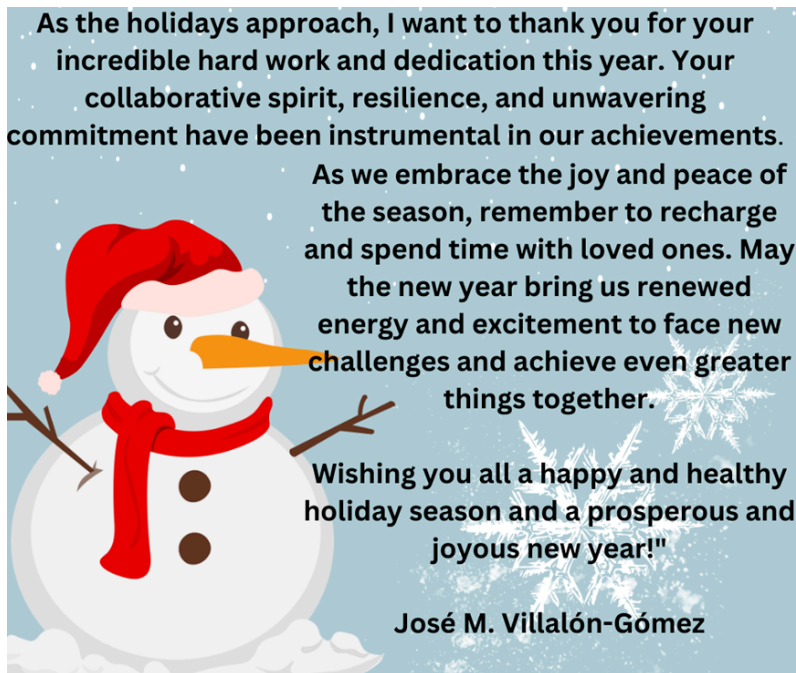
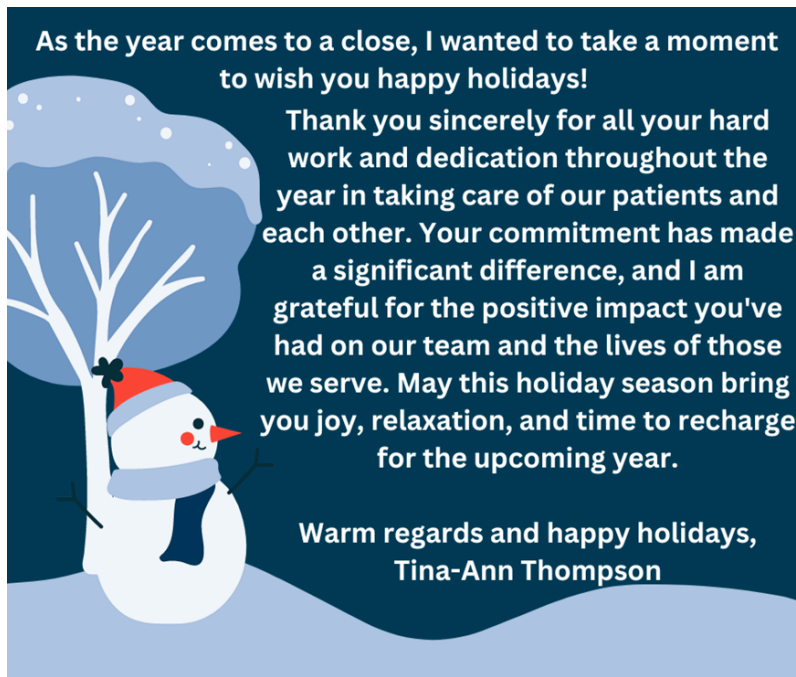




We wish to thank each member of the Division of Palliative Medicine as 2023 draws to a close.

Collectively, you provide excellent pain and symptom management and expert communication guidance to patients and their caregivers across 5 Emory Healthcare hospitals, the Emory Supportive Care Clinic, Grady Memorial Hospital, and the Atlanta VA Medical Center. Day in and day out, you demonstrate compassion and kindness to your patients and colleagues both within your teams as well as those with whom we collaborate. You educate learners from medical students up to fellows, teaching them the precepts of primary palliative care as well as working to support our fellows as they grow into the future palliative medicine physicians of our field. You engage in groundbreaking research which will continue to inform our practice and our teaching. We have no doubt that 2024 looks bright for our Division.





Slideshow from Department Quarterly Meeting

If you missed the slideshow before the Department All-Staff, All Faculty Quarterly Meeting on Thursday or you just want to see it again, [here's the link](#).

Don't Miss Opportunities!

January 8, 2024, 4 - 4:45 pm
Poetry and Medicine: A Juxtaposition
James B. Williams, Room 120

[Register](#) for an engaging and interactive session that will challenge and enrich your perspective on poetry and medicine. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing [Jericho Brown](#) will introduce the power of juxtaposition. This literary technique places two or more things side by side to create contrast and meaning.

Save the Date: Registration Coming Soon

**February 6, 2024, 8 - 9 AM: 2024 Montgomery
Lecture in Palliative Care**

[Amber Barnato, MD, MPH, MS](#)

Director, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy
and Clinical Practice

March 26, 2024, 5 - 7 PM:
**2024 Paul W. Seavey Lecture in Internal
Medicine**

[Helene Gayle, MD, MPH](#)

President of Spelman College,
Former president and CEO of CARE,
Former Director of HIV, TB, and Reproductive
Health Program for the Bill and Melinda Gates
Foundation,
Former Director for the CDC National Center for
HIV, STD, and TB Prevention

Celebrations!

Pictured below: **Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu** celebrated Garba Night with his wife (*center*) and students. Garba Night is in celebration of an Indian festival called [Navaratri](#).

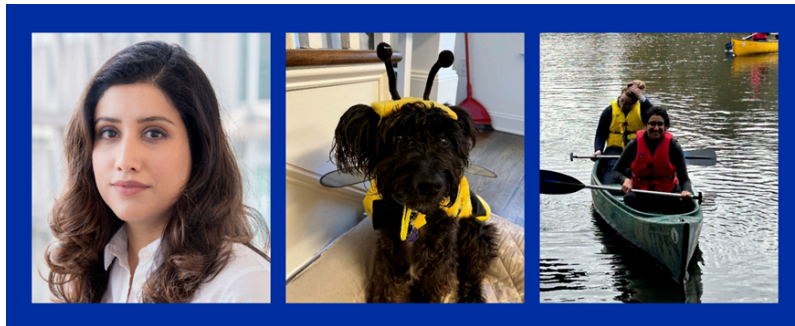


Pictured below: Staff from the Office of the Chair, the Preventive Medicine Residency, and the Family Medicine Residency celebrated the winter holidays together. (*L to R*): **Lynn Gissendanner-Tarleton**, **Leigh Partington**, **Yan Zhang**, **Chariss Smith**, **Mary Davis**, and **Patricia Woodard**.



Transformative Research

Welcome to DFPM, Dr. Chehal!



Dr. Puneet Chehal joined the DFPM as an assistant professor in October 2023. Prior to arriving at Emory, she completed a postdoc at the University of Chicago. Dr. Chehal's professional career in economic research began as a research associate in the Economic Research Department at the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank. She subsequently pursued doctoral training in Public Policy at Duke University with a focus on health policy and economics. Dr. Chehal's research focuses on Medicaid programs, race disparities, and diabetes. She aims to understand how Medicaid programs can improve health over the life course of low-income populations. She is a 2023 KL2 Scholar, and her project entitled, "The Association between the ACA Medicaid Expansion and Cardiometabolic Disease Severity Across Heterogeneous State Medicaid Managed Care Programs" aims to reconcile mixed empirical findings on changes in health outcomes attributed to the Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) Medicaid expansion by analyzing measures of cardiometabolic disease severity, and exploring differences in state Medicaid managed care programs that likely affect policy outcomes across states. She is also a co-investigator on an R01 project studying race/ethnic disparities in diabetes management among

Medicaid enrollees receiving care from managed care organizations with Dr. Mo Ali.

Fun facts about Dr. Chehal: She is Canadian; she is a rescue dog mom to an almost 10-year-old Schnauzer named Rocky; and she overlapped in the same graduate program with Dr. Sarah Cross. In her spare time, she likes to watch Hawks' games, try new eateries, put off home repairs, and most recently Dr. Chehal discovered her passion for competitive canoeing and pinecone polo in small ponds.

Welcome to DFPM, Kyra Ayala!



Kyra Ayala is the new Sr. Program Coordinator for Palliative Research and Education. She will be working directly with Dr. Lynn O'Neill and Dr. Dio Kavalieratos to support Education and Research for the Emory Palliative Care Center. Ms. Ayala was born and raised in San Diego, CA and graduated from the University of Alabama

with a degree in Public Health. She has lived in Atlanta for 4 years with her now-fiancé, Eli. Ms. Ayala started her professional career working for a non-profit specializing in creating HIV prevention programs. During COVID, she transitioned to a role in healthcare staffing. Outside of work, she thoroughly enjoys reading, Braves baseball, Alabama football (sorry Georgia fans!), and traveling.

Research News



In October, **Dr. Dio Kavalieratos**, **Dr. Ali John Zarrabi**, Dr. Rachel Hadler, and **Dr. Sarah Cross** attended the Sixteenth Annual Kathleen M. Foley Palliative Care Retreat and Research Symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Dr. Zarrabi attended as a National Palliative Care Research Center Kornfield Scholar and Dr. Hadler and Dr. Cross attended as American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Research Scholars, with Dr. Kavalieratos attending as their mentor. Dr. Hadler and Dr. Cross gave poster presentations and Dr. Kavalieratos led a session on Building a Serious Illness Research Center.

Pictured above: Beautiful aspen trees in Jackson Hole.

New Funding for Thirunavukkarasu



Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu is Principal Investigator on a new project: *'Urinary Biomarkers of Tobacco Smoke Exposure and Harm: An Exposomics Approach to Understanding the Smoking Paradox (TE00000540)'*. Funder: McMaster University, Canada. Funding amount: US\$31,008.

Dr. Leslie Johnson and Mentee Presentations

Dr. Leslie Johnson gave a presentation entitled, "Mental Health and T1D" on a webinar for the JDRF Georgia and South Carolina Chapter on November 16th.

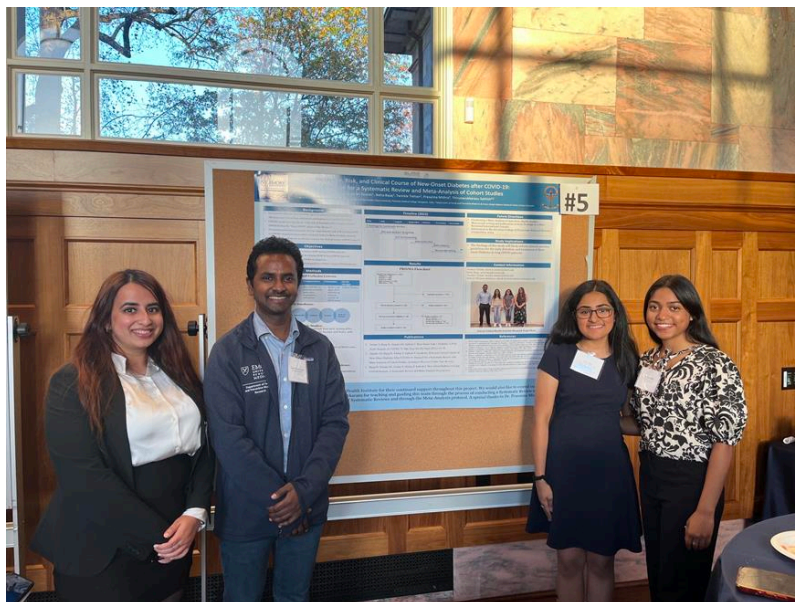
Additionally, one of Dr. Johnson's mentees from the UGA School of Social Work, Zach Cooper, presented some joint work at the APHA conference last month:

Cooper, Z., Washington, T.W., **Johnson, L.** Addressing social determinants: Examining roles of social workers on healthcare teams American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting. November 2023, Atlanta, Georgia. [Poster Presentation].

Cooper, Z., Mowbray, O., **Johnson, L.** Social determinants of health and diabetes: Using a nationally representative sample to determine which social determinant of health model best predicts diabetes. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting. November 2023, Atlanta, GA. [oral presentation]

Thirunavukkarasu and Students Present

Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu and three of his students presented a poster titled "Incidence, Risk, and Clinical Course of New-Onset Diabetes after COVID-19: Protocol for a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Cohort Studies" at Emory Global Health Institute's INFOCUS '23.



DFPM Research Retreat



DFPM Trainees Win Poster Competitions



Ms. Abby Wilson, MD candidate, Class of 2024 and Discovery student working with **Dr. Dio Kavalieratos**, won first place for her research poster presentation "Patient Experiences During Therapeutic Breakthroughs for Cystic Fibrosis: A Qualitative Study" at the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry.



Dr. Allison Choi was the winner of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians (GAFP) Poster competition. Dr. Choi's poster was titled "Prolonged Hospital Stay for a Pregnant Patient With Psychosis and Suicidal Ideation" and presented work by Dr. Choi and her mentor **Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha**.



Faculty publications

Collaborative Faculty Publications

Dr. Sarah Cross, Dr. Kimberly Curseen, Dr. Tammie Quest, Dr. Ali John Zarrabi, and Dr. Dio Kavalieratos published [Social Deprivation and End-of-Life Care Use Among Adults With Cancer.](#)

Dr. Deanna Kaplan and **Dr. Jennifer Mascaro** published [Diversity, equity, and inclusivity in observational ambulatory assessment: Recommendations from two decades of Electronically Activated Recorder \(EAR\) research](#)

Dr. Jane Lowers and **Dr. Dio Kavalieratos** published [Pulmonary Function and Quality of Life in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis](#) and [Clinician Perspectives on barriers and solutions to symptom management in cystic fibrosis](#).

Dr. Megha Shah, Family Medicine resident **Dr. Nikhila Gandrakota**, and **Dr. Mo Ali** published [Trends in Health Behaviors of US Adults With and Without Diabetes: 2007-2018](#).

Faculty Publications

Dr. Mo Ali:

[Adapting and scaling a proven diabetes prevention program across 11 worksites in India: the INDIA-WORKS trial](#).

[Spousal Concordance of Hypertension Among Middle-Aged and Older Heterosexual Couples Around the World: Evidence From Studies of Aging in the United States, England, China, and India](#).

Dr. Ted Johnson:

[Social contact patterns among employees in U.S. long-term care facilities during the COVID_19 pandemic, December 2020 to June 2021](#)

Dr. Dio Kavalieratos:

[The Validity of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures of Quality of Life in Palliative Care: A Systematic Review](#).

Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha:

[Associations Between Postdischarge Care and Cognitive Impairment-Related Hospital Readmissions for Ketoacidosis and Severe Hypoglycemia in Adults With Diabetes](#).

Dr. Miranda Moore:

[Changes in State Laws Related to Coverage for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Across Insurance Sectors, 2006-2020.](#)

Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu:

[Comment on Rooney et al. Global Prevalence of Prediabetes.](#)

Educational Investments for our future

Educational News and Events

New Art of Palliation Cohort



Congratulations to **Dr. Paul DeSandre** and **Dr. Ali John Zarrabi** on the upcoming interdisciplinary annual Art of Palliation course. This is the fifth year that the course has been offered. Congratulations also to Palliative faculty **Dr. Janelle Holder**, **Dr. Joanne Kuntz**, and **Dr. Lynn O'Neill** who will be participating in the program.

The Art of Palliation course meets at the High Museum of Art and the Carlos Museum. This 3-part art museum-based experiential curriculum is designed to foster core palliative care clinical and team-based skills outside of the usual structures and hierarchies of the healthcare environment. Topics covered include bias, cultural humility, and empathy, and uses works of art to have learners generate meaning, reflect on their mortality, and potentially experience awe.

Pictured above: The Art of Palliation 2021 cohort at the High Museum of Art

Thompson chosen for WLA



Congratulations to **Dr. Tina-Ann Thompson** who has been selected for the Woodruff Leadership Academy as part of the 22nd WLA cohort. The screening process for this prestigious program is extremely selective, and the WLA Fellows are chosen from a large pool of stellar candidates each year. All WLA graduates improve their leadership skills, learn more about the challenges and rewards of leadership, and learn much more about themselves.

T. Johnson presents on GWEP Partnerships

Joseph Gaugler, PhD
 Director, Public Health
 Center of Excellence on
 Dementia Caregiving
 Director, Center for Healthy
 Aging and Innovation
 Robert L. Kane Endowed
 Chair

**Lisa McGuire, PhD,
FAPA, FGSA**
 Lead,
 Alzheimer's Disease
 Science Team
 Healthy Aging Branch,
 Division of Population Health
 National Center for Chronic
 Disease Prevention and
 Health Promotion
 CDC



**Nina Tumosa,
PhD**
 Senior Public Health Analyst
 Geriatrics
 Health Resources and Services
 Administration
 Division of Medicine and
 Dentistry
 Medical Education and Geriatrics
 Branch

Partnering with GWEPs in Dementia Caregiving and Education: Opportunities for Public Health

The goal of Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEP) is to educate and train the primary care and geriatric workforce to care for older adults. Thanks to this, GWEPs can be key partners in public health dementia-related efforts and can help build a diverse and skilled workforce that can support both the person with dementia and their family caregivers. This session will explore opportunities for public health departments in collaborating with GWEPs in their dementia caregiving initiatives, and will present examples of state-based partnerships in Georgia and Rhode Island. Join to learn about their work and get ideas for partnering with a local GWEP near you.

December 7, 2023 | 11:00am-12:00pm CST | Zoom

Register at <https://bit.ly/GWEPsandPublicHealth>

Victoria Parker, MPH
 Manager,
 Alzheimer's Disease and
 Related Disorders Program
 Rhode Island Department
 of Health

Faith Helm, MS
 Project Manager,
 Rhode Island Geriatric
 Education Center
 University of Rhode Island
 Rhode Island Geriatrics
 Workforce Enhancement
 Program

**Ted Johnson II, MD,
MPH**
 Division Director,
 General Medicine
 Emory University School of
 Medicine
 Program Director,
 Emory GWEP

**Elizabeth Head,
MPH**
 Deputy Director,
 Injury Prevention Program
 Georgia Department of
 Public Health

L. Johnson Chosen for Junior Faculty Development



Dr. Leslie Johnson was selected to participate in the 2024 SOM Junior Faculty Development Course. This year-long course is designed especially for junior faculty, holding monthly sessions on the Business of Academics, Human Resources, Crucial Conversations, Presentation and Speaking Skills, Promotions, Teaching Skills, Manuscript and Grant Writing, Negotiations, Ethics, and Leadership to support the professional development of early-career faculty. This competitive program accepts 25-30 SOM faculty each year.

**Congratulations to the 2024-2025 Emory
Hospice & Palliative Medicine Adult Track
Fellows!**

Listed below, you'll find the fellows, their specialty, and their current residency program.

Min Yi Dong (Family Medicine) - University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston

Kenneth Harang (Internal Medicine) - Tulane University

Thanh (Tang) Nguyen (Emergency Medicine) - HCA Florida Kendall Hospital (Miami)

Eunsong (Grace) Park (Family Medicine) - The Christ Hospital/University of Cincinnati

Olivia Victoriano (Emergency Medicine) - UHS Southern California Medical Education Consortium

Ramya Yeleti (Family/Preventive Medicine) - Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Congratulations to Prev Med Resident Dr. Doshi!



Dr. Kunal Doshi, one of our PM-2s, successfully matched into the Addiction Medicine fellowship at Loma Linda. He is a Southern California native and is thrilled to be heading back to the region to continue his training.

SOM Community Engagement Champion Awards

Jan. 18 | 5:30 - 7 p.m. | Zoom

The SOM will have a webinar to honor the exceptional community partners who engage with Emory medical students through the Community Learning and Social Medicine course. SOM will recognize the people and organizations who work with our medical students to train future healthcare professionals who are responsive to community needs. This work strengthens our academic community partnerships to help improve the health of our community. [Register.](#)

2024 GME DEI Virtual Open House:

Jan. 31 | 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Zoom

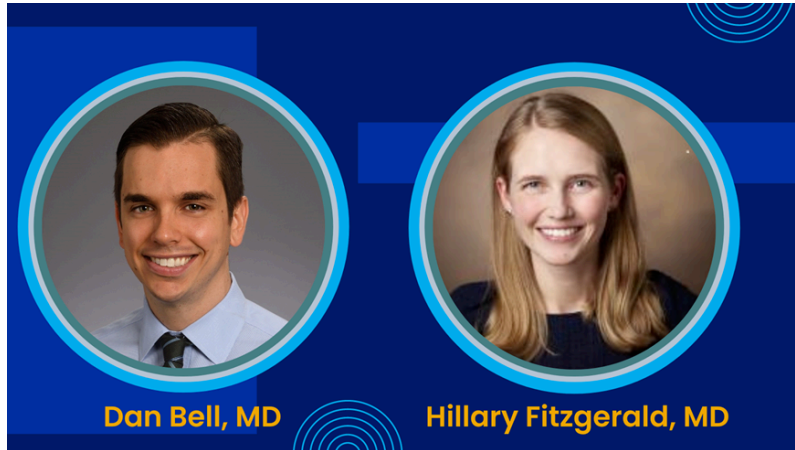
Join GME for their Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Virtual Open House for Residency and Fellowship Applicants sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs in partnership with the Office of Equity and Inclusion and the Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME). [Register.](#)

The open house will include:

- A high-level overview of DEI efforts at GME, departmental, and SOM levels
- Presentations from DEI leadership and Under-Represented in Medicine (URiM) trainees
- Open discussion with residents and faculty about living in Atlanta and training at Emory SOM

Service for our future

Emory Palliative Care Physicians leading ESJH hospital quality efforts



Each month all unexpected Hospital deaths (indexed based on diagnosis codes as a proxy for severity of illness) at the hospital must be reviewed and reported according to CMS quality regulations. Each case is reviewed and investigated by a quality review team led by a physician, and then assessment and opportunities for improvement or corrective recommendations (eg peer review) are discussed at the EMOC (Emory Mortality Oversight Committee).

There are six physician leaders at ESJH on a monthly rotation to whom all cases are assigned/trusted. Two are hospital chief leaders, the Chief Medical Officer Dr McGahan, and Chief Quality Officer Dr Balk. Two are leaders in hospital medicine, one representing Emory, and one representing Kaiser Permanente. And two are Emory Palliative Medicine physicians, **Dr. Hillary Fitzgerald** and **Dr. Dan Bell**.

Kudos to our ESJH palliative care team stepping up to sit at the table with a big presence with Hospital leadership to improve hospital safety and care delivery, outside of

palliative medicine (but always representing for palliative medicine!).

Primary Care Consortium Primary Care Service Awards - Nominations Open!



Award Descriptions and past recipients can be found [here](#).

15 award categories for individuals and teams to honor the dedication and achievements of Emory's primary care providers

Actively engaged ($\geq .40$ effort) in longitudinal, comprehensive primary care within Emory Clinic, Emory Specialty Associates, or an Emory affiliate (VA, Grady, Emory University Student Health, Emory Corporate Medicine, Emory linked senior care sites) as a staff member or provider.

Provider disciplines include geriatrics, **family medicine**, internal medicine, pediatrics, **nurse practice**, **physician assistant**, **preventive medicine**, and **palliative care**.

News from the DFPM JEDI Council



DEI Grand Rounds - In Case You Missed It

Did you miss the DFPM JEDI Grand Rounds on December 7? You can watch **Dr. Jodie Guest** talk about the [Emory Farmworker Project](#) and lessons learned while caring for migrant workers.

Watch "Caring for Migrant Workers"

News from the Office of Faculty Development

NEW: Free Emory Resource to Satisfy GCMB Professional Boundaries Training Requirement

Key Points

- Emory now offers a free resource to assist providers in meeting the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) Professional Boundaries training requirement. [Click here to register for the course.](#)
- The 2.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ course is available for free to Emory-employed physicians and non-employed, Emory-affiliated providers.
- The course explains strategies to use when faced with patient behaviors that cross professional boundaries and how to recognize situations that risk violating professional standards regarding sexual conduct with patients.

As shared earlier this year, the GCMB has added a new question to the physician license renewal application. This question requires the physician to attest to having completed one-time education and training in professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct.

To-date, most training available to satisfy this requirement had to be purchased from external organizations or vendors. Emory now offers a free resource to aid

providers in meeting the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB) Professional Boundaries requirement that can be accessed via our new CME platform. [Click here to register for the course.](#)

Please take note of the following important points:

- The requirement to attest to Professional Boundaries education and training only applies to providers who are renewing their license. It is not a requirement for those who are applying for a Georgia License for the first time.
- Licensees can renew their licenses through the [Board's online account portal](#). If providers attest that they have not completed this training, a hold will be placed on their license renewal. This hold will remain until they can attest that they have completed the required training.
- For more information on CME requirements, please refer to [Chapters 360-15](#) in the Rules and Regulations in the State of Georgia or the [Board's webpage on CME](#).

Make it a habit



Update your CV monthly!



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