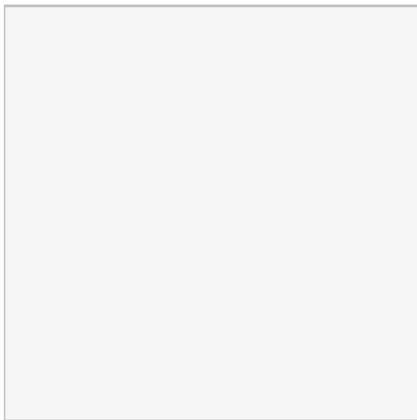


From: [All Dept Fac & Staff](#) on behalf of [Partington, Leigh](#)
To: FPM-ALL@LISTSERV.CC.EMORY.EDU
Subject: April 2025 Updates from Emory DFPM
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 8:32:28 AM



55 Words from the Chair

So much change! Let's please stay connected. Watch your email, with special attention to emails from university, SOM, clinic, and department leads. Take time to read through announcements carefully. Your division directors, vice-chairs, program leaders, administrative staff, team partners, and Jason and I are happy to offer support and talk through any questions and concerns.



Department Announcements

New Expense Request Form

As of March 19, 2025, the Department's policy on spending has been updated. **Please submit a request before making any purchases.** This goes for all SOM operational, discretionary, and professional development spending. This does not include clinical CME or grant spending.

The Expense Request Form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xmSKDBSuvZ> and [on the department intranet](#).

Once the form is submitted, we will communicate the outcome of the review within 48 hours.

If an expense is purchased on a corporate card or submitted for reimbursement without prior approval, we cannot guarantee that it will be covered by the Department.

Please contact **Jason Freiji** if you have any questions.

New Global Travel FAQs

As of April 9, Emory's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about traveling outside of the United States have been updated by the Emory Global Engagement team. As we approach summer, and as global events continue to change, we hope this will serve as a helpful resource for students, staff and faculty considering international travel. This page will also be updated as new information becomes available. As always, [International Student and Scholar Services](#) continues to be the best place to direct any Emory-sponsored international community members with additional questions.

New Department Letterhead - Mandatory Update

In response to a recent federal [executive order](#), Emory is working to update our Equal Employment Opportunity statements to remain in compliance by the deadline of **April 21**.

Materials containing any language related to "equal opportunity" and/or "affirmative action" that is not consistent with the [language on this page](#) **should no longer be used after April 21**. That includes our digital letterhead and Emory business cards.

Please discard your old digital letterhead immediately or edit the footer to remove the non-compliant EO/AA language.

You'll find generic [DFPM letterhead on the department intranet](#).

Opportunities and Events



15th Annual Bettye Rose Connell Memorial Lecture

April 22, Miller-Ward Alumni House

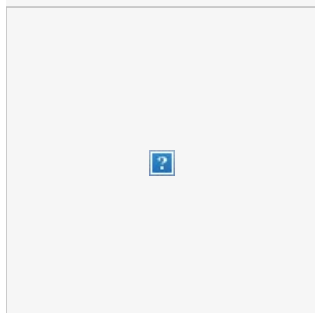
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Reception

6:30 PM - 7:45 PM | Lecture

"Dementia Care as a Public Health Priority and Opportunity"

presented by [Joseph Gaugler, PhD](#), Distinguished McKnight University Professor and Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Register for Bettye
Rose Connell
lecture



11th Annual Health Services Research Day

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Claudia Nance Rollins (CNR) Building, Rollins Auditorium. This statewide symposium brings together researchers to share and learn about impactful research on health care access, delivery, costs, and outcomes.

Register for Health
Services Research
Day

Keynote Speaker:

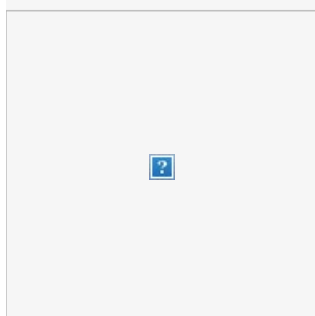
Jennifer (Jen) DeVoe, MD, DPhil

Chair, Department of Family Medicine, OHSU

Director, OHSU Center for Primary Care Research and Innovation

Don't miss the **Career Development in Health Services Research Panel at 2:00 PM.**

CME credits available!



Together We Thrive Week

This year's theme, *Our Shared Humanity: Building Trust and Belonging*, centers on fostering trust and advancing insights from several SOM-wide surveys and data sources. Expect thought-provoking lectures, cultural activities, an inspiring art gallery, and a community gathering—all designed to bring us together and strengthen our shared sense of humanity. **Registration closes May 16.**

Register for
Together We Thrive
Week events

Call for submissions: Together We Thrive Week art gallery

Deadline: April 30

SOM faculty, staff, learners, and residents/fellows are invited to submit art of any medium for display during Together We Thrive Week. Visual, cultural, written, and spoken art will be displayed in the James B. Williams Medical Education Building lobby from May 19-22. Artists will have the opportunity to talk about their work as part of the community gathering event on Thursday, May 22. Participation at the community gathering is not required to submit to the gallery.

[Submit art.](#)



[Health Equity Day](#)

May 20 | 9 am – 2 pm, | Hybrid (Zoom and Grady)

Dr. Jada Bussey-Jones will be the keynote speaker.

[Register for Health
Equity Day](#)

SOM Faculty Opportunities and Recognitions Calendar

- SOM Faculty Awards nominations open - June 11, 2025
- SOM Faculty Awards nominations due - July 11, 2025
- Researchers' Day nominations open - July 21, 2025
- Researchers' Day nominations due - August 4, 2025
- Women's Leadership Course applications due - June 2025
- Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine and Executive Leadership in Healthcare applications due - August 2025
- CCPR deadline for DFPM faculty - August 31, 2025
- EM-ProLEAD applications due - October 2025
- Junior Faculty Development Course applications due - October 2025
- Dean's Distinguished Lecture and Award nominations open - December 1, 2025

Celebrating our Successes

Welcome to the Department!



Neo Gebru, Ph.D. joins DFPM as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Family Medicine. Dr. Gebru is a behavioral scientist with a focus on developing and testing digital interventions aimed towards addictions and health behavior change. His research explores basic behavioral mechanisms (e.g., impulsivity) underlying addictive and risky behaviors, specifically in substance use and HIV related outcomes. His research applies (1) theories (e.g., behavioral economics theory, construal level theory), and (2) technology (e.g., text-messaging) to better understand and intervene upon substance misuse and related negative consequences.

Born in Ethiopia and raised in the DC-Maryland area, Dr. Gebru earned his bachelor's in psychology and master's in clinical psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park (Go terps!). Dr. Gebru then earned his Ph.D. in Health and Human Performance from the University of Florida and completed his postdoctoral research at the Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies. Outside of work, Neo identifies as a 'foodie' and is thrilled to be exploring his new city in ATL (send recs!). He also enjoys painting, tennis, and hiking.

DFPM 2025 Awards

The 2024 FPM Department Awards were announced at the March Quarterly Department meeting. Congratulations to all of the honorees and nominees and big thanks to our FPM Awards Committee members

and all of the nominators. Nominations for the 2025 Awards will open in Fall 2025.

Doctors' Day Recognitions

March 30 was National Doctors' Day—an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary dedication of our faculty who provide patient care. More than 350 faculty members were nominated by their peers for recognition this year, and the School of Medicine Recognitions Committee has selected those who best exemplify our shared values. [Read about these honorees and the impact they have made.](#)

					
Dr. Kimberly Curseen	Dr. Paul DeSandre	Dr. Denise Lawe	Dr. Chike Leigh	Dr. Anne Lips	Dr. Lawson Marcewicz
					
Dr. Robert Palm	Dr. Ravi Pathak	Dr. Tammie Quest	Dr. Victoria Sweetnam	Dr. Jabeen Taj	Dr. Ali John Zarrabi

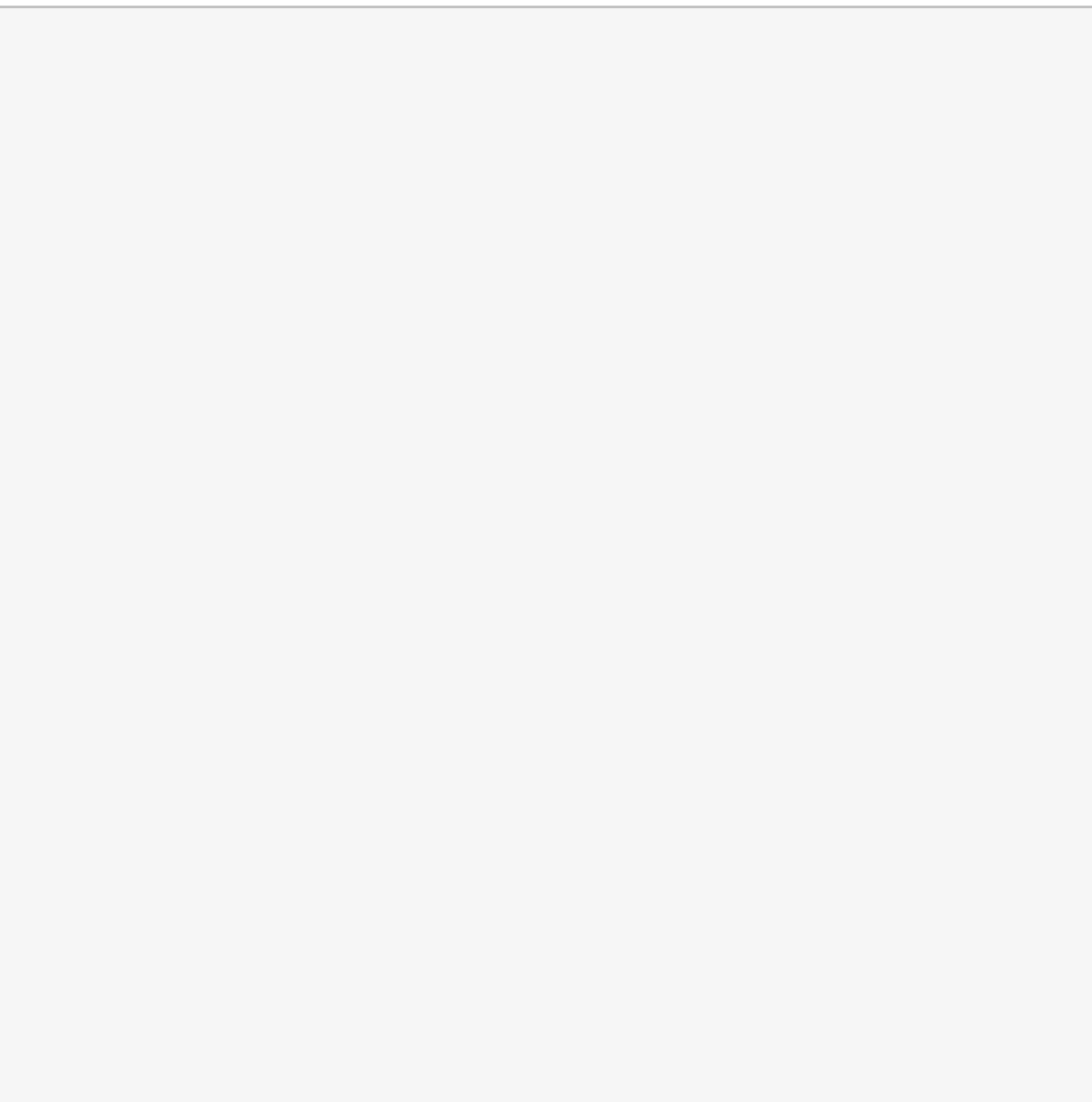
Palliative Faculty Present Seminar



Kudos to the Emory Palliative faculty for making a regional impact with an excellent seminar on the role of Palliative Care in Organ Donation, which took place at the LifeLink of GA offices in Norcross on March 28. There were 75 participants from across the state with 35 participants in person and the remainder virtual.

(pictured left to right) **Dr. Paul DeSandre**, **Dr. Rebekka DePew** (planning committee/presenter), **Dr. Michael Robinson** (planning committee and presenter), and **Dr. Susan Kunihiro** (planning committee).

Fundraising Success for Jornada de Salud



Jornada de Salud (formerly Portal de Salud) is an Emory SOM student-run clinic that provides health screenings and health education in a faith-based setting to members of the Spanish speaking community in Gwinnett County. They partner with Misión Católica in Lilburn, Georgia to assist the parish's 29,000 Hispanic/Latinx members. Students and faculty from the Dept of Medicine and the Dept of Family and Preventive Medicine have worked hard over the years to make sure this clinic has stayed alive, despite multiple hurdles in funding. When community partner, Portal de Salud, closed in the summer of 2024, the team mobilized to rebrand and maintain this important community partnership with the church and the patients who have come to know and trust the providers, as an independent student volunteer group on behalf of Emory School of Medicine.

The mission of Jornada de Salud is to help Hispanic/Latino families live healthier lives by promoting health education and improving access to primary care and preventive care services. Notably, they are also the only longitudinal, interprofessional, fully Spanish speaking student clinic at the School of Medicine. In addition to serving this community, Jornada de Salud is a unique experiential interprofessional learning opportunity for MD and PA students to work alongside each other throughout the year.

Student led research and program development work has been presented at various levels. They won the Outstanding Education Poster Award at 2024 Emory Health Equity Day, in addition to two posters at last year's Dept of Medicine Research Day, leading up to their first national presentation at the 2024 AAMC Learn Serve Lead National Conference.

This January, they realized they only had enough money to last into the summer. The student coordinator team mobilized to take advantage of the Emory Day of Giving campaign to fundraise **\$6560 in less than week, which will independently fund them for over two years.** The POCT machines they use were also purchased through Durable Equipment Grants from the MD program, with new additional funds to purchase a second machine this fall.

The generosity of the donors allows Emory SOM students to focus on program development and improving resources for their patients. They are actively working on developing more robust, culturally, relevant lifestyle counseling resources for patients to discuss with bilingual volunteers. With the ultimate goal of connecting patients to longitudinal care, they are also always expanding and updating their customized Resource Referral guide to include primary care, women's health services, dental care, and optometry services at locations equipped to care for their largely under/uninsured population.

If you're interested in spending some time in the clinic on a Wednesday evening, or learning more about what they do, please reach out to the faculty leads, **Dr. Susy Alfonso** and Dr. Carlos Saldaña. Big thanks to M3 **Sarah Sanaranayake, MS** for this write-up!



Dr. Dio Kavalieratos was invited to be a Commissioner (aka author) for The Lancet's Commission on Palliative Care Integration in Serious Respiratory Illness. He will be serving in the Models of Palliative Care Integration work stream.

A Lancet Commission is a science-led, international, and multidisciplinary collaboration, initiated by The Lancet, that aims to address urgent and often neglected global health issues through scientific review, inquiry, and calls for policy or political action.

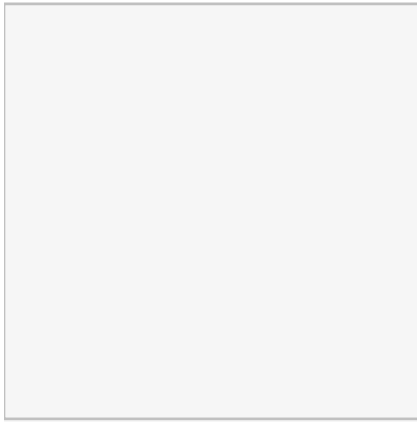


Congratulations to **Dr. Ashley Owen** on completing 20 years with the Family Medicine faculty in January!

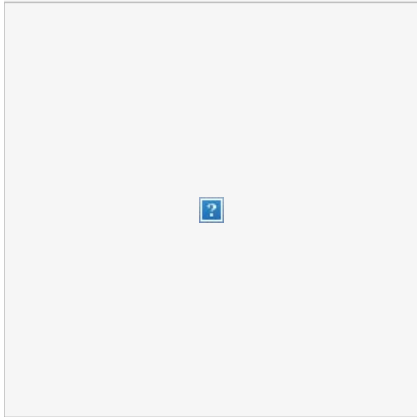
Alumni News

Paul "PJ" Jung, MD, MPH (Rear Admiral, USPHS), a graduate of the Emory PM Resident and Fellowship Program, former HRSA division director, and currently serving as Rear Admiral and Chief Medical Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard.

During the [2025 AMSUS Annual Meeting](#) earlier this month, PJ was this

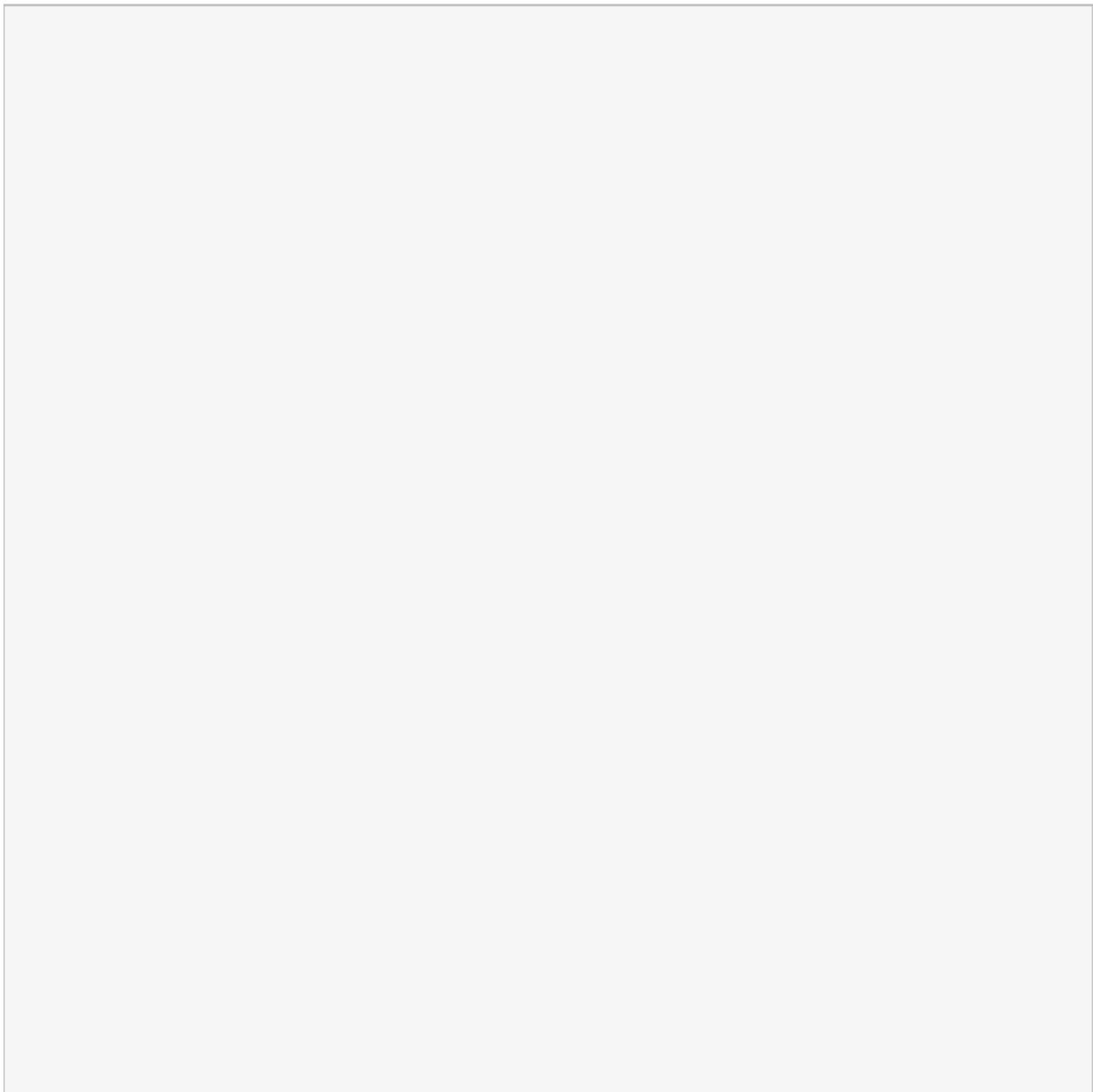


year's recipient of the "William Gorgas Preventive Medicine Award."
[AMSUS](#) is The Society of Federal Health Professionals.



Jeffrey Myers, PA-C, Assistant Professor of Palliative Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University and a graduate of the Emory PA Program, was [interviewed for the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants \(NCCPA\) magazine](#) on the importance of volunteer work.

Welcome to the Emory Family Medicine Class of 2028!



6 Emory M4s Choose Family Medicine

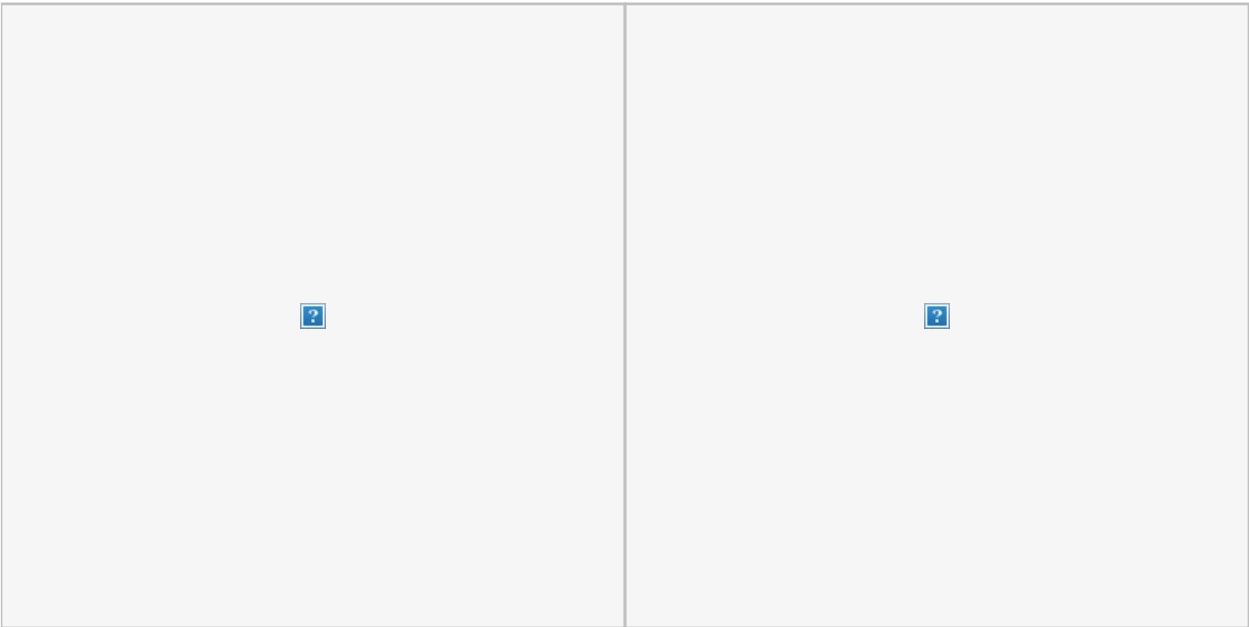
Dr. Ryan Smith was on hand at Match Day to congratulate a few of the M4s who matched into Family Medicine. Dr. Smith is pictured below with Victoria Fonzi (*top, left*), Lindsey Garrett (*top, right*), Gilda Rastegar (*bottom, left*) and Ashvini Vaidya (*bottom, right*). Two (Garrett and Rastegar) of the six matched into the **Emory Family Medicine Residency Program**.

Victoria Fonzi matched with Cahaba Medical Care in Birmingham AL, Nour Gutierrez Tejedo matched with Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, ME, Bianca Lec matched with Eastern CT Health Network in Rockville, CT, and Ashvini Vaidya matched with Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA.



2025 Faculty Appreciation Dinner

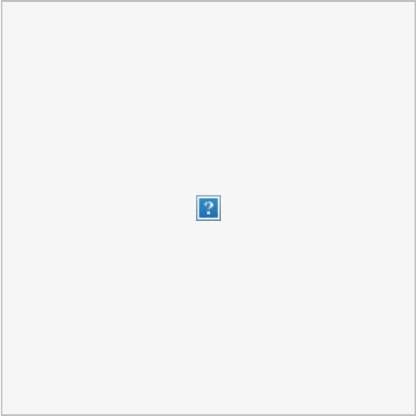
The Annual OPEX, Pediatrics, and APC Clerkship Faculty Appreciation Dinner is hosted by all three programs to celebrate all of the faculty and community preceptors that teach Emory medical students. Each program gives out awards. Congratulations to Preceptor of the Year **Dr. Caitlin Suilmann** and Group Preceptor Site **Emory at Eagles Landing!**



2024-2025 Preceptor of the Year
Caitlin Suilmann, MD, DipABLM
Specialty: Family Medicine
Practice: Gwinnett Clinic

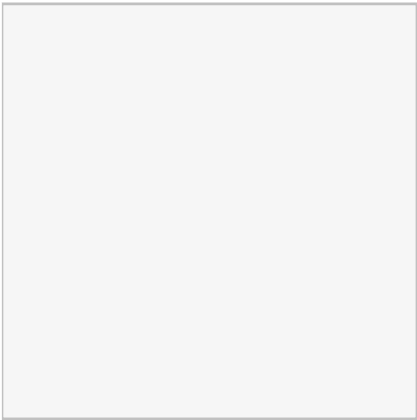
2024-2025 Group Preceptor Site Award
F. Kennard Hood, MD
Antoinette LaDawn Price, MD
Anozie Anthony Ukaonu, MD
Specialty: Family Medicine
Practice: Emory at Eagles Landing

Recent and Upcoming Presentations



Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha gave Grand Rounds presentation on *Screening for Cognitive Impairment* at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center on 3/21/25.

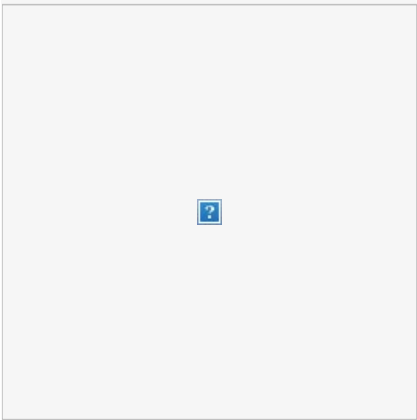
Dr. Leslie Johnson and her doctoral student, Zach Cooper, attended the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting and Conference in San Francisco last month. Zach presented an abstract entitled, "Experiences of Mental Illness among Adults with Type 1 Diabetes: Implications for Behavioral Interventions," which draws from formative research conducted as a part of Dr. Johnson's T1D and mental health trial at Grady. Zach also presented findings from their other collaborative projects, including [Effects of Integrated Care Approaches to Address Co-occurring Depression and Diabetes: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis | Diabetes Care | American Diabetes Association](#)) and a



mediation analysis of the INDEPENDENT trial.

Zach's collaborative work with Dr. Johnson and Dr. Mo Ali has been further recognized in recent media coverage at UGA ([Bridging the Gap: Ph.D. Student's Research Reaching Underserved Groups - School of Social Work](#)) and the Physician's Weekly Website ([SFBT Intervention Reduces Depressive & Anxiety Symptoms Among Primary Care Patients With Comorbid Health Conditions](#)).

Pictured above: Dr. Johnson presenting formative work for an implementation trial she co-leads in Kenya aimed at enhancing cervical cancer screening and linkage to treatment in primary care clinics.

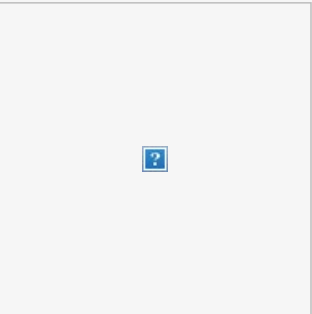


Dr. Miranda Moore

- "Developing a score to measure dementia-friendliness in faith communities" at the Southern Gerontological Society Annual Conference in Birmingham, AL, April 3-6, 2025.
- Seminar S15 – CERA: Using national educational surveys for faculty and resident scholarly activity. 2025 STFM Annual Spring Conference. Salt Lake City, UT May 3-7, 2025
- Lecture-Discussion L37 – Mitigating Gender Bias in Research Proposals: Lessons From the CERA Experience. 2025 STFM Annual Spring Conference. Salt Lake City, UT May 3-7, 2025
- Improving resident clinical decision-making in addressing ambulatory in-basket messages. 2025 STFM Annual Spring Conference. Salt Lake City, UT May 3-7, 2025 (oral presentation)

Dr. Moore will also moderate Invited Workshop W15 titled “Responding to revision requests on your manuscripts—Tips from editors of family medicine journals” and Completed Research Projects CR08-B at the 2025 STFM Annual Spring Conference. She also served as session organizer for the above workshop W15 and the Opening General Session titled “The successful family medicine research mentor.”

At the STFM Annual Spring Conference, Dr. Moore will attend the STFM Research Committee, the CERA Steering Committee meeting, and the STFM Board of Directors meeting as current Research Committee Chair.



Dr. Miranda Moore and **Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha** will present two seminars at the 2025 STFM Annual Spring Conference in Salt Lake City in May.

Seminar S01 – Promotion and scholarship: Transforming your clinical practice into publications.

Seminar S10 – Mixed Methods: How the STFM Research Committee can help you conduct quantitative and qualitative research.

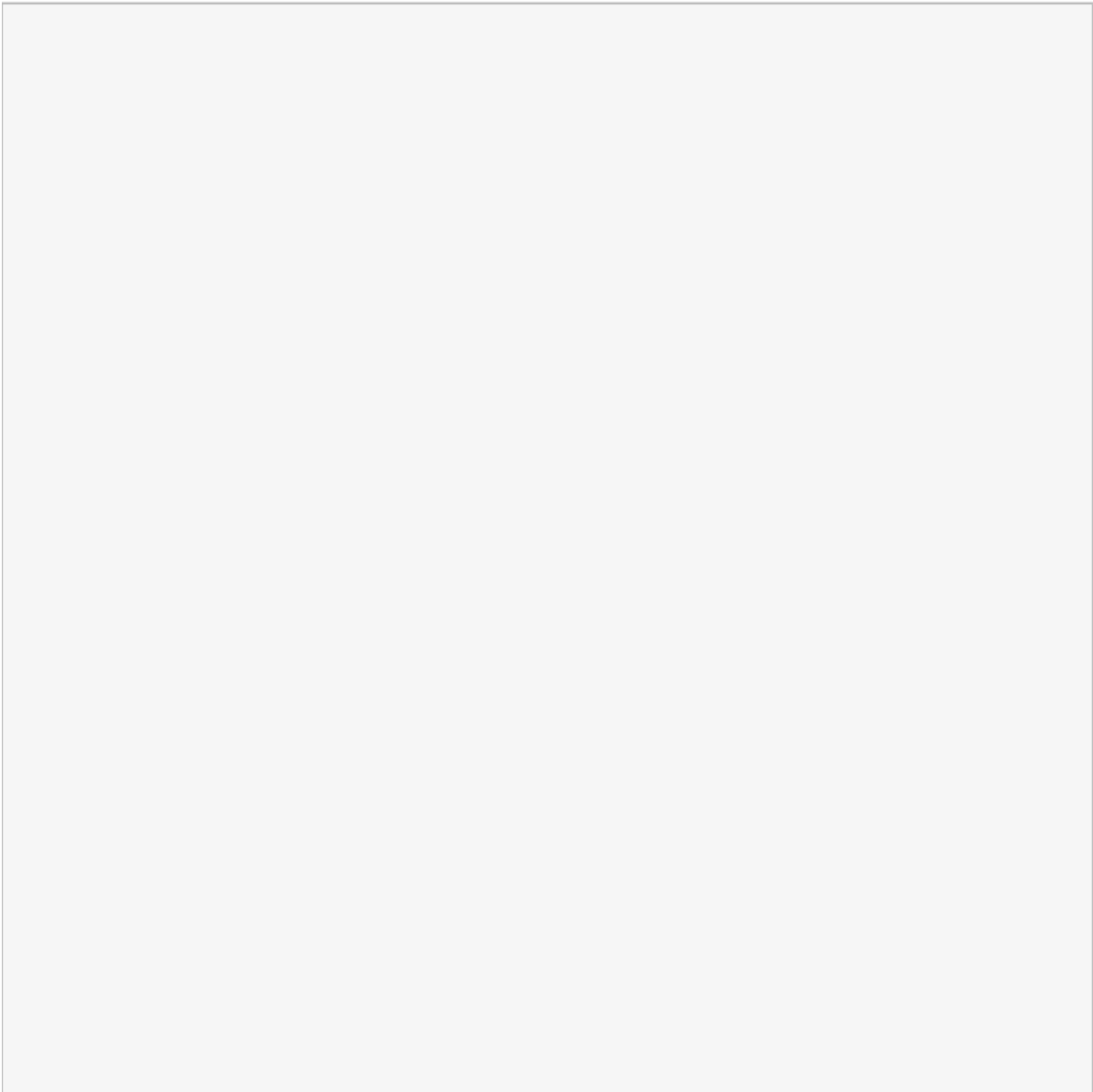


Carina Oltmann recently presented a [webinar](#) for the Center to Transform Advanced Care (CTAC). She joined a small panel of palliative care specialists to discuss policy and best practices when working with individuals living with serious illness and comorbid mental illness.

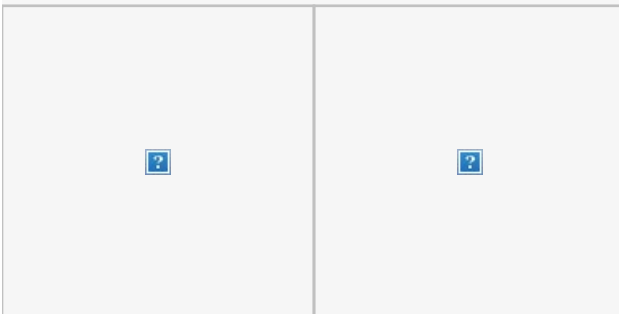
Carina recently joined Vickie Leff, LCSW and program staff of the American Hospital Association (AHA) to present an AHA webinar on the value of debriefings to promote healthcare worker well-being and patient safety.



Erin Weinisch, DHSc, MPAS, PA-C from the PA program presented at the PA Education Association's Midwest Regional Education Meeting in Dayton, Ohio on March 22, 2025. Her talk, highlighting her expertise in curriculum and competency based education, was titled "Exams to Excellence: Mapping Success with Program Competency Integration." This event was the first regional meeting for PA educators. Erin will also present two new topics about disability curriculum and innovative active learning techniques in the second regional conference in Decatur this June.



Collaborative Publications



Dr. Kim Curseen and **Dr. Dio Kavalieratos** published [Empathy, expertise, and expeditious communication: identifying how people with hidradenitis suppurativa experience outpatient palliative care](#). *Arch Dermatol Res*

Dr. Deanna Kaplan and **Dr. Sarah Cross** published [No breath\(work\) without bread: Toward an integrated paradigm for community-owned](#)

[mindfulness interventions to address structural drivers of human development and health disparities.](#)
Am J Orthopsychiatry

Individual Faculty, Staff, and Learner Publications



Dr. Mo Ali

- [Effective Components of Collaborative Care for Depression in Primary Care: An Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis.](#) *JAMA Psychiatry*
- [Short and Long-term Body Weight Change Following the Switch to or the Addition of Integrase Inhibitors in Persons With HIV Differs by Sex.](#) *Clin Infect Dis*



Dr. Jodie Guest

- [Posttraumatic stress disorder and its associations with antiretroviral therapy among veterans with HIV.](#) *AIDS*



Dr. Ted Johnson

- ["I Don't Wake Up Completely": Older Adults' Trade-Offs Between Nighttime Ambulation Safety and Sleep Quality.](#) *J Am Geriatr Soc*



Dr. Dio Kavalieratos

- [Addressing pain in people living with cystic fibrosis: Cystic fibrosis foundation evidence-informed guidelines.](#) *J Cyst Fibros*
- [Clinician Insights into Effective Components, Delivery Characteristics and Implementation Strategies of Ambulatory Palliative Care for People with Heart Failure: A Qualitative Analysis.](#) *J Card Fail*
- [Impact of caregiver and patient age on efficacy of caregiver interventions in advanced cancer: a meta-regression.](#) *J Pain Symptom Manage*
- [Patients' and Caregivers' Perspectives on the Role of Ambulatory Specialty Palliative Care for People with Heart Failure.](#) *J Pain Symptom Manage*



Dr. Ambar Kulshreshtha

- [Proceedings of the Alzheimer's Diagnosis in Older Adults with Chronic Conditions \(ADACC\) Network Inaugural Annual Conference.](#) *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*



Dr. Miranda Moore

- [Gender parity in CERA survey submissions.](#) *Fam Med.*



Dr. Ali John Zarrabi

- [Dangerous Variation or Patient-Centered Care? Palliative Care and Pain Providers' Comfort, Experiences, and Approaches when Treating Cancer Pain With Coexisting Aberrant Behaviors.](#) *Am J Hosp Palliat Care*

Media and Public Appearances



- Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Innovators of the year for senior health: Improving Care Through Improv, Fayron Epps and Dr. Ugochi Ohuabunwa](#) (**Dr. Ted Johnson** quoted)



- Emory News Center | [Emory Researchers Use Voice Analysis to Study Psychedelic Therapy](#) (**Dr. Deanna Kaplan** featured)



- American Society for Nutrition | [American Society for Nutrition Foundation announces recipients of National Scientific Achievement Awards](#) (**Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu** featured)