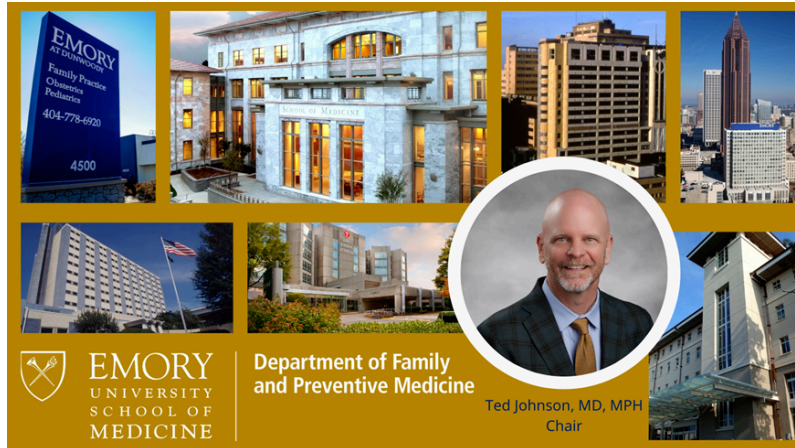


Department of Family and Preventive Medicine News

2024: Volume 7, issue 4



55 Words from the Chair

Here is the June 2024 newsletter! The USPSTF recommends you read it (Grade A). We also invite you to download the [DFPM Decade in Review Report](#). The outlook for this month? Sunny. The forecast for our next decade? Mind-boggling growth in research, education, clinical care, and service, with greater collaboration and higher career satisfaction.

Good News!



Proud parents: **FM resident Dr. Tichelle Nyarko**
and her husband



Dr. Ted Johnson's daughter
Erin Rose Johnson graduated
from Tulane University with a
BA in Environmental Studies
and a BS in Public Health.



Leigh Partington's daughter
Audrey Partington graduated
from Agnes Scott College with a
BA in Psychology and Dance.



Khaliala Ward's son Tyler Young is a 2024 Honors graduate of Salem High School in Conyers. Tyler will be attending Clark Atlanta University in the fall.





Don't Miss Opportunities!

Emory University School of Medicine
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Department of Medicine
Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology
Presents

7th Annual
Southeast Review and Update
on Medical Care of
Older Adults
July 19 - 20, 2024

Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta
Hotel and Conference Center
2443 Highway 54 West, Peachtree City, GA 30269



Presented by the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology and Emory SOM. This course is designed to give medical providers and other members of the multi-disciplinary health care team basic and cutting-edge knowledge for optimizing the delivery of services to the expanding older adult population. This event will be held at the Hilton

Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel and Conference Center
located at 2443 Hwy 54 West Peachtree City, Georgia,
from July 19 - 20, 2024.

Register for the SE Review and Update on
Medical Care of Older Adults

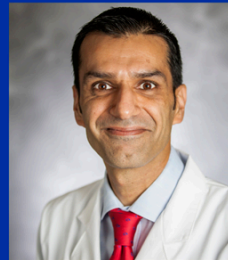
News from the Vice Chairs



Dr. Lynn O'Neill
DFPM Vice Chair
of Faculty Development



Dr. Kimberly Curseen
DFPM Vice Chair
of Justice, Equity, Diversity &
Inclusion



Dr. Mo Ali
DFPM Vice Chair
of Research

From Dr. Kim Curseen, VC of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

As we celebrate **Pride Month** this June, it is important to recognize and honor the diversity within our community. The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at Emory University values and supports all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

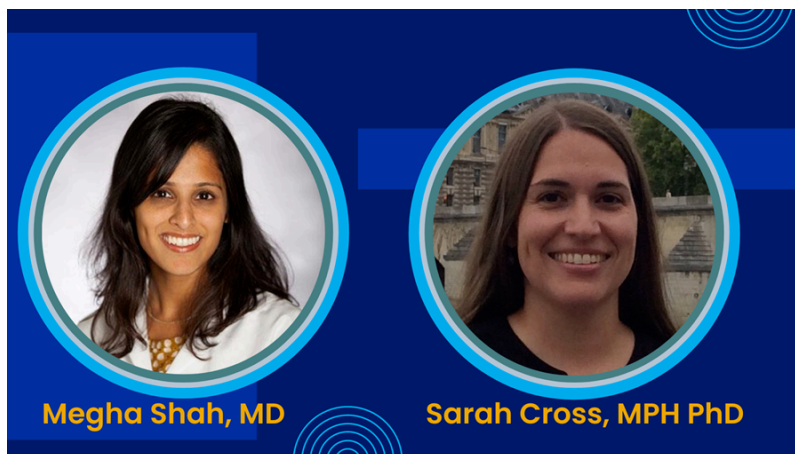
We believe creating an inclusive and welcoming environment is essential for promoting health and well-being for all. Let us continue to champion equality, diversity, and acceptance not just this month but every day.

Happy Pride Month to all!

In recognition of Pride Month, please take a look at the [2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People](#).

On June 19, Emory University and its colleges close in honor of **Juneteenth**, a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans after the Civil War. Dive into Emory Libraries' curated resources that explore the significance of this day in American history here: <https://links.emory.edu/Xn>. You can also [Commemorate Juneteenth with 19 Days of Wellness](#).

Transformative Research



Dr. Megha Shah's DREAM Atlanta study and two of her publications were highlighted at a recent NIMHD council public meeting. Dr. Shah's work was selected based on the high level of community care and for using an intervention as part of the research design. The featured publications were [Protocol and Baseline Characteristics for A Community Health Worker-led hypertension and diabetes management program for South Asians in Atlanta: The DREAM Atlanta Study](#) and [A Culturally Adapted, Telehealth, Community Health Worker Intervention on Blood Pressure Control among South Asian Immigrants with Type II Diabetes: Results from the DREAM Atlanta Intervention](#).

In May, **Dr. Sarah Cross** gave an oral presentation, “Racial Differences in Palliative Care Use in Heart Failure,” at the European Association of Palliative Care World Research Congress in Barcelona, Spain.



Dr. Deanna Kaplan received Notice of Awards for two foundation grant awards earlier this month! One is an Emory grant and one is a multi-site international collaboration with the University of Melbourne. Both of these awards provide significant support for the use and continued development of the app she built, Fabla. Details are as follows:

09/2024 – 09/2027 Perception Box Grant, Tiny Blue Dot Foundation. Title: “*When does meditation expand the perception box? A comparative longitudinal study.*” Role: Co-investigator (PI: Julieta Galante, University of Melbourne)

09/2024 – 09/2027 Perception Box Grant, Tiny Blue Dot Foundation, \$450,000. Title: “*Identifying optimal responses to challenges related to expanding the perception box in psilocybin-assisted therapy.*” Role: Co-investigator (PI: Roman Palitsky, Emory University)

In addition, Emory Media Relations office just produced and released this 3-minute video about the Fabla app. Click below to watch!



Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu received an Award of Excellence in Reviewing from *Asian Journal of Advanced Research and Reports* and from *European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety*. Dr. Thirunavukkarasu has also been selected as an Editorial Board Member of the *Journal of Endocrinology & Metabolism*





Collaborative Publications

Dr. Sara Turbow and **Dr. Mo Ali** published [Care fragmentation and readmission mortality and length of stay before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: data from the National Readmissions Database, 2018-2020](#) and [Fragmented Readmissions From a Nursing Facility in Medicare Beneficiaries](#).

Dr. Sara Turbow, **Dr. Puneet Chehal**, and **Dr. Mo Ali** published [Is Electronic Information Exchange Associated With Lower 30-Day Readmission Charges Among Medicare Beneficiaries?](#)

Dr. Jennifer Mascaro and **Dr. Deanna Kaplan** published [Diversity, equity, and inclusivity in observational ambulatory assessment: Recommendations from two decades of Electronically Activated Recorder \(EAR\) research](#) and [Reliability and Validity of Measures Commonly Utilized to Assess Nurse Well-Being](#).

Individual Publications

Dr. Mo Ali

[Advancing diabetes surveillance ecosystems: a case study of India](#).

[Effect of a multicomponent quality improvement strategy on sustained achievement of diabetes care goals and macrovascular and microvascular complications in South Asia at 6.5 years follow-up: Post hoc analyses of the CARRS randomized clinical trial](#).

[Longitudinal associations between ambient PM_{2.5} exposure and lipid levels in two Indian cities.](#)

Dr. Kimberly Curseen

[Community Partners' Perceptions of the Benefits and Burdens of Participating in a Community Engagement Course with Medical Students.](#)

Dr. Jodie Guest

[Equity of PrEP uptake by race, ethnicity, sex and region in the United States in the first decade of PrEP: a population-based analysis.](#)

Dr. Deanna Kaplan

[Diversity, equity, and inclusivity in observational ambulatory assessment: Recommendations from two decades of Electronically Activated Recorder \(EAR\) research.](#)

Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha

[Hemodynamic Reactivity to Mental Stress and Cognitive Function in Coronary Artery Disease.](#)

Dr. Miranda Moore

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

Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu

[Incidence, Risk and Clinical Course of New-Onset Diabetes After COVID-19: Protocol for a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Cohort Studies](#)

[Clustering of health behaviors and their associations with cardiometabolic risk factors among adults at high risk for type 2 diabetes in India: A latent class analysis](#)

Dr. Ali John Zarrabi

[Dangerous Variation or Patient-Centered Care? Palliative Care and Pain Providers' Comfort, Experiences, and](#)

Educational Investments for our future

Emory SOM Educator's Day Honorees from the Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine



**Amber Davis,
MMSc, PA-C**

Amber Davis is an engaging educator and a wonderful colleague. She is one of the core didactic faculty in the physician assistant program. She utilizes a variety of educational innovations that guide learners through difficult medicine topics. She teaches in the classroom and interactive lab sessions with enthusiasm that is inspiring for students and peers. Ms. Davis is an exceptional preceptor in Internal Medicine; students often request rotations specifically with her. The PA program and School of Medicine are lucky to have such a phenomenal educator on the faculty.



**Veketa Smith,
MMSc, MPH, PA-C**

Veketa Smith is an exceptional educator and a true gem in the physician assistant program. She is instrumental in planning and executing hundreds of clinical rotations while inspiring and guiding students on their difficult journey. Ms. Smith also teaches in the classroom and clinically in infectious diseases. She is an outstanding teacher who has already improved numerous program policies, processes, and the curriculum. She is an amazing person whose commitment to education and Emory is very appreciated.



**Erin Weinisch,
DHSc, MPAS, PA-C**

Dr. Erin Weinisch is an exceptional leader in the PA Program as the Director of Didactic Education. She embodies excellence in education. In addition to ongoing enhancements to the didactic curriculum, faculty onboarding, and collaborating with the clinical education team, she also leads innovative inter-professional educational opportunities to integrate curriculum with the DPT and MD Programs. Her use of active learning kept students engaged as she taught seven courses last year--an incredible number of credit hours and a wide range of topics. She advised more than 20 students, supporting and guiding didactic and clinical year students. Beyond Emory, Dr. Weinisch is working at the national level in PA education to continue to push our program and profession forward.



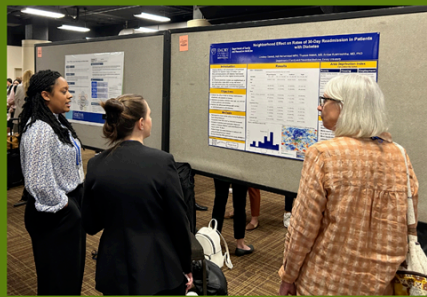
Dr. Ali Zarrabi is a fantastic teacher who inspires our trainees to understand patients and families better, thereby more effectively ameliorating suffering associated with chronic pain.

Ali John Zarrabi, MD

Emory Shines at STFM

Dr. Kim Thompson, FM resident **Dr. Nikhila Gandrakota**, and EUSOM M4 Lindsey Garrett represented Emory School of Medicine and the Family Medicine Residency Program at the 2024 Society for Teachers of Family Medicine meeting in Los Angeles. Dr. Gandrakota was also awarded the Faculty for Tomorrow Resident's Scholarship by the STFM.

FM Residency at STFM



**Dr. Agarwal, PrevMed Class of 2024,
Receives USPHS Award**



PrevMed Graduates Bolster U.S. Public Health Workforce

Congratulations to **Chioma Erundu, MD, MPH** who joins the ranks of our PMR/F program graduates already or about to be working in U.S. public health. Dr. Erundu came to Emory in July 2019 having completed OB/GYN residency training at Baylor; she completed our program, including having been recognized for her stellar academic record in the RSPH Applied Epidemiology MPH track. Dr. Erundu is working as a medical officer / clinical reviewer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, also the home of CDC, NIH, AHRQ, and other agencies. Within that billet, she'll be working on a Reproductive Team in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Office of New Drugs (OND), Division of Urology, Obstetrics, & Gynecology (DUOG). In general, the medical officers/ clinical reviewers within CDER/OND analyze new drug applications (NDAs) and biologic licensing applications (BLAs), and during drug development, review Investigational New Drug Applications (INDs). Her specific focus is on treatments for Obstetric and Gynecologic conditions.

Fortunate for Atlanta, the community, and Wellstar Health System, Dr. Erundu will be working from Atlanta and also has been approved to continue clinical work within the Wellstar Health System!

Dr. Erundu joins other recent graduates of the Preventive Medicine Residency/Fellowship Program who are working

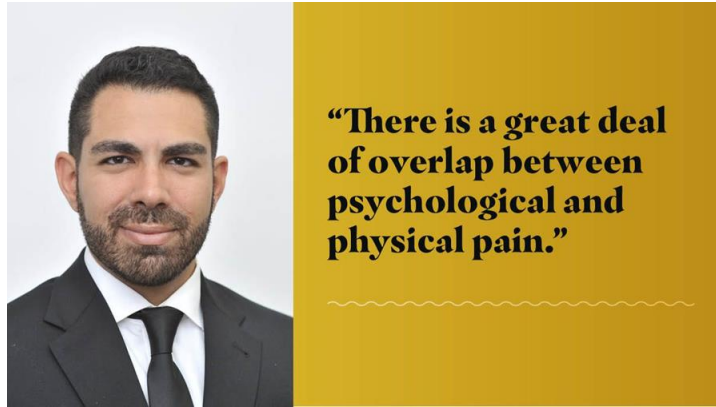
for public health agencies:

- **Dr. Elizabeth Rabold** – CDC
- **Dr. Sandra Valenciano** – DeKalb County Health Department
- **Dr. Siri Chirumamilla** – Los Angeles County Health Department
- **Dr. Alex Molinari** – CDC
- **Dr. Kimberly McKinney** – CDC and US Air Force
- **Dr. Annie Rouza** – DeKalb County Health Department (begins in July)
- **Dr. Radhika Agarwal** – CDC (begins in the Fall, tentatively)



Service for our future

**Dr. Ali John Zarrabi's work with
Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy
featured in Emory Medicine Magazine**



Click here to read the full article: [Therapeutic Psychedelics \(emory.edu\)](https://www.emory.edu/psych/therapeutic-psychedelics/).

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