

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine

A Decade in Review

2014 - 2024

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Executive Summary

The time is right to review the trajectory of the last decade of the Department of Family and Preventive medicine. Dr. Ted Johnson began what is now a near 10-year term of department leadership as of November 2014. This began a decade of exceptional growth and accomplishment, which this document reviews.

The number of faculty in the department have grown from 20 faculty members in 2014 to 90 faculty members today. The staff has grown from 13 to 35 employees. There have been new divisions joining the department (Division of Student Health Services, Division of Palliative Medicine) that have fueled this growth along with expansion of existing programs (Physician Assistant program and the Divisions of Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine). Faculty are recognized institutionally (Tina-Ann Thompson, Sharon Rabinovitz) and nationally (Mo Ali, Tammie Quest, Ted Johnson, Dio Kavalieratos, Kimberly Curseen) for their excellence.

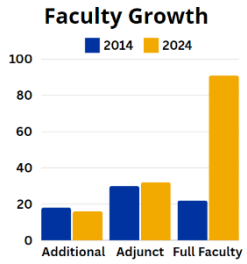
Between 2014 and today, there is a 1200% increase in faculty publications, which outpaces the 350% increase in total number of faculty over the same period. Over the 10-year period, the cumulative awards to the Department are $18M, with NIH awards received 24 YTD at $1.81M (122% greater than the prior year- 2023) and total applications at $3.94M (39% greater than prior year). These outcomes rank us- as of last year- as 37th in NIH funding. Top ten is within reach.

Education and training programs have also grown. The cohort of Family Medicine residents increased from 24 total residents for three years to 30 residents. While there are programs in family medicine nationally that do struggle, we have enjoyed a 100% fill rate without Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program ("**SOAP**"). The expansion was made possible by a gift from the Kathelen and Dan Amos Family Foundation with sustaining funding through a VA expansion. The Public Health and General Preventive Medicine Residency and Fellowship used two HRSA awards to expand from a usual 1 trainee per year to a high-water mark of 7 trainees and a usual of 3-4 per year. Palliative Medicine fellowship fills 7 adult slots per year and has fueled their division clinical and research expansion with a high retention rate out of the training program. The Kathelen and Dan Amos Medical Student Loan Forgiveness program allow students and graduates across primary care disciplines to receive money against their educational debt in exchange for pledged service in Georgia.

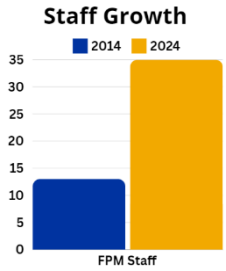
Our programs are more than academic, making a deep difference to the residents of the State as well as the nation. Our HRSA and AHRQ geriatric and primary care programs touch Georgia and help create better outcomes. Our palliative care research is changing the approach to end-of-life care. With the initial investment in the department and primary care consortium of $2.3M, we look forward to further discussions about the shared vision for our department and the needed investment to take us there.

Leadership Overview

Dr. Ted Johnson, MD, MPH became Chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in 2014 upon invitation of Dean Chris Larsen. Dr. Johnson, also serving as Division Director of General Medicine and Geriatrics and Interim Division Director of Hospital Medicine (both in the Department of Medicine), became full-time Chair. With this new leadership role in DFPM, Dr. Johnson received a one-time, lump sum of $1.25 million in development funds for the Department and $1 million for the launch of the Primary Care Consortium, which was designed to implement One Emory Primary Care for frontline care.



The Division of Family Medicine is led by **Tina-Ann Thompson, MD, MBA** (Program Lead for Emory Primary Care). **José M. Villalón-Gómez, MD, MPH** currently serves as Residency Program Director. Faculty member **Mohammed Ali, MD, MSc, PhD** serves as Department Vice Chair for Research.



The Division of Preventive Medicine is led by **Rosette Chakkalakal, MD, MHS**. **Sara Turbow, MD, MPH** is the Program Director of the Public Health and General Preventive Medicine Residency/Fellowship.

Led by **Tammie Quest, MD**, the **Division of Palliative Medicine** joined the Department in 2019. Previously a department unaffiliated Center at the Woodruff Health Sciences Center level, the faculty in palliative medicine voted 17-0 to join the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. **Lynn O'Neill, MD**, serves as the Fellowship Program Director and as the Department Vice Chair for Faculty Development. Faculty member **Kimberly Curseen, MD**, serves as the Vice Chair for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. **Dio Kavalieratos, PhD** is the Director of Research and Quality.

The **Physician Assistant Program** is led by **Alex Kendall, MS, PA-C,** is an award-winning educator (Georgia Association of Physician Assistants, 2021) who received his master's in physician assistant studies at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. As Associate Program Director, he taught clinical medicine and physical assessment, developed a social medicine curriculum, and championed student success initiatives for those with diverse lived experiences and learning challenges. His vision is to meet the needs of underserved and marginalized communities by deepening ties with the local community, expanding the primary care footprint of the PA profession, and growing a rich and diverse clinical workforce that reflects the very communities in need.

Student Health Services is led by **Sharon Rabinovitz, MD**, who previously held a similar role at Georgia State University and is a past President of the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians.

Our Mission

The Emory University School of Medicine is a leading institution with the highest standards in education, biomedical research, and patient care.

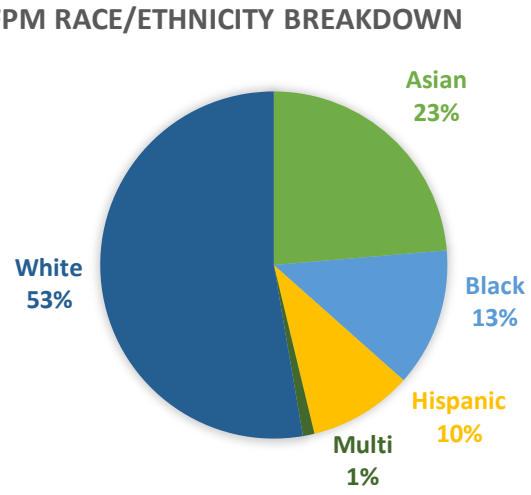
We are committed to recruiting and developing a diverse group of students and innovative leaders in biomedical science, public health, medical education, and clinical care.

We foster a culture that integrates leading edge basic, translational, and clinical research to further the ability to deliver quality health care, to predict illness and treat the sick, and to promote health of our patients and community.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Led by Vice Chair **Kimberly Curseen, MD,** our department is committed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). DFPM established a Council to incorporate the principles of JEDI into patient care, education, research and staff and faculty development so that they are normalized in our daily practices and interactions. The promotion and fostering of diversity will lead to better patient care, impactful research, innovative education, and retention of talented faculty and staff.

Our DFPM leaders have been recognized nationally for their JEDI work. Dr. Tammie Quest received the 2022 Richard Payne Outstanding Achievement in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Ted Johnson received the American Medical Women's Association 2023 Larry Zaroff Man of Good Conscience Award, presented annually to a man who has been a champion of women in medicine.



Values

DFPM values the strength that comes from diversity in our faculty and staff. Our DEI Council has surveyed the department for concerns, created DEI Grand Rounds, a DEI Virtual Library and affinity groups, and held listening sessions centered on current events. The promotion and fostering of diversity will lead to better patient care, impactful research, innovative education, and retention of talented faculty and staff. Respecting diversity within ourselves and our patients with respect to, but not limited to, age, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, socioeconomic status, and points of view is a core value of our department.

Goals

Our Department JEDI Council organizes listening-sessions and JEDI Grand Rounds and maintains a virtual library of relevant publications. We are in the process of expanding council representation to include learners. 2024-2025 strategic goals include:

- Developing resources/best practices for writing unbiased letters of recommendation/support.
- Partnering with GME office to create cross-divisional JEDI curriculum opportunities.
- Staff professional development programming and resources, which could be adopted by other SOM departments.
- Promoting workplace culture of inclusion by creating JEDI-focused faculty, staff, and trainee educational programming and opportunities to connect across divisions.

Faculty Development

Faculty Development Vice Chair Lynn O'Neill MD, MS, FAAHPM (Palliative Medicine) works with faculty across the Department both individually and corporately with goals of highlighting current strengths and achievements and helping facilitate the development and implementation of programs to meet the needs of our rapidly growing faculty.

Since assuming the Vice Chair position in 2020, Dr. O'Neill has developed and implemented a department promotions and tenure committee and an awards and recognitions committee. The DFPM has had 7 successful senior promotion and tenure actions. She is currently copiloting a mentoring program in the division of Family Medicine with Dr. Tina-Ann Thompson which will then be rolled out to the department. In the future, Dr. O'Neill plans to implement faculty development programs like those in the Department of Medicine to inspire and assist faculty with scholarship, service, and teaching to promote career satisfaction and advancement, offer skill development, and create a community of engaged faculty within the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Department Research

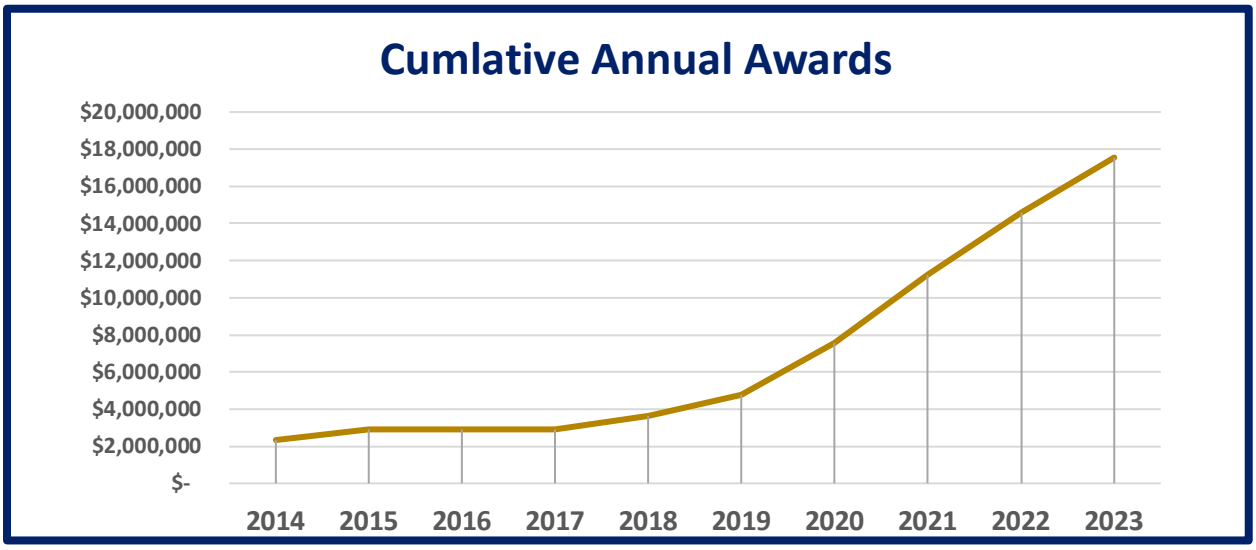
As Vice Chair of Research, **Mohammed Ali, MD, MSc, PhD** has provided invaluable mentorship to our research faculty directly and by supporting meaningful structure and resources. He has also helped identify and successfully recruit talented and capable early career faculty. Our research leadership's vision is to be a leading DFPM nationally in terms of research productivity and recognition.

In the past 3 years the department has accomplished many of its research strategic goals:

- Built a Research Culture: Established a collaborative, supportive environment that encourages an exchange of ideas and best practices. Doubled annual grant funding in 3 years. Doubled annual publications in 3 years.
- Created a Research Infrastructure: Streamlined operations to serve the needs of a growing research enterprise; conserve faculty time for research activities rather than administrative tasks. Submitted and managed twice as many competitive grants.
- Increased Research Productivity: Identified and shared funding opportunities that align with faculty interests – diverse sources. Increased access to cores that strengthened research productivity and impact. Increased research faculty by 4.
- Promoted Faculty Development: Established an environment that facilitates opportunities for clinical faculty to conduct research. Enhanced the mentorship program. Better leveraged networks in SOM and other schools.

Our research leadership team's current goals for the next 5 years are to double extramural funding, continue to heavily recruit research faculty, engage at least 3 clinical faculty in research endeavors, support the nomination of at least 3 faculty for national or regional awards, and rank in the top 20 of Family Medicine research programs.

Division Highlights



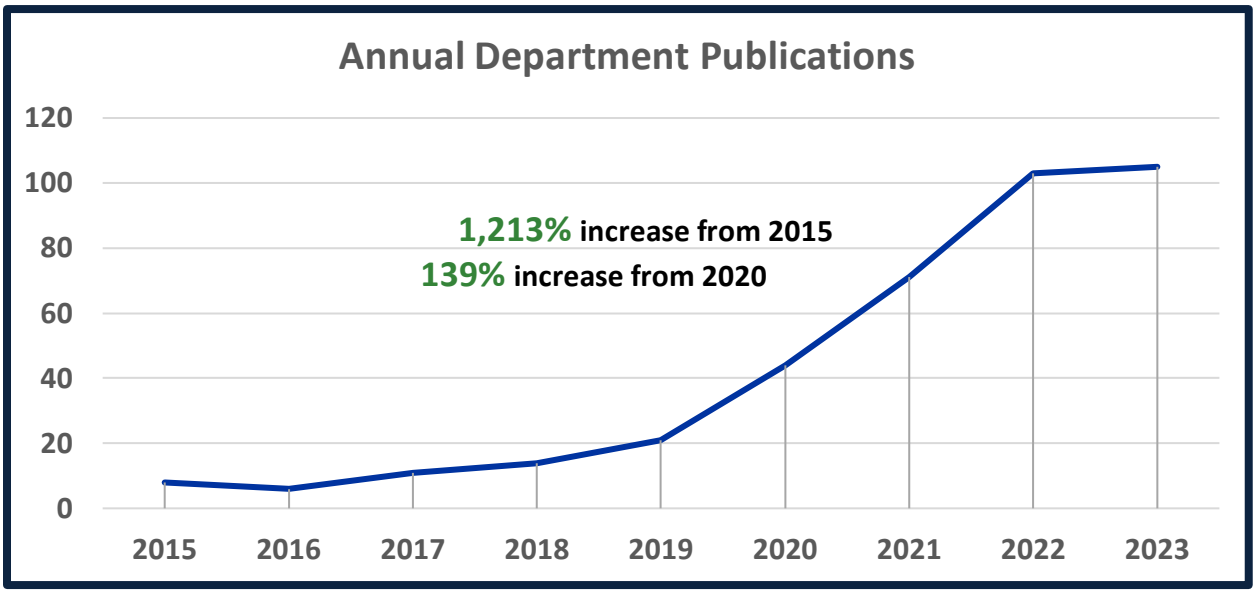
2014: A low $1 million initial investment in FPM was strategically spent to generate:

- **1,655% ROI**
- **Proposals Submitted: $22 Million**
- **Proposal Success Rate: 80%**

In the 2024 Fiscal Year, We Are on Track to…

YTD Proposals Submitted: $3.94 Million, which is 39% higher than the same time last year.

YTP Awarded Proposals: $1.81 Million, which is 122% higher than the same time last year.



Family Medicine

The division of Family Medicine consists of the Family Medicine Residency Program, the Family Medicine Faculty, and Residency Program Clinic Care services, the Behavioral Medicine Program and clinical services, and Student Programs in Family Medicine. These components represent the integration of team-based patient care, education, and training of residents, medical students, and other health professions students in the ambulatory, hospital, and community settings, and research in population-based care, and healthcare delivery. Emory Family Medicine faculty hold statewide leadership positions (GA Academy of Family Physicians, President 2021 – Susana Alfonso, 2022 – Sharon Rabinovitz).

Dr. Tina-Ann Thompson joined the Department as Division Director of Family Medicine in 2021 with no development package. Since 2014, the division has seen a 320% increase in faculty and a 333% increase in staff. The division's 4 independent researchers have been extremely successful in obtaining funding from funders such as NIH (R01, K-Awards, NIH subcontracts), Global Health Awards, Alzheimer's Association, GA CTSA, and internal institution awards. We would take this opportunity to provide Dr. Thompson with a full development package to build on the current successes of the division. Dr. Thompson was selected for the 2024 Woodruff Leadership Academy and serves as the Chair of the Emory Alliance of Women in Medicine and Science Steering Committee.

Residency Program

- The Emory Family Medicine residency expanded from 24 to 30 residents kickstarted with a 3-year philanthropic donation from Kathelen and Dan Amos. Sustaining funding was secured through VA expansion funding for the larger program size.
- Family Medicine Residency Program from unranked to #18 in the nation in 2022.
- Tracks for specialized training have been added: Health Services Research (2021), Hospital Medicine (2023) and Sports Medicine (2024).
- The Good Samaritan Clinic and Mercy Care Clinic are part of the residency curriculum.
- Graduates obtain fellowships (100% placement rate), start their practices, join group practices, work for the VA, join the CDC, practice hospital medicine, work in urgent care facilities, and become academic clinicians. Many trainees are currently in practice within EHC, including Division Director Tina-Ann Thompson. From the Class of 2024, 50% will join EHC faculty and community practices.
- The overall fill rate for family medicine categorical programs was 87.8%. Emory Family Medicine has filled 100% of available slots since 2017.
- Ryan Smith, MD chosen for the 2024 Grady Faculty Development Course for Clinical Education

Family Medicine Research

Dr. Mo Ali serves as Vice Chair for Research for the Department as well as Family Medicine faculty. He is the William H. Foege Professor of Global Health, Epidemiology, and Family and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Ali has master's training in cardiovascular medicine, global health, and business and management with expertise in diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and implementation/translation sciences, and has extensive experience in study design, implementation, and management of large population-based studies, as well as quality assurance and control. He helped design and is on the Steering Committee for the National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute (NHLBI) funded Center of Excellence for Cardio-metabolic Diseases in South Asia (CoE-CARRS), playing a significant role in the design and set up, development of treatment algorithms, trial logistics and coordination processes, and quality assurance plans for the ten clinic multi-center NHLBI-funded CARRS Translation Trial, and the three-city CARRS cohort study of 13,000 people in South Asia. Dr. Ali co-led the Expert Group on diabetes complications for the Global Burden of Diseases Study and is an investigator on several other studies in India.



Dr. Ali has specific expertise in implementation / translational sciences and metrics based on his work as a consultant for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where he helps manage a program that uses natural experiment designs to evaluate diabetes prevention and control policies in the US. He also serves as scientific advisor for the National Diabetes Prevention Program of the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation, co-managing a network of U.S. policy and health services researchers (NEXT-D Study). Dr. Ali has received departmental and national recognition for his teaching, and has mentored over 50 pre-doctoral, medical, and post-doctoral trainees. He also serves as program director for the Public Health Leadership and Implementation Science Academy for NCDs. He has published almost 200 peer-reviewed articles and has an h-index of 79.

Featured Family Medicine Researchers

- **Ambar Kulshreshtha, MD, MPH, PhD**
    - K-23 NIH NIA "Mechanistic Pathways Linking Stress and Cognition" extends his prior research work in cardiovascular diseases for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease and the reduction of health disparities. He works with mentors and collaborators in Geriatrics, Psychology, Epidemiology, Cardiology, and Neurology to investigate the mechanisms by which cardiovascular and psychosocial risk factors affect cognition and to develop novel interventions that improve cognitive reserve and reduce health disparities.



    - National Institute of Aging Butler Williams Scholars Program and Tideswell Emerging Leaders in Aging Program
    - Fellow in the Institute on Methods and Protocols for Advancement of Clinical Trials in ADRD

- Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Education grants: “Stress and Cerebrovascular Reactivity” and “South Asian Health Aging Program”
- Alzheimer's Association Research Grant - (RAPID Funding Program in Dementia): Effects of COVID pandemic on Patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Clinician Specialists’ Rising Star in Aging Research, American Geriatrics Society, 2020
- Appointed to the Commission on Health of the Public and Science for the American Academy of Family Physicians
- PI on 2022 A Novel Web-based Decision Aid Tool for Reducing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy – funded by Health Innovation Program (Georgia CTSA)
- His paper Physician Attitudes and Self-reported Practices Toward Prostate Cancer Screening in Black and White Men won the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine CERA Paper of the Year award in 2023.

- **Megha Shah, MD, MSc**
  - K23-Award “Better Together: Leveraging primary care and social network resources to create a patient-centered approach to improve diabetes among immigrant communities.”
  - NIH sub-award through NYU: Clinical Linkage Models to Address Diabetes and Hypertension Disparities in the South Asian immigrant community in the Southeastern U.S.
  - Georgia Center for Diabetes Translation Research supplement for COVID-19 testing among vulnerable populations.
  - DREAM Atlanta study, funded by NIMHHD.
  - 2 University of Utah studies on diabetes prevention in Hispanic/Latinx Americans
  - Bidirectional Global Health Disparities Research Pilot Grant - needs assessment of South Asians in Atlanta



  - Selected for 2021 Institute for Implementation Sciences Scholars at Washington University
  - Institute for Implementation Science Scholar (2021-2023) - a mentored training program for investigators interested in applying dissemination and implementation (D&I) methods to reduce the burden of chronic disease and address health inequities.
  - PI - RADx-UP CDCC Rapid Research Pilot Program grant. CHW-delivered virtual education and financial incentives to promote COVID-19 testing among at-risk South Asian immigrants in Atlanta.
  - Co-Principal Investigator for “A community-engaged health needs assessment of South Asians in Atlanta: The CENSAA Study.”

- 2022 - received an ADA Young Investigator Award to travel to the American Diabetes Association 82nd Scientific Sessions to present her recent study using community health workers

- **Miranda Moore, PhD**
  - Health economist on NIH R01 AHRQ Health Services Research Project "Integrating Costs into Shared Decision-Making for Heart Failure."
  - Evaluation Lead for HRSA Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program
  - Health Economist and Population Health Lead for Georgia Alzheimer's Project.
  - Health Economist, Morehouse SOM: "Building an Infrastructure for Evaluating Substance Use Disorder Insurance Parity Laws: Introducing Heterogeneity into Legal Datasets to Measure their Effectiveness on Addressing the Opioid Epidemic."



  - Research Champion: Emory Seavey Clinic and Physician Assistant Program
  - Research Coordinator, Family Medicine Residency Program
  - Co-Director, Family Medicine Residency Program Health Services Research Track
  - CO-PI - 2021 Alzheimer's Association project titled, "Assessing a new measure of community-level dementia-friendliness."
  - CO-I, Emory Healthy Kitchen Collaborative were awarded funding to create an effective, engaging hybrid program delivered to a patient and community population and evaluate the clinical impact of the program.
  - 2023 - selected to serve as the Co-Chair of the Research Committee for the national Teaching Kitchen Collaborative. As co-chair, she will also serve on the TKC Advisory Committee.
  - Serves on the Board of Directors as the Chair of the Research Committee for the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

- **Leslie Johnson, MPH, PhD**
  - Co-PI - funding from the Emory Maternal Child Health Center of Excellence to conduct, "The Impact of COVID-19 on Women's Experiences of Pre-natal Care, Birth Support, and Delivery in the US South," in collaboration with Dr. Subasri Narasimhan from the Hubert Department of Global Health.



  - PI – Georgia Center for Diabetes Translation Research, Assessing and Identifying Strategies to Reduce the Postpartum, Diabetes Screening Gap among Women with a History of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Georgia
  - Chosen for 2021 Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) Implementation Science Training School, for early- and mid-career researchers to

build their knowledge, skills, and confidence in the fields of implementation science and non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries.

- Co-Investigator on a 2022 U01 grant funded by NIDDK. The study entitled, “An Adaptive Intervention Trial of Home Testing with Behavioral Nudges for Improving COVID-19 Testing and Prevention among People Affected by Diabetes."
- Selected for an NIH-funded All of Us Under-represented Biomedical Researcher (UBR) Scholars Program.
- PI - R01 funded by NIMHD. This project examines whether Medicaid Managed Care mitigates race/ethnic disparities in diabetes in the US. The project is funded from September 2022 - May 2028.
- Selected for 2024 Emory SOM Junior Faculty Development course.
- Served as junior faculty supervisor for 6th Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases Implementation Science School.
- Serving a 2-year term on AcademyHealth’s Mental Health and Substance Use Research Advisory Committee
- PI on MQ Health 3-year K-equivalent, “Adapting and testing an integrated care model for treatment of type 1 diabetes and mental health co-morbidities” that allows her to expand her studies of diabetes and depression.

Palliative Medicine

The Emory Palliative Care Center is a comprehensive program providing multidimensional, interprofessional collaboration through the unique services and expertise provided across Emory, its affiliates and community partners. Our Palliative Medicine faculty physicians are all board-certified in hospice and palliative medicine. While their primary board specialties are varied and include internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, anesthesiology, and emergency medicine, all palliative medicine physicians have an academic home in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. The division has increased in faculty and staff by 100% from 2019 through 2024. Dr. Quest also has a new leadership position at Woodruff Health Sciences Center as the Chief Systems Integration Officer. Dr. Tammie Quest did not receive a package as division director to help support future growth in the division. We would reinvest in Palliative Medicine to continue to expand its research portfolio through additional recruitment.

Fellowship

- Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship annually matches all 7 positions; expansion to 7 positions (with an 8th CHOA pediatric position) was approved in AY21.
- Graduates frequently accept positions at Emory Health Care

Recruitment & Leadership

- The division has increased in size by 100% from 2019 through 2024.
- Paul DeSandre serves on the Communities Committee for the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Division of Palliative Medicine's Research Program

The Division of Palliative Medicine's research program conducts clinical, translational, and health services research to identify and address the multifactorial suffering that is synonymous with serious illness. The Division's research program comprises six faculty, five staff, six trainees, and approximately six students at any given time. This research group possesses a wide variety of expertise, including qualitative and mixed-methods research, patient-reported outcomes, EMR analyses, evidence synthesis, and randomized clinical trials. Our research spans diseases, settings, and ages, with funded research in cystic fibrosis, cancer, heart failure, and dementia. Through a mix of federal and private funding sources, the team holds more than $9 million in current funding, with several applications pending.

Since 2020, faculty within the Division published over 90 papers in some of the top research journals, including JAMA, the Journal of Palliative Medicine, Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, and the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis.

Featured Researchers

- **Dio Kavalieratos, PhD, FAAHPM**

  In March 2020, Dr. Dio Kavalieratos was recruited to join the Division of Palliative Medicine as Associate Professor and Director of Research and Quality. Dr. Kavalieratos brought more than $3.15 million in existing foundation funding with him from the University of Pittsburgh. Since joining the Research Department, he has built a strong research infrastructure and mentoring network both within the Division and across Emory. Dr. Kavalieratos is internationally recognized for his work in non-cancer palliative care, and for his landmark review establishing the effectiveness of palliative care in JAMA.



  Honors

  - Granted tenure in 2023.
  - Elected to Board of Directors of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) and named a fellow of AAHPM.
  - Associate Editor, Journal of Palliative Medicine.
  - Served on the planning committee and convened a panel during a November 2023 National Academy of Medicine workshop on research priorities in serious illness.
  - Received the 2023 Department of Family and Preventive Medicine's award for mentoring.

  Awards

  - Received a $500,000 Fraser-Parker Foundation gift to support new postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty.

- Recently received a five-year R01 award from NHLBI on first submission (impact score 21; 9th percentile).

- **Sarah Cross, PhD, MPH, MSW**

  Dr. Sarah Cross is an Assistant Professor and health services researcher who joined the Division of Palliative Medicine in 2022. Formally a clinical social worker in home hospice and palliative care, she shifted her career to focus on establishing evidenced-based solutions to help medical and social systems to meet the needs of seriously ill patients. Dr. Cross' research has focused on socio-economic disparities in the end-of-life, including the caregiving needs of formerly incarcerated older adults.



  Press
  - 2022 – New York Times article cites a study done by Dr. Sarah Cross summarized in NEJM article, "Changes in the Place of Death in the United States" assesses changes from 2003 – 2017 in where people die of natural causes (i.e., at home, in a nursing home, in a hospital).

  Honors
  - Named American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine research scholar.
  - Accepted into Harvard Medical School Workshop on Research Methods in Supportive Oncology.

  Awards
  - Received a two-year mentored career development award from Georgia CTSA KL2; "Dying While Poor: Investigating Multi-level Determinants of Inequities in End-of-life Care for Adults with Cancer." Primary mentor: Kavalieratos.
  - Submitted K01 to NHLBI; received nearly fundable score on first submission (38, current NHLBI payline for K awards is 30). Primary mentor: Kavalieratos; co-mentor: Neal Dickert, MD PhD (Director, Emory Health Services Research)

- **Jane Lowers, PhD, MPA**

  Dr. Lowers is an Assistant Professor and social scientist who joined the Division of Palliative Medicine in 2020. Dr. Lowers brought with her significant experience in qualitative exploration of sensitive topics among historically disenfranchised or marginalized populations, most notably for social and caregiving support for adults aging solo. Prior to her role as a researcher, Dr. Lowers served as the Director of Government Strategy and Group Scientific Director of Medscape.



  Honors
  - Accepted to 2023-2024 cohort of nationally competitive Health and Aging Policy Fellows (supported by the John A. Hartford Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, and West Health), with a focus of improving policies related to health equity for the aging without family support.

- Accepted to Dementia Palliative Care Clinical Trials Training (DEM-PCCT) Program, an NIH-funded program of Duke University and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Awards

- Received 2022 Emory Center for Health in Aging pilot grant.

- **Ali John Zarrabi, MD**

  Dr. Zarrabi is a palliative care physician-scientist focused on improving outcomes for patients with pain, psychological distress, and complex morbidity. His research investigates the use of pharmacologic therapies to augment behavioral interventions. Dr. Zarrabi is the PI on Emory's first investigator-initiated clinical trial investigating psilocybin-assisted therapy.



  Honors

  - Accepted into Harvard Medical School Workshop on Research Methods in Supportive Oncology
  - Convened a national conference on psychedelic therapy in palliative care in 2022.

  Awards

  - 2023 – Received funding through The Emory Woodruff Health Sciences Center for Health in Aging. "The effects of psilocybin on oxidative stress, inflammation, and aging."
  - 2022-2024 - Received a two-year mentored career development award from the National Palliative Care Research Center (NPCRC). "Characterizing Biopsychosocial Complexity in Outpatient Palliative Care." Primary mentor: Kavalieratos.
  - 2024 - Submitted a four-year $215,000 Research Scholar Grant to the American Cancer Society, "Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for Existential Distress in Cancer Survivors." This new submission builds upon the first proof-of-concept study assessing the safety, feasibility, and acceptability of Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy for demoralization in cancer survivors.

- **Rachel Hadler, MD**

  Dr. Hadler is a board-certified anesthesiologist jointly appointed in Palliative Medicine/ DFPM who joined in 2023 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Hadler's research portfolio focuses on palliative care practices to conserve dignity among critically ill patients.

  Awards

  - Recipient of the 2023 Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER) Mentored Research Training Grant (MRTG) for her project *Addressing Treatment Intensity in Critical Illness through Assessment of Early Mortality after Interhospital Transfer*. Primary mentor: Kavalieratos.

Physician Assistant Program

The Emory Physician Assistant Program is jointly administered by the DFPM and the Office of Medical Education and Student Affairs (OMESA). The PA program recruits, educates, and mentors a diverse group of students to become highly regarded physician assistants providing compassionate health care of the highest quality. The Program values the highest standards of professionalism and team-based medicine with a commitment to the medically underserved. Graduates are prepared to practice evidence-based primary care and preventive medicine, engage in lifelong learning, and assume future leadership roles.

Education

- The Emory PA program announced in March 2024 that as a result of a national search that Alex Kendall, MMSc, PA-C, would serve as the new Emory PA Program Director.
- The second oldest Physician Assistant programs in the country, Emory's PA program celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021.
- Ranked #4 in 2023. Has been ranked among the top 5 graduate-level PA Programs by US News and World Report since the first PA Program rankings were published.
- Implemented Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) training
- First place National I-Scan (PA student Ultrasound competition) winners (2018, 2021, 2022) and second place winners (2023)
- Developed PA Board Review course into a national online CME product in partnership with Exam Master, offering up to 80 hours of Cat 1 AAPA self-assessment CME hours. Proceeds fund the Emory Farmworker Project.
- Class of 2025 Demographic: 85% Female, 37% Minority, 19% URM, and 42% Veteran
- Created program DEI committee with students, faculty, and staff.
- Increased URM faculty to 45% over the past 3 years.
- Faculty member Dr. Susana Alfonso (Family Medicine and PA Program) serves as one of two national liaisons between the American Academy of Family Physicians and the ARC-PA, the national accrediting body for PA Programs.
- Faculty member Dr. Jodie Guest co-directs the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Office of Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice

Research Involvement

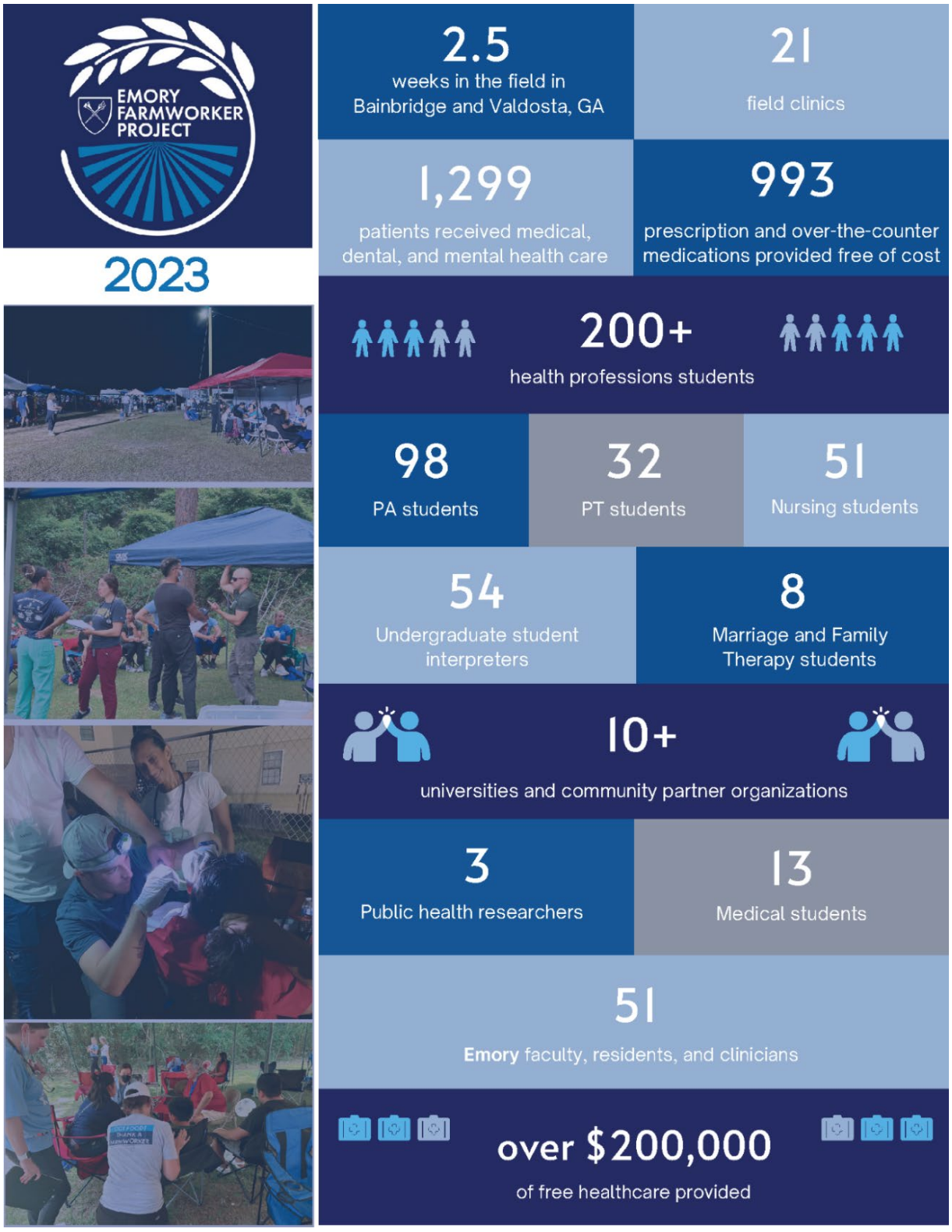
- Jodie Guest, department faculty through the PA program, was named collaborator on a $7.8 million gift for the COVID-19 response. Her work in the community distributing vaccines has given PA students a valuable service-learning opportunity during the pandemic.

The Farm Workers Program (EFP)

- A multidisciplinary effort providing health services to the underserved migrant farmworker community each year in June and October.
- Pop-up field clinics meet a critical public health need while giving clinical teams experience in treating a wide range of conditions — everything from health screenings

for patients who have never received any sort of clinical care to women in labor or workers with serious acute illnesses.

- Dr. Jodie Guest serves as Associate Program Director for the PA Program and leads the EFP, which has become the hallmark initiative of the PA Program and received national recognition for its innovative, culturally appropriate delivery of care.



Preventive Medicine

The division focuses on improving health and preventing disease across diverse populations. Although we are in Atlanta, our work is global, influencing the well-being of our community and our world. We conduct research to better understand chronic and acute disease, how to prevent conditions through lifestyle and wellness, and what policy and procedures can better enhance our systems and government. Our results are implemented into real-life clinical practice and into larger, complex healthcare system policy all with the goal of promoting healthier, longer lives with fewer actualized complications from easily preventable conditions.

Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal joined the Department as Division Director of Preventive Medicine in 2021 with no development package. Since 2014, the division has seen a 700% increase in faculty and a 300% increase in staff. 75% of faculty are involved in research. The team holds 3 K-Awards, HRSA educational grant, public health grants, and internal institution awards. Additionally, our team has strong collaborations with Rollins School of Public Health and Emory Spiritual Health. Investing in the Preventive Medicine Division will allow further research growth and will solidify the residency program.

Residency Program

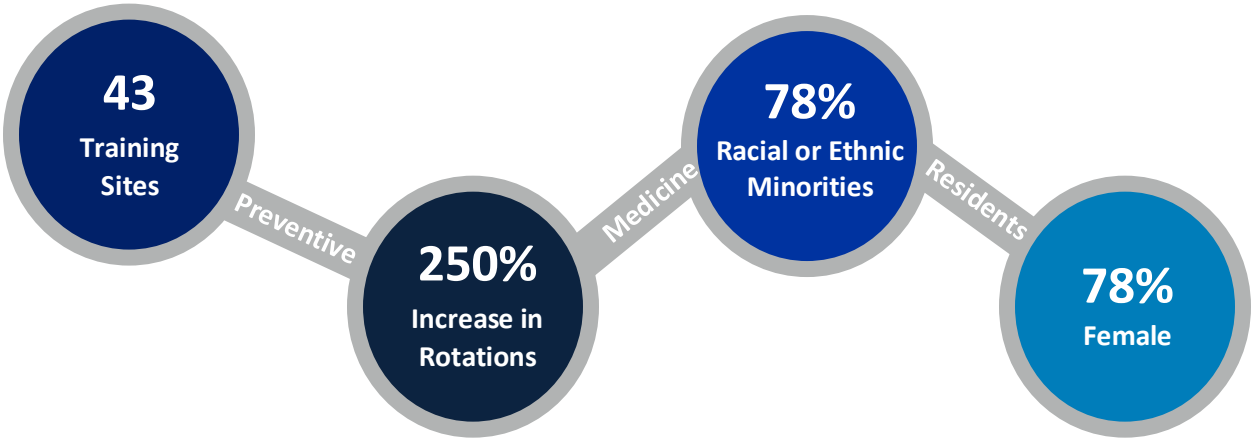
Despite the large burden of preventable chronic conditions, infectious diseases, injuries, and other major preventable health problems, the U.S. medical workforce's capacity to prevent and control many of these problems at the population level is insufficient. The number of physicians trained and board-certified in the population-directed specialty of Preventive Medicine (PM) continues to decline. The program trained 1 trainee per class year. To expand the scope of training, former Program Director Rick Goodman, JD, MD, MPH, and then Associate Program Director Sara Turbow, MD, MPH, applied for and received a $1.94 Million HRSA cooperative agreement **Increasing the Size and Capabilities of the U.S. Preventive Medicine Workforce Applicant Organization: Emory University Preventive Medicine Residency Program** from 2018 – 2023, as well as a second Public Health Scholarship Program award (2022-2025) to support MPH tuition and tuition for other coursework for Emory PM residents/fellows.

This HRSA funding increased physician training and workforce capacity in preventive medicine through a well-defined and enriched curriculum that emphasizes increased inter-professional collaboration and delivery of preventive services to medically underserved and other communities. Through this funding, the PM residency has met multiple goals, including:

- Expand Emory's accredited PM Residency training by 33%;
- Innovate inter-professional and intercultural training by establishing curricula in three major thematic areas – *preventive cardiology*, *cancer prevention and control*, and *frontline public health practice* – and in selected areas that reflect HHS clinical

preventive priorities (e.g., opioid abuse, mental health, childhood obesity, and health disparities among underserved populations);
- Trained 5 residents annually during the award period and 10 residents who sat for the specialty certification exam in Public Health / General Preventive Medicine.

The Emory PMRP has recruited diverse trainees into the program.



- The residency / fellowship program is led by Program Director Sara Turbow, MD, MPH, with Sarah Dupont, MD, MPH, as the Associate Program Director.
- The residency has grown from 2 approved positions in 2017-2018 to 7 approved positions beginning the academic year 2019-2020
- Ongoing partnership with Atlanta VA Medical Center
- To our knowledge, the only Preventive Medicine Residency/Fellowship Program that has frontline public health rotations at all three levels of government public health: county, state, and federal (DeKalb Public Health, Georgia Department of Public Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Featured Preventive Medicine Researchers

- **Puneet Chehal, PhD**
  Dr. Chehal is a health economist who studies Medicaid programs, diabetes, and race disparities in health. In her ongoing KL2 research, Dr. Chehal is expanding her research portfolio to use natural language processing to study Medicaid managed care program design and efforts to mitigate cardiometabolic disease over the life course.



    - KL2 "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.
    - Co-I on an R01 studying race/ethnic disparities in diabetes management among Medicaid enrollees receiving care from managed care organizations.
    - Her 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.

- **Deanna Kaplan, PhD**
  Dr. Kaplan is a clinical psychologist who studies the development and implementation of wearable and mobile technologies for measuring health processes outside of the lab, as individuals go about their natural daily lives. She is jointly appointed with Emory Spiritual Health.



    - Co-I with Jennifer Mascaro on OPT-IN study (5 years, $10M), a collaborative effort between Vail Health, UW- Madison, and Drs. Kaplan and Mascaro at Emory. OPT-IN is the initial flagship project that launches the research program of the new center and aims to optimize protocols for psilocybin-assisted treatment through a randomized clinical trial design and multi-method ambulatory assessment.

- **Jennifer Mascaro, PhD**
  Dr. Mascaro's research program centers on examining the effects of mindfulness, compassion, and social connection interventions on well-being and health among hospitalized patients and the providers who care for them, as well as identifying and evaluating novel points of entry for integrative approaches to well-being in hospital medicine. She is jointly appointed with Emory Spiritual Health.



    - Dr. Mascaro's K01 award supports her training in integrative oncology research methods and implementation science, which will allow her to evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of a chaplain delivered CBCT® (Cognitively Based Compassion Training) meditation derived program for patients receiving hematopoietic stem cell transplant for cancer.
    - In response to HRSA's program purpose to support the COVID-19 era health workforce with high-quality training for the health professions and nursing, Dr, Ted Johnson and Dr. Jennifer Mascaro were funded for their program: The Atlanta's Resiliency Resource fOr frontline Workers (ARROW) will leverage academic practice partnerships and engage stakeholders in a sustainable community of front-line workforce resiliency training. This program will offer comprehensive resources for resiliency enrichment, training, and professional development for both practicing and student nurses, physicians, and public safety personnel.

- **Sathish Thirunavukkarasu, MBBS, MPH, PhD**
  Dr. Thirunavukkarasu's research focuses on implementing behavioral change interventions targeted at preventing type 2 diabetes, with a specific emphasis on leveraging the "Precision Prevention" approach.
  - Serves as Editorial Board Member for *Nature: Communications Medicine, Diabetes Therapy, BMC Public Health*
  - PI on "Urinary Biomarkers of Tobacco Smoke Exposure and Harm" funded by McMaster University
  - Scopus listed as top-most first author globally to publish articles related to new-onset diabetes in COVID-19.



- **Sara Turbow, MD, MPH**
  - Selected for 2021 Tideswell Emerging Leaders in Aging Program, an inspiring, interdisciplinary experience that augments and leverages existing leadership skills for clinical, research, policy, and educational initiatives in aging.
  - Dr. Turbow's K23 NIH NIA "iCAREFOR: Interhospital Care Fragmentation in Older Adults with Dementia examines prehospital risk factors for and the impact of information sharing on interhospital care fragmentation in older adults with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.
  - 2023 recipient of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research Early Career Award. This award recognizes an APTR member who has completed their training within the last decade and whose contributions have enhanced student learning and resident instruction in the field of prevention and public health.
  - Featured Researcher at Department of Medicine's Research Day, presenting "The Past, Present, and Future of Health Information Exchanges."
  - Her article "Trends and Demographic Disparities in Diabetes Hospital Admissions: Analyses of Serial Cross-Sectional National and State Data, 2008-2017," published in *Diabetes Care,* is one of two papers selected for the 2023 Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Award for Outstanding Research, sponsored by Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and AcademyHealth.



Student Health Services

Emory University Student Health Services supports and empowers each student to embrace and prioritize their physical, mental, and social health, and overall well-being to complement their academic mission and achieve lifelong success. Through evidence-based, exemplary care, we are committed to providing innovative, compassionate services to our diverse student body.

For our community, we serve as public health stewards to ensure appropriate support and resources during times of need.

Summary of Services (telehealth and in person):

- Primary Care
- Sexual and Reproductive Health, including LARC placement and gender affirming care
- Psychiatry
- Nutrition
- Allergy, Travel, and Immunizations
- TimelyCare access: third party telehealth provider specifically for university students which allows for access afterhours and on weekends across the country with emotional support services offered globally.
- Total number of visits in 2022-23: 21875
- Number of unique students from all schools in 2022-23: 7359 (60% are grad/professional students)
- Emory University Student Health Insurance Plan is a self-insured plan which includes dental, travel benefits, and vision, administered by Aetna. Currently, 5563 plan participants.

Areas of Focus for 2023-24:

- Improve coordination of care within the newly formed Health and Wellbeing portfolio (SHS, Counseling and Psychological Services, the Office of Respect, and the Office of Health Promotion) as we intentionally rollout the student Wellbeing framework for fall 2024. The AVP of Health, Wellbeing, Access, and Prevention, Dr. James Raper, oversees the Health and Wellbeing portfolio in Campus Life.
- Focused on improving patient satisfaction and access.
  - Implemented point of care satisfaction surveys within 24 hours after the visit.
  - Increasing schedule capacity within provider schedules.
  - Improved the student experience on the Student Patient Portal with a revision March 11, 2024.
  - Counseling and Psychological Services are now available 24/7/365 to support students in crisis.
- We continue to be responsive to the changing landscape of reproductive healthcare and support students in an intentional way. We expanded our services to include Nexplanon this year. We are implementing a Health Access Vending machine which includes emergency contraception on campus (still in process).



Primary Care Consortium

The Emory Primary Care Consortium (PCC) was initiated as part of the School of Medicine and Emory Healthcare strategic plan (2014-2018) to create a seamless primary care platform for patients, research faculty, learners, staff, clinical faculty, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. The consortium's tactical objectives include creating mentorship and collaborative opportunities across primary care, supporting faculty through CME and research funding opportunities and providing guidance on promotion, and aligning training programs that produce our future workforce. The PCC has recently become a strong voice in the conversation about expanding training opportunities for Emory learners into rural Georgia.

Ted Johnson and LeShea Turner, MHA (Vice President Emory Primary Care and Emory Specialty Associates) serve as Executive Co-Sponsors of the Primary Care Consortium.

Leadership



Ted Johnson, MD, MPH



LeShea Turner

Executive Sponsors



Leigh Partington, PhD

Sr. Manager, Marketing



Jason Freiji

Administrator



Shannon Thomas

AMOS Program Coordinator

Constituents

Emory University

- School of Medicine
  - Department of Medicine
    - General Internal Medicine
    - Geriatrics & Gerontology
  - Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
    - Family Medicine
    - Physician Assistant Program
    - Student Health Services
    - Undergraduate Medical Education/FMIG
    - Preventive Medicine
    - Palliative Medicine
- School of Nursing
  - Nurse Practitioner Program
- Rollins School of Public Health

Emory Healthcare

- The Emory Clinic
- Emory Specialty Associates
- Atlanta VA Medical Center



Investments in Primary Care

We have created a networking platform that connects primary care research faculty, learners, staff, clinical faculty, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners.



Supporting Emory Primary Care Providers and Learners

The PCC's Advocacy, Social, and Educational funds are designed to support activities which will enhance primary care at Emory and/or are of general interest to a broad primary care audience.

The PCC's Learner Initiated Professional Development funds support Emory learners seeking to engage in professional development activities that will lead to advancements in primary care at Emory University, including attending and presenting at national conferences.

On the **Primary Care Consortium Training Program Advisory Council**, education leaders of the PA program, NP program, OPEX medical student program, and Adult Primary Care medical student clerkship have collaborated to lead preceptor education and recruitment events. Jointly led sessions during the Emory Primary Care Forum and Emory primary care new provider orientation are already yielding new student preceptors.

Annual PCC Primary Care Awards, open to all Emory Primary Care Providers

- Actively engaged (≥ .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).
- Provider disciplines include geriatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, nurse practice, physician assistant, preventive medicine, and palliative care.
- Team and individual awards for providers and staff

Beyond DFPM: Leadership for all of Georgia

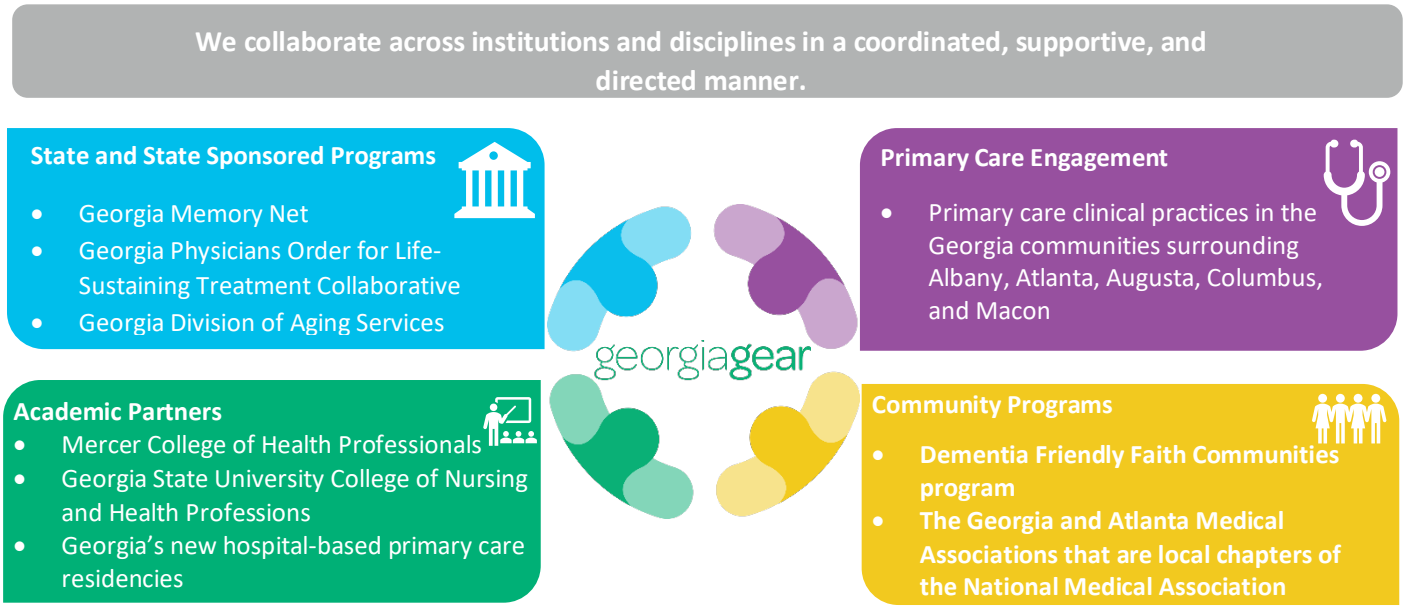
DFPM has a statewide impact in Georgia. Here are examples of funded programs organized by the DFPM and Primary Care Consortium that meet the needs of our state.

Georgia GEAR

This **5 year, $3.75 million HRSA geriatric workforce training grant** addresses three critical areas in geriatric care: 1) improving geriatric education of physicians, health care professionals, and their interprofessional teams; 2) engaging primary care teams in work re-design to allow better address of what matters to older patients; and 3) community-level partnering to address the needs of seniors in rural and underserved communities. The 2024-29 grant is under review.

The Georgia workforce and health system are underprepared to address the unique healthcare needs of the rapidly growing, racially, and ethnically diverse population of older adults. The purpose of the GA Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GA-GWEP) is to improve the health and well-being of older Georgians, their families, and their communities through partnerships in a program of interdisciplinary education to improve health outcomes across urban and rural areas.

Emory faculty funded by this grant: Program Director Ted Johnson, MD, MPH, AGSF. Evaluation Lead, Miranda Moore, Ph.D. Evaluation Team Member Alexis Bender, Ph.D. Evaluation Team Member Richard Goodman, MD, JD, MPH. Evaluation Team Member Kenneth Hepburn, Ph.D. PC Advisory Board Member Ruth Parker, MD. Underrepresented Minority Faculty and Grady Site Lead, Jada Bussey-Jones, MD. VA Practices Lead Camille Vaughan, MD, MS. ADRD Models of Care Dissemination Lead Carolyn Clevenger, DNP, GNP-BC.



COVID Impact across Georgia: ECHO Nursing Home Project (2020-2021)

Faculty at Emory University, including **Dr. Ted Johnson** and **Dr. Miranda Moore**, and Georgia State University (GSU) were awarded $600,000 by the AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network to provide 36 weeks of training and mentorship to nursing homes in Georgia to increase the implementation of evidence-based infection prevention and safety practices to protect residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faculty from Emory University School of Medicine served as mentors and content experts, available for nursing homes to ask questions about materials in the training modules or other issues in their facilities. The Emory Project ECHO team modified 80% of the IHI educational materials provided and developed de novo 50% of the curriculum. Notably, IHI provided no materials specifically addressing health inequities, principles of geriatrics (the 4 M's), or vaccine science or vaccinations.

The training goals are:

- Preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes via staff, visitors, and residents.
- Should the virus enter the nursing home, preventing greater spread among patients, staff, and visitors.
- Providing best-practice care and treatment for residents who test positive for COVID-19.
- Protecting staff from infection and ensuring best-practice safety measures, to help staff build confidence in their work, feel safe from infection, and support staff retention.
- Ensuring that residents who are dying from COVID-19 can safely receive visitors.



Scholarships and Loan Forgiveness for those Serving Georgia as Primary Care Physicians

The Primary Care Consortium serves as the administrative home of **The Kathelen and Dan Amos Medical Student Loan Forgiveness Program: Improving Access to Primary Care in Georgia**, a five-year, $5M commitment from the Amos family. The average Emory School of Medicine graduate student loan debt is $175k. Like the national average, about 5 percent of our medical school graduates go into primary care in the fields of internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, and geriatric medicine.

Fewer than half of this group of graduates goes into Emory's primary care internal medicine residency program, and only 50 percent of the family medicine residents end up finding careers in primary care. Moreover, out of 140 Emory SOM graduates, no more than four choose careers in geriatric medicine, which is an additional one-year clinical training program. Furthermore, there are only two geriatric medicine fellowship programs in Georgia—at Emory and Mercer University with a combined average class of five physicians per year.

For students who train at Emory in primary care disciplines such as geriatric medicine, general internal medicine, family medicine, and general pediatrics, the debt forgiveness program allows them to practice in these clinical areas without the burden of financial strain that comes with lower-salary career paths, if they practice for at least five years beyond their residency training, and preferably in the state of Georgia.

Overall Impact as of March 2024



Beyond DFPM: Leadership for all the US

Emory University Palliative Care Center Research Awards 2020-2024
Primary Site Awards built to Improve End of Life Care in the United States

Since 2020, the Emory Palliative Care Center and Emory Division of Palliative Medicine has received over $7.8 million as the primary award site, largely focused on research into how palliative care can improve the quality of life and reduce suffering for individuals living with Cystic Fibrosis (CF), heart failure, serious illness, and cancer. Emory University is the primary award site for half of the currently funded projects.

- *Patient-centered Understanding of Quality of Life, Symptoms, and Health Equity in Cystic Fibrosis (PULSE – CF).* This five-year prospective mixed methods cohort study seeks to identify symptom clusters among people living with CF, how symptom burden is influenced by molecular and social factors and explore healthcare experiences. This highly interdisciplinary award brings together expertise in health services research, patient-reported outcomes, metabolomics, and social determinants of health, and spans several departments at Emory (FPM, Pediatrics, Biomedical Informatics, Nursing), Augusta University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
    - Funder: NHLBI (R01HL171735)
    - Award Amount: $3,563,231
    - Timeline: 2023-2028
    - PI: Kavalieratos

- *Multisite Real-World Efficacy Trial of Specialist Palliative Care in Cystic Fibrosis*. This competitive R01-equivalent grant enabled the first clinical trial of palliative care in cystic fibrosis, and genetic illnesses overall. The team, spanning five sites across the US and Canada, randomized 264 adults with CF to receive usual CF care plus outpatient specialist palliative care versus usual CF care alone.
    - Funder: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
    - Award Amount: $3,111,766
    - Timeline: 2020-2023 (in 2nd NCE year)
    - PI: Kavalieratos

- *Aging Alone with Dementia: A Qualitative Investigation of Care-seeking and Caregiving*. This study investigates the experiences of adults living alone with dementia and their strategies for negotiating future care needs, and the barriers and facilitators of non-family caregivers who help them.
    - Funder: Emory Center for Health in Aging
    - Award Amount: $41,229
    - Timeline: 2022-2023
    - PI: Lowers

- *Characterizing Biopsychosocial Complexity in Outpatient Palliative Care.* This two-year mentored career development award supports Dr. Ali John Zarrabi's foundational work of characterizing the phenotypic profiles of patients in outpatient palliative care – a necessary precursor to designing intervention trials aimed at improving seriously ill patients' quality-of-life.
    - Funder: National Palliative Care Research Center
    - Award Amount: $198,000
    - Timeline: 2022-2024
    - PI: Zarrabi (Mentor: Kavalieratos)

- *Developing Equitable End-of-Life Care to Address Social and Structural Determinants of Health among People with Heart Failure (HF)*. This Sojourn Scholar Award was awarded to Dr. Kavalieratos to 1) identify components of serious illness care that address the self-identified needs of adults living with HF who are also experiencing poverty and/or inadequate social support, and 2) understand how existing policies and programs disenfranchise individuals experiencing poverty and/or inadequate social support from obtaining goal-concordant, high-quality serious illness care. In addition, this leadership development award is enabling Dr. Kavalieratos to complete a certificate program in leadership coaching thru the Emory Goizueta Business School.
    - Funder: Cambia Foundation
    - Award Amount: $180,000
    - Timeline: 2022-2024
    - PI: Kavalieratos

- *Dying While Poor: Investigating Multi-level Determinants of Inequities in End-of-life Care for Adults with Cancer.* This two-year clinical and translational research scholars program was awarded to Sarah Cross, PhD to support and enhance her career development as junior faculty. Her project aims to examine the role of social determinants in end-of-life outcomes and to inform future research and interventions addressing the needs of terminally ill individuals experiencing poverty.
    - Funder: Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance
    - Award Amount: $207,465
    - Timeline: 2022-2024
    - PI: Cross (Mentors: Kavalieratos and Dickert)

- *End-of-Life Care Decisions and Quality in COPD: A Mixed-Methods Study*. This clinical research and community impact grant was awarded to Natalia Smirnova, MD in recognition of her scientifically meritorious achievements and innovative, novel approach to understand end-of-life decisions of individuals who died of COPD through their caregivers post-mortem.
    - Funder: CHEST Foundation

- Award Amount: $30,000
- Timeline: 2024-2025
- PI: Smirnova (Mentor: Kavalieratos)

Lastly, Emory received $500,000 from 2021-2024 from the Fraser-Parker Foundation as a gift to the Emory Palliative Care Center. This award provides financial support and resources to implement two career development programs related to palliative care research across the Emory Palliative Care Center. First, we have launched the Emory Palliative Care Faculty Scholars Program, a one-year competitive grant opportunity for pediatric and adult palliative care faculty to receive $15,000 of pilot funding and individualized mentorship for a palliative care project. Second, this award provides funding for two two-year postdoctoral research fellowships, with the intention of positioning Emory to be competitive for an NIH T32 Postdoctoral Training Program in palliative care research in the future.

Secondary Site Awards

The Palliative Care Center at Emory University has successfully obtained numerous secondary site awards and is an established partner in palliative care research with several of the top research institutions in the country. Secondary site awards have totaled over $1.5 million in funding since 2017.

- *Reducing Disparities in the Quality of Palliative Care for Older African Americans through Improved Advanced Care Planning*. Emory University is one of ten different clinic sites that are randomly assigned to deliver either Respecting Choices or Five Wishes to patients and caregivers, and conduct interviews with patients and caregivers to talk about their experience with advance care planning.
    - Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
    - Primary Award Site: Duke University
    - Award Amount: $914,023 to Emory
    - Timeline: 2017-2024
    - Site PI: Quest

- *Early Integrated Telehealth Versus In-Person Palliative Care for Patients with Lung Cancer (REACH PC).* Emory University is one of several sites evaluating ways to provide palliative care to patients who have recently been diagnosed with lung cancer and their families.
    - Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
    - Primary Award Site: Massachusetts General Hospital
    - Award Amount: $226,380 to Emory
    - Timeline: 2018-2024
    - Site PI: Quest

- *Decision Support Training for Advanced Cancer Family Caregivers: The Cascade Factorial Trial*. Emory University is one of two sites conducting a clinical trial to test

components of a decision support training intervention for family caregivers of persons with newly diagnosed advanced cancer.

- Funder: National Cancer Institute (R01CA262039)
- Primary Award Site: University of Alabama – Birmingham
- Award Amount: $236,200 to Emory
- Timeline: 2021-2024
- Site PI: Kavalieratos

- *Palliative Care for Persons with Late-stage Alzheimer's and Related Dementias and Their Caregivers (ADRD-PC)*. Emory University is one of several sites participating in the study to learn if dementia-specific palliative care, standardized caregiver education, and transitional care is effective to reduce burdensome hospital transfers, improve symptom treatment and control, augment supportive services, and reduce nursing home transitions for patients, and to improve caregiver outcomes of communication, shared decision-making and distress.
  - Funder: National Institute on Aging (R01AG065394)
  - Primary Award Site: University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
  - Award Amount: $63,900 to Emory
  - Timeline: 2023-2024
  - Site PI: Kavalieratos, Lowers

- *Improving Serious Illness Care for Underserved Populations: Patient and Caregiver Experience with Tele-Palliative Care*. This study will compare in-person to tele-health outpatient palliative care visits for patients and caregivers from underserved demographics (rural, low-English proficiency, low SES, non-white).
  - Funder: National Institute of Nursing Research
  - Primary Award Site: The RAND Corporation (R01NR020788)
  - Award Amount: $84,523 to Emory
  - Timeline: 2023-2026
  - Site PI: Kavalieratos

- *Evaluating the Implementation of Specialist Palliative Care for Patients with Advanced Heart Failure*. Clinical practice guidelines recommend the use of palliative care for persons with advanced heart failure; however, nationally the uptake of specialist palliative care remains low, and implementation across hospitals varies widely, limiting effectiveness. This study aims to identify modifiable factors and implementation strategies that medical centers can use to develop specialist level palliative care programs for this population, beginning in the Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Funder: National Institute of Health (R56HL166523)
  - Primary Award Site: Yale University
  - Award Amount: $13,060 to Emory
  - Timeline: 2023-2024
  - Site PI: Kavalieratos

Future Investments in the DFPM

This document serves as background to future conversation(s) on re-capitalization and additional strategic investment based on the **exceptional expansion in faculty, staff, external funding for primary care and population health research.** This all **grew from a one-time, lump-sum investment made in 2014 in the Family and Preventive Medicine department**. With Vanderbilt outcompeting Emory for the HRSA Southeastern AIDS Education and Training Center leadership in 2015, the Department had zero funding across all external sources (NIH, other governmental, and foundation). While primary care research funding has increased substantially, the full spending of these initial sources of funds means that we have limited ability to use these achievements to further accelerate growth now that we are at an upward inflection point. Nearly all the original development funds have been invested in junior faculty newly out of training. Next level investment should additionally pursue mid-and senior-level faculty to round out focus areas and to allow for the development of center/program project applications. The need to develop the next generation of researchers is critical, and it should be done here at Emory. The continued success and growth of primary care research demands a plan for retaining highly successful junior learners, as well as targeted recruitments. Emory should develop specific plans for recruiting and cultivating high potential future leaders across academic career stages and for helping senior leaders identify and train their successors. Preemptory investment in our most valuable faculty will enable their success and inoculate against their recruitment elsewhere.

The Importance of Primary Care to the Health System of the Future:

1) Addresses the national shortage of healthcare providers by training more providers.
2) Keeps healthcare costs down and improves patient outcomes by
   - keeping people healthy and out of the ED
   - managing chronic diseases
   - shifting to patient-centered care models and inter-disciplinary teams
   - assessing the home environment, providing caregiver education and support, and addressing health literacy, health inequities, and other barriers to care
   - serving as a pipeline to funnel patients to Emory specialists and facilitate Emory collaborations within the communities we serve.