



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Department of Family
and Preventive Medicine

Monthly News
July-August 2025

55 Words from the Chair



The new academic year brings new faces to our education, clinical, outreach, and research missions. Scroll down for 5K opportunities, Insight training, and lots of important and noteworthy news. Also, keep an eye out for information about our Sept. 18 FPM quarterly meeting, and calls for nominations for Clinical Distinctions and our 2025 department awards.



It is with profound sadness that we share news of **Andrea M. Hill's** sudden death on May 25, 2025. Andrea was a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Division of Palliative Care. She joined our department in 2024 after many years as a student and staff member at the Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University and she will be greatly missed.

An exceptionally bright, motivated, talented, creative, and insightful person, Andrea leaves behind a tremendous legacy at GSU, Emory and in the broader field of gerontology. Among her many student accolades, she won the Institute's Outstanding MA Student (2020) award, the Mary M. Mackinnon Endowed Scholarship (2021), the Harold V. & Anna Marie Little Scholarship in Gerontology, and was awarded the Virginia M. Smyth Graduate Scholarship (2020) from the Georgia Gerontology Society.

Andrea's contributions moved science forward in innovative and profound ways, including her work on multiple research publications and presentations, many of which led the creation of a novel improv-based training program that is improving the lives of care partners and people living with dementia.

Those who knew Andrea well, knew her to be wise beyond her years, witty, and kind. She was dedicated to making a difference, including in the lives of older adults and their care partners. Beloved by students, staff, and faculty, we are grateful for Andrea, mourn her loss, and will cherish her memory.



Grayson Baxter welcomed son Theodore on June 24.



Dr. Thien-Kim Le welcomed son Jacob Le-Goetz on September 5.

Important Links

Department Expense Request Form and Letterhead

[FPM Expense Request Form](#)

[FPM Letterhead/Poster & PowerPoint template](#)

Mandatory Insight Training for all faculty and staff

Insight has officially gone live as of August 29

Emory University has introduced a fully integrated research administration platform, [Insight](#), which went live on **Friday, August 29**. Insight is a cloud-based system unifying distributed and complex organizational processes into one highly integrated system to enable compliance, efficiency, and transparency. For more details about Insight at Emory, read more below or visit the Insight SharePoint site [HERE](#) to watch past town hall recordings, review presentations, newsletters, and other updates.

REQUIRED Insight Trainings:

On August 2, you should have been notified by email that you have been assigned Brainer trainings related to Insight. **These trainings are mandatory for all faculty and staff and should be completed BEFORE Friday, August 29**. To access the Brainier Learning Management System and view your assigned trainings, log into Emory's HR Self Service with your Emory NetID and password by clicking [HERE](#).

Opportunities and Events

SOM Faculty Opportunities and Recognitions Calendar

- **Sept. 12:** [Navigating moral distress in academic medicine](#)
- **Sept. 16:** [SOM New Faculty Orientation](#)
- **Sept. 17:** [Midcareer Faculty Leadership Development Seminar](#) deadline
- **Sept. 18:** FPM Quarterly Meeting: [Zoom link](#)
- **Oct. 4:** Winship 5K - [join Team Palliators](#)
- **Oct. 11:** [PA Program fundraiser Heel to Heal 5K](#)
- **Oct. 24-25:** [27th Annual Cardiology Update for the Non-Cardiologist](#)
- [EM-ProLEAD](#) applications due - October 2025
- [SOM Clinical Distinctions](#) nominations open - September 2025
- [FPM Annual Awards](#) nominations open - September 2025
- [Dean's Distinguished Lecture and Award](#) nominations open - December 1, 2025
- [Junior Faculty Development Course](#) applications due - Spring 2026

Loan Forgiveness for Primary Care!

September 1 is when applications open for **The Kathelen and Dan Amos Medical Student Loan Forgiveness Program: Improving Access in Georgia**. [Check out the program webpage](#) to learn more about how Emory medical students, residents, and early career primary care physicians can qualify for up to \$160,000 in loan forgiveness. Physicians who practice outside the metro-Atlanta area can qualify for up to \$200,000.

Run for a Good Cause - Support Winship and the PA Program!



Get ready to lace up your running (or walking!) shoes: The **Palliators** are back for the **2025 Winship 5K!** Whether you're a seasoned runner, casual walker, or enthusiastic cheerleader, there's a place for you on the team.

 **Event Date:** Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 8:30 AM

 **Location:** Emory University, McDonough Field

 **Team Name:** Palliators

 **Goal:** Fundraise \$2,500, bond, and have fun!

 **Who:** You, friends, and family (strollers welcome)!

How to Join the Palliators Team:

Go to https://secure2.convio.net/emory/site/TR?fr_id=1350&pg=entry.

Click the "**Participate**" tab

Select "**Join a Team**"

In the Team Name search box, type **Palliators** and select the team

Follow the prompts and be sure to provide all required or requested information to complete your registration.



Emory PA Program's Heel to Heal 5k is officially scheduled for October 11th. There will be fun, music, food, etc. T-shirts are included with the purchase of an early registration ticket, so make sure to [register early](#). See you at the starting line! Thank you for supporting the **Emory Farmworker Project!!**

 **Event Date:** Saturday, October 11, 2025
9 - 10 am: Check in and t-shirt pick-up
10 am: Race begins

 **Location:** Emory Student Activity & Academic Center (1946 Starvine Way)

 **Goal:** Fundraise for the EFP and promote health and wellness!

 **Who:** You, friends, and family (strollers welcome)! Everyone is required to sign a paper waiver during check in.

[Registration and more information](#)

Celebrating our Successes

Graduations and New Beginnings



Family Medicine graduates and new residents



Palliative Medicine graduates and new fellows.



Preventive Medicine graduates and new residents.



Ms. Ursula Robertson traveled to Tulum, Mexico with her sister and her son and shared this beautiful beach sunset photo with us.



Congratulations to Dr. Sharon Rabinovitz and the providers at Emory Student Health! They are officially [AAAHC](#) accredited for the 8th time through 2028.



In May and June, students from the **PA Program**, DPT Program, and **DFPM faculty**, along with students, faculty, and volunteers from across Emory and beyond travelled to South Georgia to provide free care to over 1,200 farmworkers and their families at the **Emory Farmworker Project**. From chronic disease to wound care, child to elder, this dedicated team brought their skill, deep compassion, and a collaborative spirit that fostered excellent care and interprofessional learning. We look forward to returning in the fall to continue to serve this community.

Recent and Upcoming Presentations



Erin Weinisch, DHSc, MPAS, PA-C and **Amber Davis**, MMSc, PA-C presented at the Georgia Association of Physician Assistants (GAPA) Summer Conference in late June. Their presentation, *"Rise of the Robot: Using AI in Clinical Practice,"* explored the integration of artificial intelligence tools to support clinical documentation and reduce cognitive workload. The session engaged practicing PAs from across the region.



Dr. Ali John Zarrabi presented at CAPC's Interprofessional Grand Rounds on July 23rd on the topic: "Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy in Palliative Care: Early Clinical Trial Insights and Challenges."

This Interprofessional Grand Rounds session reviewed early findings from clinical trials, examining the impact of psilocybin on patients' physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Through real-world cases, Dr. Zarrabi discussed how psilocybin therapy can be integrated into palliative care, including considerations for patient selection, safety, and support as well as the vital role of chaplains and spiritual care providers in helping patients navigate profound psychedelic experiences, fostering meaning-making, reconciliation, and relief from suffering.



On July 29th, **Dr. Leslie Johnson** gave a talk entitled, "Designing for Impact: Developing Strategies to Integrate Hypertension and HIV Care Through Community Engagement in South Africa," for the International Society of Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention's (ISCEP) 10th Global Webinar.

FPM Publications



Collaborative Publications

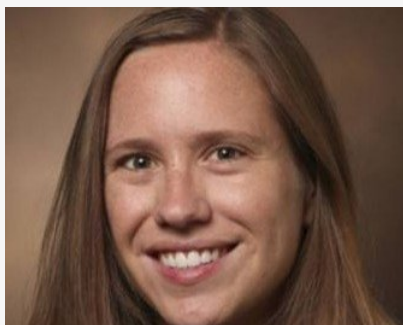


Dr. Puneet Chehal and Dr. Mo Ali published [Trends in cardiometabolic multimorbidity in non-elderly adult Medicaid enrollees, 2018-2022.](#) *Front Epidemiol.*





Dr. Puneet Chehal and Dr. Anne Dunlop published [The probability of preterm or early term second live births in the southern U.S. State of Georgia, 2011-2020.](#) *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*.



Dr. Rebecca DePew and Dr. Kim Curseen published [Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Managing Diabetes at End-of-Life.](#) *J Palliat Med*.



Dr. Leslie Johnson and Dr. Mo Ali published [The Influence of Depression, Positive Health Behaviors, and Weight Status on Glycated Hemoglobin: A Sequential Mediation Analysis of the INDEPENDENT Trial.](#) *J Gen Intern Med*. and [Perceptions of body size and non-communicable disease risk among people with HIV in Nairobi, Kenya: an explanatory mixed-methods study.](#) *BMJ Glob Health*.



Dr. Jane Lowers and Dr. Dio Kavalieratos published [Symptom factors and their clinical correlates among adults with cystic fibrosis.](#) *J Cyst Fibros* and [Examining Help-Seeking Behavior in People Living Alone With Cognitive Impairment](#) *J Appl Gerontol*



Dr. Sara Turbow and Dr. Mo Ali published [Hospital health information exchange participation and heart failure discharges to skilled nursing facilities: a cohort study.](#) *BMC Health Serv Res*





Dr. Deanna Kaplan and Dr. Ai John Zarrabi published [A critical evaluation of psilocybin-assisted therapy protocol components from clinical trial patients, facilitators, and caregivers.](#) *Psychotherapy (Chic)*



Alex Kendall, Dr. Miranda Moore, and Dr. Susy Alfonso published [Building a Structured, Evidence-Based Remediation Program for Today's Learners.](#) *J Physician Assist Educ.*





Dr. Ravi Pathak, Dr. Tammie Quest, and Dr. Dio Kavalieratos published [AI in Palliative Care: A Scoping Review of Foundational Gaps and Future Directions for Responsible Innovation.](#) *J Symptom Pain Manage.*

Individual Faculty Publications



Dr. Mo Ali

- [Blood Pressure Measurements From Self-Service Health Kiosks in US Retail Stores, 2017-2024](#). *JAMA Cardiol*.
- [Cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic syndrome: A new frontier or simple rebranding?](#) *PLoS Med*.
- [Does home-based screening improve hypertension diagnosis, treatment and control? A regression discontinuity analysis in urban India](#). *BMJ Glob Health*.
- [National evidence on glucose-lowering medication use for diabetes from 62 low- and middle-income countries](#). *Nat Commun*.
- [Patient Reminders and Self-referrals Via Online Patient Portals and Text Messaging \(PReVenT\) to Improve Adherence to Screening Mammography: a Randomized Controlled Trial](#). *J Am Coll Radiol*.
- [Prevalence, awareness, treatment, and control of diabetes in India: a nationally representative survey of adults aged 45 years and older](#). *Lancet Glob Health*.
- [Weight change from incretin-based weight loss medications across categories of second-generation antipsychotics](#). *Inj J Obes*



Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal

- [Prevalence of Hepatic Steatosis and Fibrosis in Asian Indian Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes](#). *Diabetes Ther*.



Dr. Sarah Cross

- [Falling Short: Low Palliative Care Use Among Patients With Heart Failure Receiving Palliative Continuous Intravenous Inotrope Support.](#) *J Am Heart Assoc.*



Dr. Eunice Goetz

- [Perceived Confidence Levels of Cultural Humility Skills and Knowledge of Physician Assistant Students Who Have or Have Not Participated in Program-Sponsored Community Service Events](#) *J Physician Assist Edu*



Dr. Jodie Guest

- [Historically black college and university \(HBCU\) COVID-19 return-to-campus policies and prevention measures-Fall 2021.](#) *J Am Coll Health*
- [Implementation and assessment of SARS-CoV-2 prevention strategies in the 2022 Iditarod Trail Race - Alaska, United States.](#) *Ann Epidemiol.*
- [School-level data on COVID-19 cases, quarantines, and student absenteeism during the COVID-19 pandemic: understanding missingness.](#) *Am J Epidemiol*



Dr. Young-Rock Hong

- [Association of USPSTF Guideline Expansion with Colorectal Cancer Screening Uptake and Recommendations among Adults aged 45-49. *Gastroenterology*.](#)
- [Cancer beliefs, risk perceptions, and health protective behaviors among people living with diabetes in the United States: Results from the Health Information National Trends Survey. *Prev Med Rep*](#)
- [Colorectal cancer screening in adults aged 45-49: provider availability, CT colonography access, and screening rates. *J Natl Cancer Cent*.](#)
- [Early supportive and nutritional care for adults with pancreatic cancer: A pilot study. *J Pain Symptom Manage*](#)
- [Mental Healthcare Utilization Among US Healthcare Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from the 2020-2021 National Health Interview Survey. *J Healthc Manag*.](#)
- [Trends in Rates of Heat-Related Deaths Across Population Groups in the United States, 2000-2023. *Public Health Rep*.](#)



Dr. Leslie Johnson

- [Perceptions of body size and non-communicable disease risk among people with HIV in Nairobi, Kenya: an explanatory mixed-methods study. *BMJ Global Health*](#)



Dr. Ted Johnson

- [Behavioral Compared With Drug Therapy for Overactive Bladder Symptoms in Parkinson Disease: A Randomized Noninferiority Trial. *JAMA Neurol*.](#)
- ["Those Gray Areas of Healthcare": Primary Care Perspectives of Obstacles that Influence Decision Making with Families of African American Persons Living with Dementia. *J Prim Care Community Health*.](#)

- [Updating STEADI for Primary Care: Recommendations From the American Geriatrics Society Workgroup.](#) *J Am Geriatr Soc.*



Dr. Dio Kavalieratos

- [Accuracy of the "Surprise Question" in predicting 90-day mortality among hospitalized patients with decompensated cirrhosis.](#) *Hepatol Commun.*
- [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

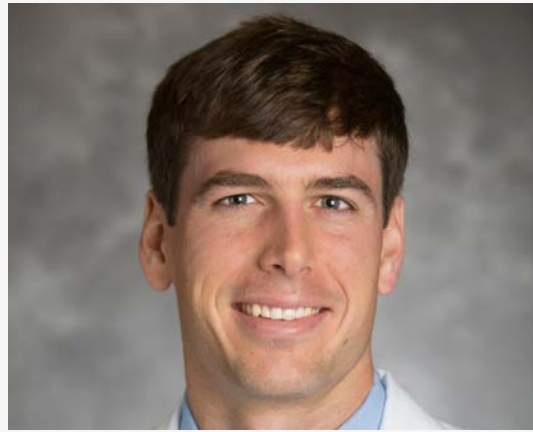
- [Association of neighborhood location and 30-day readmissions in patients with diabetes.](#) *J Hosp Med*
- [Association of cardiovascular disease with dementia: A longitudinal analysis using National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center data.](#) *J Alzheimers Dis Rep*
- [Does home-based screening improve hypertension diagnosis, treatment and control? A regression discontinuity analysis in urban India.](#) *BMJ Glob Health.*



Dr. Miranda Moore

- [Development and Psychometric Properties of a Self-Efficacy Scale for Healthy Meals in a Diverse Sample of Adults.](#) *Res Sq*

- [Increasing Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates Using Previsit Planning in Patients Age 65 and Older. J Healthc Qual.](#)



Dr. Ryan Smith

- [Co-Creation and Co-Benefits: Incorporating Planetary Health Education into a Primary Care Clerkship. Intersections: The Education Journal of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, 7/21/25.](#)



Dr. Sathish Thirunavukkarasu

- [Association of Framingham cardiovascular disease risk scores with 10-year risk of cardiovascular mortality: a retrospective cohort study in South India. Indian Heart J.](#)



Dr. Sara Turbow

- [Chronic Conditions, Multimorbidity, and Health Outcomes Among US Adults. Prev Chronic Dis.](#)
- [Frequent Missed Opportunities for Earlier HIV Diagnosis in a Routine Opt-out Testing Environment in Atlanta. Open Forum Infect Dis](#)



Dr. Ali John Zarrabi

- [Psilocybin treatment extends cellular lifespan and improves survival of aged mice.](#) *NPJ Aging*

Media and Public Appearances



- WABE-FM | [Emory epidemiologist warns about impact of CDC advisory panel gutting, hiring of vaccine skeptics](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** quoted)
- Georgia Recorder | [Key vaccine panel recommends banning thimerosal from shots but CDC's own research says it's harmless](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** quoted)
- Democracy Now! | [CDC workers hold protest in Atlanta as RFK Jr. pulls funding from Global Vaccine Group](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** quoted)
- WANF-TV 📺 | [A growing trend: Opting out of childhood vaccinations](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** interviewed)
- WABE-FM | [Georgia's kindergarten vaccination rates decline as more parents claim exemptions](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** quoted)
- WebMD | [Why COVID spikes in the summer, and how to stay safe](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** quoted)
- WANF-TV 📺 | [Emory experts debunk common myths about measles vaccine](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** interviewed)
- Capital B Atlanta | [Florida vaccine rollback sparks concerns for Black families in Georgia](#) (**Dr. Jodie Guest** quoted)



- Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Your guide to working out in the Georgia heat](#) (**Dr. Michael Kraft** quoted)

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Fitness changes as you age. Here's how to change with it.](#) (**Dr. Michael Kraft** quoted)



- McKnight's Long-Term Care News | [Better hospital-nursing home communication tied to fewer readmissions](#) (**Dr. Sara Turbow** featured)



- Newsweek | [Psychedelic drug may slow aging](#) (Emory research featured, **Dr. Ali John Zarrabi** quoted)
- Discover Magazine | [Magic mushroom compound psilocybin may have anti-aging properties](#) (Emory research featured, **Dr. Ali John Zarrabi** quoted)
- PsyPost | [Psilocybin helped aging mice not just live longer but also "look better" in groundbreaking new study](#) (Emory research featured, **Dr. Ali John Zarrabi** quoted)
- Medical Independent | [Fungi to be with: Are mushrooms more 'magical' than we thought?](#) (Emory research featured, **Dr. Ali John Zarrabi** quoted)



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