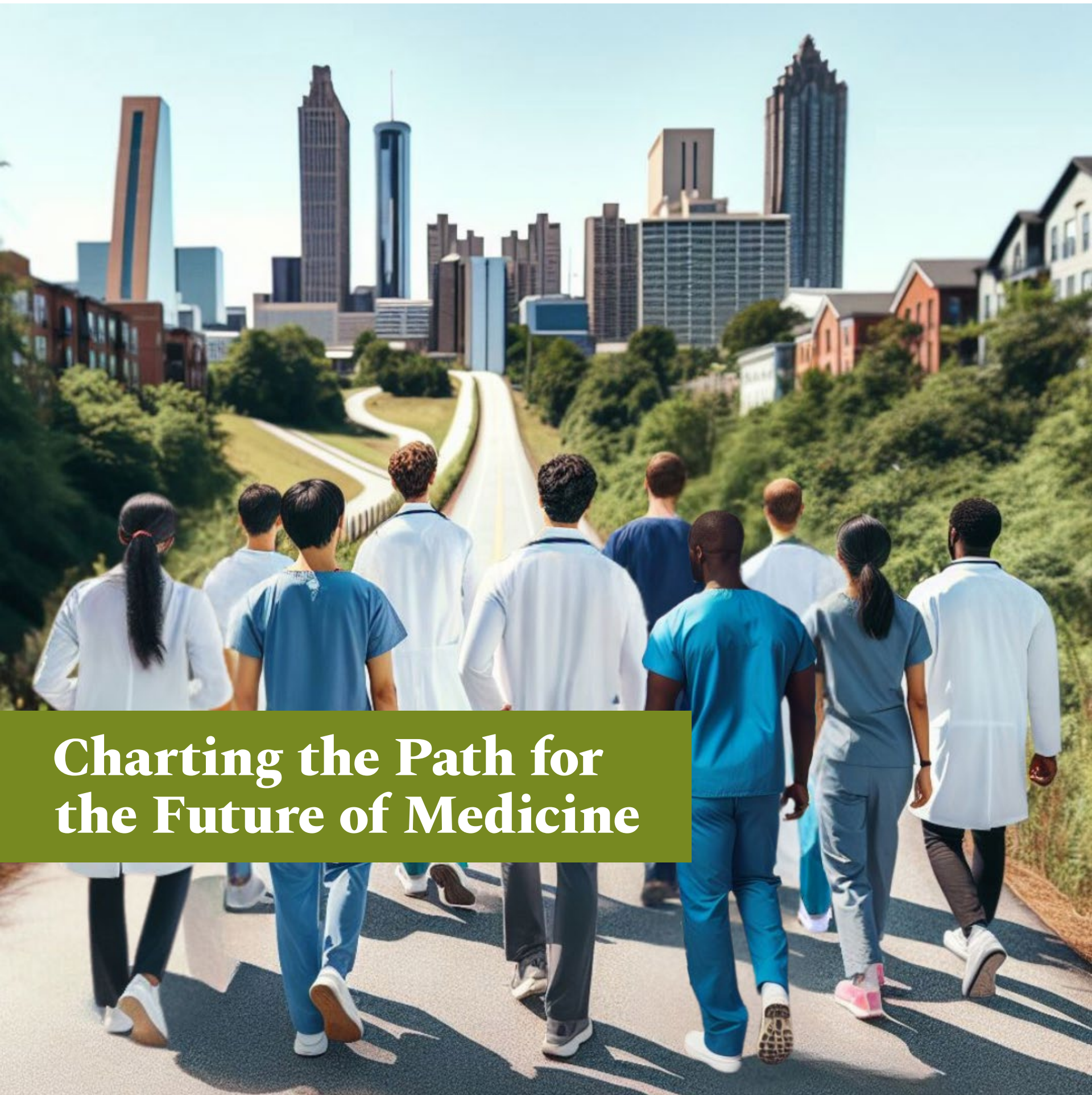




ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2024



Charting the Path for the Future of Medicine

IN THIS ISSUE



CELEBRATING DR. DAVID STEPHENS'S LEADERSHIP



NEW COMBINED MEDICINE/
PEDIATRICS RESIDENCY



FIVE YEARS OF RYSE AND
HEALTH EQUITY DAY



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



CARLOS DEL RIO, MD

Dear colleagues and alumni,

I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Department of Medicine beginning this past September. This is truly a dream come true for me. While I am not new to Emory, I want to thank all my colleagues who have welcomed me to this role. I am particularly grateful to our past Chair, David Stephens, MD, who has faithfully served our department over the last 11 years and whom I count as my long-term mentor, colleague, and good friend over the past three decades.

For those who don't know me, I'd like to share a little about my background. I have been a faculty member here at Emory for the past 28 years. I am proud to be the first

Emory School of Medicine resident or fellow, as well as the first foreign medical graduate, to hold the position of Chair of the Department of Medicine. My father's family is from Mexico but lived in Cuba only a few generations before, and my mother's family is from Ecuador. My father was a lawyer and the youngest person appointed to the Mexican Supreme Court. Because of this, I grew up in a household where the discussions were centered around law, justice, and equity. This is one of the reasons why equity, inclusion, and justice are so important to me. I went to medical school at Universidad La Salle in Mexico City and first came to Emory as a visiting medical student in 1982. The following year, my wife and I matched at Emory for our residencies, where we spent the next six years in training, her training in anatomic and clinical pathology and mine in medicine. I completed both my residency in medicine and infectious diseases fellowship at Emory and was Chief Resident at Crawford W. Long Memorial Hospital (now Emory University Midtown Hospital). During those early years at Emory, I was lucky to have trained with many of the foundational leaders who made our department what it is today. My residency was under J. Willis Hurst, MD; my chief residency and fellowship under Juha Kokko, MD, PhD; I was the Chief of Medicine at Grady and served as a faculty member under R. Wayne Alexander, MD. During my fellowship, I was lucky to work in the laboratory of David Stephens, MD, a mentorship relationship that still continues.

After training, my wife and I (with a one-year-old baby) returned to Mexico, where we stayed for the next seven years. During that time, I served as the country's director of the national AIDS program but was

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**Letter from the Chair** *continued from page 2*

also busy in clinical practice. I started an infection control program, organized a journal club with ID fellows, and started my HIV research career. I also met Dr. James Curran, who was then the Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS at the CDC. Our family returned to Atlanta in November of 1996, and my wife and I have been on faculty since then. My wife, Jeannette Guarner, MD, is the Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Medical Director of the Clinical Laboratory at Emory University Midtown Hospital. We have two adult kids who graduated from Emory University: Victoria, who lives with her family in New York City, and Vicente, who lives with his family in Miami.

For me, leadership is based on the foundations rooted in my family, values, mentors, and colleagues. In a recent podcast, [“A Different Kind of Leader,”](#) I described my definition of leadership as the capacity to translate a vision into a reality.

As we conclude 2024 and look forward, I am encouraged by the quality of the faculty, trainees, and staff in the Department of Medicine and what we will accomplish together. This is an exciting time for us. In the following pages of this newsletter, you will read about some of the extraordinary successes of our department and all we have achieved over the last year. These successes include numerous national and international accolades, several departmental accomplishments, clinical updates from all ten of our divisions, and highlights from our various mission areas, including research, education, and our RYSE team.

I encourage you to read our weekly Bulletin newsletters, follow us on [social media](#), and check in on our [website](#) to stay informed on all our news and information. As we embark on this new chapter, I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together and am reminded that success would not be possible without your support.

Thank you to our generous alumni for their continued contributions to the Department of Medicine and Emory University. As I began this letter, let me repeat, it is an honor to step into this role and serve as your Chair, and I look forward to continuing our shared work to advance the department.

Sincerely,

Carlos del Rio, MD, FIDSA

Chair, Department of Medicine

H. Cliff Sauls Distinguished Professor of Medicine

“Leadership is the capacity to translate a vision into a reality.”

—DR. DEL RIO



Our New Chair's Vision for the Department's Future

At the inaugural Medicine Grand Rounds of the 2024–2025 academic year, our new Chair, Carlos del Rio, MD, presented his vision for the department. He shared insights into his background and career and reviewed the challenges and opportunities in academic medicine today. He went on to explain how we can tackle these growth opportunities and shared his plans for the future of the DOM. You can watch this Grand Rounds presentation on the [DOM YouTube Channel](#).

As Dr. del Rio discussed our mission and values, he explained that due to poor health status, unfair and unjust health disparities, health inequalities, and differences in our population's social determinants of health, we need to expand our mission and add community engagement. By including the community, we can address and measure the health impacts of interventions and use a deliberate structure that yields better, more equitable outcomes.

While the DOM is a large department spread across many locations, Dr. del Rio believes that we need to foster a sense of community inspired by our quadripartite missions of patient care, research, education, and community. We also need to recognize the many contributions of department members across all four missions and provide people with the tools and environment where they can be successful. In fact, one of his leadership principles attributed to Catherine the Great is "praise and reward loudly and blame quietly." Events such as our annual Kathy Griendling Department of Medicine Honors and Awards Celebration are great ways to recognize the people working to bring this quadripartite mission to life.

Clinically, our new Chair looks to move beyond the traditional patient-healthcare professional interaction. He envisions the clinical practice model's expansion in five key areas: decentralizing and adapting care delivery to better respond to patients' needs and preferences; utilizing innovative clinical practices; integrating care delivery with medical education and research; reimagining care processes; and incorporating digital technologies. He believes the department can be a leader in healthcare with these innovations.

Regarding research, while the DOM portfolio has grown significantly, there are still opportunities to continue expanding research funding throughout our divisions. He applauds the work of our Vice Chair of Research, Vibha Lama, MD, who is working

PRIORITIES FOR OUR DEPARTMENT

- ▶ Well-being after COVID-19
- ▶ Recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty
- ▶ Elevation of our educational programs
- ▶ Health equity
- ▶ Philanthropy
- ▶ Continued financial strength
- ▶ Collaboration with clinical partners
- ▶ Communication

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to clear the path for our researchers. He encourages us to grow investigators from inside the department and expand to new areas of research, including health disparities, implementation science, substance use, AI and machine learning, immunotherapy, telemedicine, digital health, and phage therapy.

While we have a large and successful Office of Education, Dr. del Rio continues to support our educators, especially as they face new challenges. Preserving the integrity of the DOM's academic educational programs will require our ongoing maintenance of high standards of education, careful attention to the learner experience, and adequate mentorship for research and career development.

Dr. del Rio sees the top challenges facing the future of academic medicine to be staying afloat financially with decreasing reimbursements and rising costs, increased burdens of EMR, widening health disparities, unsupported coordination of care, and rising burnout. However, he believes we can improve through on-demand learning and care, a flipped clinic model that is more community, patient, and communication-centered, using network discovery to expand collective problem solving, utilizing big data to identify health risks and behaviors to develop targeted interventions, and with rapid prototyping cycles that implement and are rapidly revised based on feedback and quality improvement.

Another essential part of our department's mission is our commitment to inclusivity led by our outstanding RYSE Council. While our faculty is more diverse than the average U.S. medical school, we lack the number of Hispanic faculty members and need a more diverse leadership. Improving health equity is a goal that Dr. del Rio is personally committed to as our Chair.

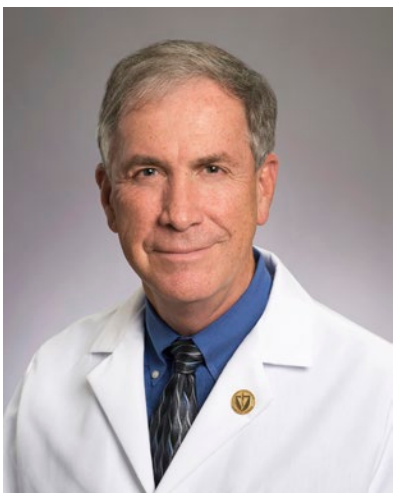
Communication is vital to our new Chair; he wants to ensure everyone feels heard, engaged, and empowered. He encourages all our faculty, staff, and trainees to provide feedback and hopes we can work together to elevate the department to new heights.

As promised, Dr. del Rio is currently visiting different locations where our DOM faculty members serve to hear concerns, aspirations, and potential solutions. When asked which initiatives he'd like to address early, he explains that his number one initiative is recruiting new Division Directors for Renal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He encourages us all to consider how we can better live out our quadripartite mission and better collaborate with our clinical partners at Emory Healthcare as well as with Grady and the Atlanta VA. To hear more details about Dr. del Rio's vision, we encourage you [to watch his full Medicine Grand Rounds presentation from September 10, 2024.](#) ■



Celebrating the Leadership of Dr. David Stephens

This fall, David Stephens, MD, ended his tenure as the Chair of Department of Medicine, a role he held since 2013. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Stephens for his numerous contributions, exemplary service, and thoughtful leadership of our department. He will continue his role as Vice President for Research at the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, supporting the department and promoting research, and will still serve as the PI for the [Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium](#). Hear more from Dr. Stephens in [his letter to the department](#), where he reflects on his tenure as Chair and the people who supported him along the way.



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Research at the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, supporting the department and promoting research, and will still serve as the PI for the [Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium](#). Hear more from Dr. Stephens in [his letter to the department](#), where he reflects on his tenure as Chair and the people who supported him along the way.

This past September, Dr. Stephens's leadership was celebrated during a special event with a scientific lecture and reception. Attendees enjoyed fond memories shared by his friends and colleagues Bob Taylor, MD, PhD, Monica Farley, MD, Wendy Armstrong, MD, and Karen Law, MD. Emory University

President Greg Fenves also offered kind remarks, followed by a scientific talk from Dr. Stephens's long-term colleague and friend, Barney S. Graham, MD, PhD, the founding Director of the David Satcher Global Health Equity Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Immunology.



In attendance at the remarks and the following social hour were many leaders and colleagues from the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory Healthcare, and, most importantly, Dr. Stephens's family (pictured above).

On behalf of the entire department, we thank Dr. Stephens for his calm guidance, gentle leadership, and kind mentorship over the last 11 years. ■



Emory's New Internal Medicine/ Pediatrics Residency Program approved for Match 2025

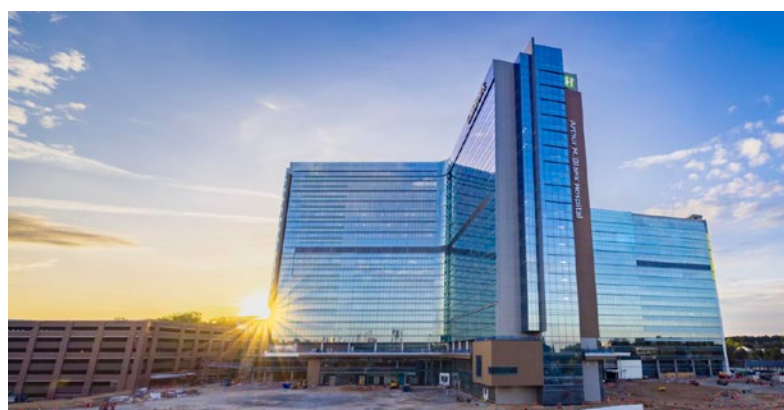
Earlier this year, the Department of Medicine was thrilled to announce that the new Emory Combined Internal Medicine/ Pediatrics Residency Program has received new program approval from the ACGME to participate in the 2025 Main Residency Match. In July 2025, we will welcome a new, dynamic, talented, inaugural class of four incoming residents to start their Med/Peds training with us.



The new Emory Med/ Peds Residency Program, led by Program Director Katie Gielissen, MD, MHS-MedEd (pictured left), was built on the

robust foundation of the [Emory General Pediatrics Residency](#) and the [J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency](#), two premier academic training programs with a legacy of excellence in resident education. Through this partnership, our Med/Peds residents will experience an unparalleled breadth of training experiences at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston and Hughes Spalding, Emory University Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown, and Grady Memorial Hospital. Med/Peds trainees will be fully integrated into the experiences of both categorical programs while also developing their own unique Med/Peds identity as our inaugural combined residency class.

The mission of this program is to train compassionate physician-leaders who provide exceptional care to patients across the lifespan. More information may be



found on our [Med/Peds program website](#), including an [introductory video](#) about the program. We extend our gratitude to Wendy Armstrong, MD, immediate past Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Medicine, and Barry Warshaw, MD, Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics, for their diligent efforts in shepherding this exciting new program from idea to reality. ■



Five Years of RYSE and Health Equity Day

This year, the Department of Medicine's RYSE program celebrates its fifth anniversary since its inception in 2019. RYSE, which stands for Represent, (You), Support, Elevate, is dedicated to building and maintaining inclusive clinical and educational environments as well as recruiting and supporting exceptional faculty, trainees, and staff from a wide range of ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, and racial backgrounds. By enhancing a diverse workforce, RYSE aims to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in healthcare—not only by serving as a model for inclusive care, training, and development but also by uplifting and celebrating the diverse patient population and workforce at Emory. The founding Vice Chair of RYSE was Jada Bussey-Jones, MD. She partnered



with her inaugural Associate Vice Chair and mentee, Kimberly Manning, MD, to build RYSE into what it is today. This past year, Dr. Bussey-Jones moved into the Associate Dean of Faculty for Professional Development role at the School of Medicine and was honored with an endowed chair position. RYSE is currently led by Dr. Manning, and in 2024 was succeeded by Zanthia Wiley, MD, FHM, FIDSA, as the new Associate Vice Chair. Many of the RYSE programs prioritize experiential learning and aim to recruit more diverse classes of trainees to the

"My vision is to keep building off of the exemplary foundation that has already been set by RYSE. In RYSE, we "Represent, Support, and Elevate." Our incredible council is committed to just that. We are about people, all of our DOM people—trainees, faculty, and staff. One of my personal dreams for RYSE is to expand research exposures and opportunities for all of us. The first ten years of my career were committed entirely to patient care (as a hospitalist), and I value that time immensely. Now, as a clinical researcher committed to health equity, I have the best of all worlds. It is my honor to care for individual patients, to have a golden opportunity to affect populations as a clinical investigator, and be a voice for community outreach." —Associate Vice Chair of RYSE, Zanthia Wiley, MD, FHM, FIDSA

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Five Years of RYSE *continued from page 8*

department. The Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) Faculty Development Program is a five-month career development initiative for underrepresented minority faculty, providing resources, information, and tools essential for academic success. The RYSE Virtual Visiting Clerkship exposes fourth-year medical students from underrepresented minority groups applying to internal medicine residency programs to Emory's culture and robust professional development. They will receive mentorship sessions, opportunities to meet with various faculty and residency leaders, virtual exposure to clinical sites, and a stipend. In 2023, they started RYSE2Medicine, a longitudinal mentoring program in partnership with Tuskegee University. This virtual program is the first of what the RYSE team hopes to expand to other HBCUs as a pathway to medical school.



"We have always seen these efforts as an important component of our true north as a department. Our commitment to excellence in education, patient care, and clinical and basic research is best executed with diverse

teams and inclusive environments. As we built our strategic plan and began brainstorming innovative recruitment initiatives, it was never to simply check a box or affirm a small percentage of stakeholders. Instead, we knew that to thrive as a department, our audacious aspiration to grow in our diversity would benefit everyone—especially our patients and learners. The early and unwavering support of our immediate past chair and our position on the organizational leadership chart set us up to succeed. From Health Equity Day to the RYSE mini-clerkship to the RYSE2Medicine mentoring program, it is always about the greater good for the entire department. We are excited to continue this work and build upon the lessons we've learned and meet the challenges of the evolving landscape in medicine." —Vice Chair of RYSE, Kimberly Manning, MD

Health Equity Day, one of the most significant RYSE initiatives, will celebrate its fifth anniversary next year. This annual event, hosted by the RYSE Council, seeks to raise awareness and drive action on systemic health disparities across various racial, ethnic, cultural, and social groups. This day places a dual emphasis on utilizing meaningful dialogue and education to identify inequities within medicine and proposing actionable plans through recognizing interventions and research findings. Held on Zoom, the event brings together participants from all departments, divisions, and ranks, offering a platform to present research, engage in scientific discussions, and identify collaboration opportunities. The conference also highlights the department's efforts to advance health equity by featuring poster sessions, compelling stories, a case competition, and an innovation award. Consistently garnering significant engagement, the most recent event attracted over 180 members of the DOM and Emory community, making Health Equity Day a remarkable achievement that has inspired productive discourse, innovation, and transformation department wide. This year, the RYSE team is excited to expand to a hybrid event with a virtual and in-person component based at Grady Hospital.

These are just a few of RYSE's many programs and initiatives in the Department of Medicine. The commitment of RYSE is ongoing; it includes being proactive and intentional, encouraging continual learning by creating courageous and psychologically safe spaces, sharing the commitment to inclusivity across all divisions, and embedding these values into every departmental function. We are proud to celebrate the substantial achievements and departmental impact RYSE has made over the past five years. ■



Congratulations to Dr. Monica Farley on her recent retirement

On August 31, 2024, after an impressive 40-year career at Emory University, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and Emory Healthcare, Monica M. Farley, MD, retired as Director of the Division of Infectious Disease and Jonas A. Shulman Professor of Medicine. She previously served as a staff physician at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. After retiring from Emory, Dr. Farley plans to travel, catch up on reading, volunteer, spend less time at a computer, and spend more time with her family, including her four young grandsons (pictured below).



Dr. Farley is an internationally recognized researcher and epidemiologist and has published over 230 original scientific manuscripts along with numerous reviews, book chapters, and other scholarly writings. In parallel, she has a long history of independent extramural support from the VA with continuous merit grant funding for 17 years at the NIH and a highly successful leadership role for over 20 years with the CDC-funded Emerging Infections Program.

Her career at Emory University is also notable for her extensive service to the University, the School of Medicine, and the Division of Infectious Diseases. Under Dr. Farley's leadership, the Division of Infectious Diseases has almost doubled in size, with impressive research accomplishments placing them in the top five programs nationally. She was an early advocate for the advancement of women in medicine, serving on the Status of Women in Medicine Committee for six years and as Chair from 1993–95. She received an Outstanding Women in Medicine Award in 2015 at the



“Monica is an exceptional leader, a great colleague, an advocate for equity, and an inspiration to many in infectious diseases, the Department of Medicine, the School of Medicine, and nationally. Her work directing and developing the Georgia Emerging Infections Program for over 20 years has been remarkable, with numerous high-impact, public-policy influencing publications. Her inspirational and dedicated leadership of the Division of Infectious Diseases has also been exceptional. By 2024, the division had grown to eighty-four very talented faculty with 413 publications and over \$100 million in extramural research funding. I want to thank her for her leadership, advice, support, and many contributions. I also thank her husband Doug, daughter, son, and the four grandsons!” —David S. Stephens, MD, Former Chair of the Department of Medicine

School of Medicine. She served on the Medical School Admissions Committee for 16 years. She has been the recipient of many awards for her service and academic achievements. She was honored with the Jonas A. Shulman Professorship in 2017.

Congratulations to Dr. Farley on her retirement after over four decades at Emory. We sincerely appreciate her invaluable contributions to infectious disease medicine, outstanding research accomplishments, and exceptional leadership of the Division of Infectious Diseases for the past 11 years.

Since Dr. Farley's retirement on August 31, 2024, Wendy Armstrong, MD, has been serving as the Interim Division Director for Infectious Diseases. Dr. Armstrong will be leaving Emory in the spring of 2025 to become the Infectious Diseases Division Director at the University of Colorado in Denver. Effective March 1, Anandi N. Sheth, MD, MSc, will step into the Interim Division Director position. ■



Our People Make the DOM Great

Our faculty, staff, researchers, and trainees receive numerous awards each year from a multitude of international, national, and regional organizations. Below we shine a light on some of their notable accomplishments.



FACULTY: OZLEM BILEN, MD

Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, Ozlem Bilen, MD, was recently

appointed to Emory University Hospital's Section Chief of Cardiology, a notable appointment as she is the first woman to hold this position. Dr. Bilen completed her fellowship here, a full circle moment from trainee to attending. On September 1, she stepped into this role and looks forward to continuing the legacy of Emory University Hospital's vision of innovation, advancement, and excellent patient care. [Read the full Emory News Center article here to learn more about Dr. Bilen and this role.](#)



TRAINEE: MARTIN CAMPBELL, MD

In another first this year, Martin L. Campbell, MD, a first-generation college graduate and physician,

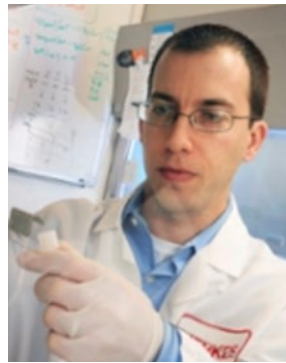
recently completed his chief year and served as the first Black internal medicine Chief Resident at the Emory University Hospital site. Dr. Campbell continues his medical training in our department as he began his cardiology fellowship this past July. He recently received the School of Medicine's House Staff Organization Professionalism Excellence (HOPE) Award, an honor given to trainees for their outstanding professionalism and character while working with colleagues across various departments. Learn more about Dr. Campbell in [this DOM Daily Pulse spotlight.](#)



STAFF: BETTY WEBB

Earlier this year, DOM Staff Member Betty J. Webb received the Emory Award of Distinction, the highest

award available for staff members which recognizes their outstanding contributions to the Emory community. With nearly 40 years of dedicated service, Webb has earned praise from colleagues and faculty alike for her exceptional professionalism, unwavering support, and outstanding problem-solving skills. As the indispensable heart of the Division of General Internal Medicine, where she serves as the Administrative Manager, she is seen as an unsung hero, whose dedication and kindness are truly inspiring. To read about Betty and her fellow honorees, [visit the full Emory News Center article here.](#)



RESEARCHER: DAVID WEISS, PHD

DOM researcher David Weiss, PhD, (Infectious Diseases), was featured as the 2024 DOM

David S. Stephens Research Day's Lifetime Achievement Featured Research speaker. He studies a baffling phenomenon called heteroresistance and the equally deadly threat of fungal bloodstream infections in patients receiving bone marrow transplants. Dr. Weiss partnered with researchers at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center after clinicians observed numerous transplant patients who developed bloodstream infections despite being treated with the antifungal drug micafungin, the so-called "penicillin of antifungals." His important research was featured this past August in a [Nature Medicine article](#), and this [Emory News Center article.](#)



Department of Medicine Faculty Recognitions

2024 was an extraordinary year for the Department of Medicine. Many of our members were recognized on a national and global level for their innovative work and contributions to the field of medicine.

CASSIE ACKERLEY, MD, (Infectious Diseases) received the Allen Thornell Political Advancement Award from Georgia Equality.

SIVASUBRAMANIAM BHAVANI, MD, MS, (Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine) was named a 2024 American Society for Clinical Investigation Young Physician Awardee.



WILLIAM BRANCH, MD, (General Internal Medicine) and the Kern Collaboratory Faculty Fellowships in Interprofessional Leadership team received the National Academies of Practice's Creativity in Practice & Education Award for their project, "Transforming Healthcare Education by Educating Faculty Leaders in the Post-COVID Era."

JADA BUSSEY-JONES, MD, (General Internal Medicine) was elected as President of the Society of General Internal Medicine and received the Atlanta Medical Association's Trailblazer Award.

CARLOS DEL RIO, MD, (Infectious Diseases) was re-elected as the International Secretary of the National Academy of Medicine Council. He was also named among Georgia Trend's 500 Most Influential Leaders in Healthcare for his decades of patient care, infectious disease and global health research, medical education, and healthcare administration.

MONICA FARLEY, MD, (Infectious Diseases) was named to the 2024–2025 Board of Directors and as the President-Elect of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

◀ **TRACEY HENRY, MD**, (General Internal Medicine) was named a 2024–2025 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow.

TERRY JACOBSON, MD, (General Internal Medicine) was recognized among the world's most influential researchers when he received the "Highly Cited Researcher" designation by the Institute for Scientific Information.



◀ **DEAN JONES, PHD**, (Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine) received the Research Institute's Lifetime

Achievement Award in Public Health from the Chemical Insights Research Institute.

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GREGORY MARTIN, MD, (Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine) accepted the Deals of the Year: Public Financing Award (as a part of Georgia Bio's Golden Helix Awards ceremony) on behalf of Atlanta Center for Microsystems-Engineered Point-of-Care Technologies. He is one of two principal investigators for this initiative.



▲ **KIMBERLY MANNING, MD**, (General Internal Medicine) received the Spirit of Atlanta Award.

VANDANA NIYYAR, MD, FASN, FNKF, (Renal Medicine) received the Gerald Beathard Award from the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology.

IGHOVWERHA (IGHO) OFOTOKUN, MD, MSC, (Infectious Diseases) received the prestigious 2024 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

WILLIAM O'NEILL, MD, (Renal Medicine), received the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology.

NADINE ROUPHAEL, MD, (Infectious Diseases) was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

▶ **JEANN SABINO-CARVALHO, PHD**, (Renal Medicine) received the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation Trainee Research Award.

JASON SCHNEIDER, MD, (General Internal Medicine) received the Allen Thornell Political Advancement Award from Georgia Equality.

BASHAR STAITIEH, MD, ATSF, (Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine) was named one of the American Thoracic Society's 2024 Fellows.

AARON TRAMMELL, MD, MSC, ATSF, (Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine) was named one of the American Thoracic Society's 2024 Fellows.

GUILLERMO UMPIERREZ, MD, (Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Lipids) was a recipient of the Alan J. Garber, MD, PhD, MACE, Lectureship for the Prevention and Management of the Complications of Diabetes by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology.

TIFFANY WALKER, MD, (General Internal Medicine) was the first co-recipient of the #MEAction Wilhelmina Jenkins Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Service Award.

MICHAEL WOODWORTH, MD, MSC, FIDSA, (Infectious Diseases) was named a 2024 American Society for Clinical Investigation Young Physician Awardee.





CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS



THE DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY continues to experience significant growth in all aspects of the program. Ten new faculty members were welcomed over the past year in support of general cardiology, interventional cardiology, and electrophysiology, with new positions throughout the system. A very important area of growth for us has been in heart failure at Grady Memorial Hospital, where Andy Smith, MD, has helped expand that program to meet significant unmet patient needs. The research program continues to grow, with over 120 active clinical trials and extramural funding of almost \$21 million in the past year. After many years of successful leadership, Robbie Williams, MD, stepped down as Program Director of the Cardiology Fellowship Program. Priya Kohli, MD, assumed this leadership role effective July of this year. Beginning in 2025, training opportunities will be expanding with the addition of a new cardio-oncology fellowship.



THE DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES continues the expansion of services. This year, six faculty members were recruited to be at various clinical Emory Healthcare sites. In September 2024, an advanced endoscopy room was opened at Emory Decatur Hospital that offers expanded services for Emory Decatur and patients. Three Emory faculty advanced endoscopists perform procedures weekly in the new advanced room. Led by Sobia Mujtaba, MD, the division also offers abdominal ultrasounds at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, focusing on providing this service to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients. In addition to clinical expansion,

the division experienced growth in both the fellowship program and research enterprise. Two research faculty members were hired to expand the division's research portfolio.



THE DIVISION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, METABOLISM, AND LIPIDS continues to expand its clinical team and has welcomed four new faculty members and three APPs over the last year. Division clinical faculty have supported the transition of the Emory Pituitary Center to Midtown and have participated in active collaboration with multiple specialties to support patients with pituitary disorders. Division faculty experts are also helping lead diabetes technology implementation at Grady Memorial Hospital and within Emory Healthcare, focusing on advancing research and technologies to address the most challenging issues in diabetes and associated complications.



THE DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE has launched Georgia's first Med-Psych unit (MPU) at Grady Memorial Hospital. The 16-bed unit integrates treatment for both medical and psychiatric needs, leading to more holistic care that benefits patients and the hospital system. In the hospital, the patients experience less deconditioning as ambulation and participation in groups is an expectation when medically able. This is reflected in low rates of discharge to rehabilitation units as the vast majority of

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CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS

patients can be discharged home. The unit sees a much lower re-admission rate at 30 and 90 days than general medicine services, because of their focus on comprehensive discharge planning. The MPU is currently staffed by four internal medicine/psychiatry trained attendings: John Deppe, MD, Lauren Gensler, MD, Jed Mangal, MD, and Nathan Scheiner, MD. Dr. Gensler was awarded the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry's 2024 Roger Kathol Pioneering Spirit Award for her role in creating the MPU.



THE DIVISION OF GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY

relocated its clinical research program focused on dance and physical activity interventions to promote mobility and health in aging from the Wesley Woods campus to a new facility at Executive Park 57. The new location was designed with input from division members and provides a welcoming space with easy access and free parking for research participants. Gabriela Cohen, MD, will spearhead the implementation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services innovation project Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) for the Emory at Grady Geriatrics program. The nationwide GUIDE initiative supports individuals with dementia and their unpaid caregivers and will be implemented over the next eight years.



THE DIVISION OF HOSPITAL MEDICINE

continues to grow in response to increasing clinical demands and now includes more than 350 clinicians caring for patients at ten hospitals. Members of the division serve in major leadership roles, including Joanna Bonsall, MD, (Grady Chief of Medicine), Sarah DeCaro, MD, (Vice President and Medical

Director of Care Management for Emory Healthcare), John Vazquez, MD, (Medical Director for System Transfer Service and Patient Flow, Emory Healthcare), Jessica Nave, MD, (Director of the EUH Hospital Service Line), along with many other members of the division. The division is leading many important initiatives, including the Inpatient Short Stay Unit (Grady) and the Medical Officer of the Day for transfers (Emory Healthcare). The division continues to promote a culture of clinical scholarship through the activities of its Education Council (led by Annie Massart, MD, and Khaalisha Ajala, MD, MBA), Quality Council (led by Hasan Shabbir, MD), and Wellness Council (led by Anna Von, MD, and Julie Hollberg, MD).



THE DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

continues to grow the clinical, research, and educational missions with collaborative efforts across these missions. Faculty brought in \$87 million in research funding and made important contributions in areas as diverse as transplantation from donors with HIV to recipients with HIV, infectious disease diagnostics, post-acute sequelae of COVID, and implementation of long-acting injectable therapies for prevention and treatment of HIV. The level of engagement is broad and includes junior faculty with career development awards, mid-level faculty with independent research project grants, and senior faculty leading independent research grants and large collaborative research projects. The fellowship program is widely recognized as among the best nationally, reflecting Emory's deep commitment to ensuring that the next generation of infectious disease clinicians and physician scientists meet the world's challenges, including pandemic preparedness.

continued on page 16



CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS



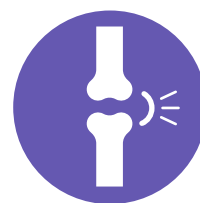
THE DIVISION OF PULMONARY, ALLERGY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE

established a multidisciplinary Long COVID clinic led by Alexander Truong, MD, to address not only the respiratory needs of patients with Long COVID but also the symptoms such as chronic fatigue, brain fog, dysautonomia, and pain. The Division partnered with the Long COVID Clinic at Grady, run by Jenny Han, MD, and Tiffany Walker, MD, to form the Atlanta Long COVID Collaborative, one of the few comprehensive Long COVID clinics in the area, providing care for patients from all over the southeastern United States. Funding through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has broadened the group to include a nurse practitioner, care coordinator, and social worker, and expanded the clinic's reach and exploration of novel approaches to treat this condition.



THE DIVISION OF RENAL MEDICINE recently welcomed three new nephrologists, Dilek Elbistan, MD, Zikora Nnadike, DO, and Brittany Thomas, MD, all graduates of the Emory Nephrology fellowship training program. In June of 2024, the clinic at Emory University Midtown Hospital was expanded to support the continued demand for patient access. An outpatient Nephrology Clinic at Emory Johns Creek will open in early 2025 and the relocation of the Emory Dialysis Greenbriar Clinic in spring 2025, will increase the capacity to accommodate more patients. This year, Emory nephrologists performed

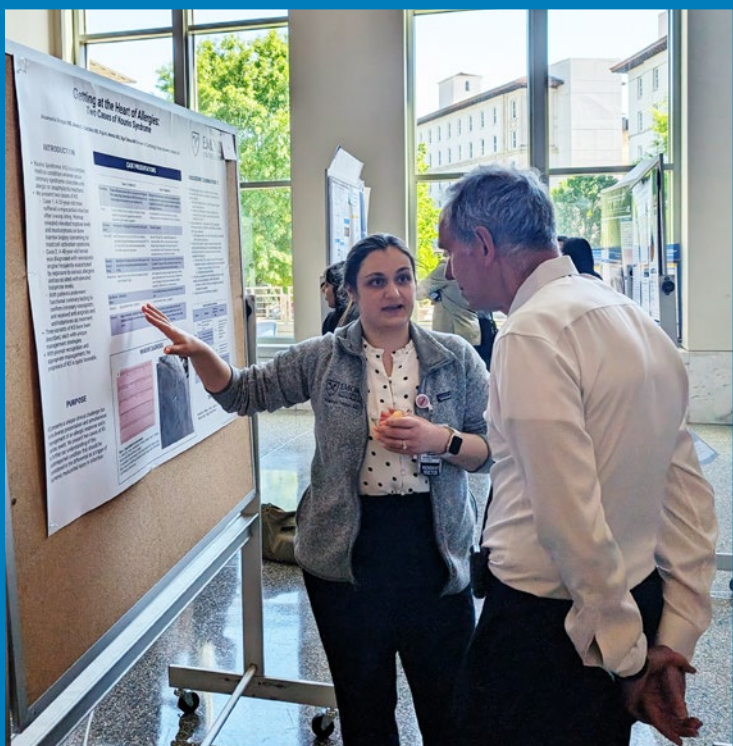
exceptionally well with patient scores, and several were in the top 10% of providers for Emory Healthcare. In alignment with Emory's tripartite mission, the division continues to expand our clinical research portfolio and has started new clinical trials in lupus nephritis, dialysis treatment, APOL1, and polycystic kidney disease, promoting research integration within clinical practices.



THE DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY continues to see increased demand as they expand their presence at five locations and grow their specialty clinics in vasculitis, scleroderma, lupus, myositis, IgG4-related diseases, immunotherapy-induced arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, and rheumatoid arthritis. Through a range of initiatives, including basic science studies exploring the heterogeneity of the immune system to examining the impact of social determinants of health on patient outcomes to conducting cutting-edge clinical trials aimed at achieving precision medicine, the division is advancing innovative approaches to improve the diagnosis and treatment of autoimmune diseases. They are actively enrolling patients in groundbreaking CAR T cell therapy, paving the way for this promising treatment approach.



A LOOK BACK AT 2024





RYSE: REPRESENT, (YOU), SUPPORT, AND ELEVATE



Zanthia Wiley steps up as the new Associate Vice Chair of RYSE

Earlier this year, Zanthia Wiley, MD, FHM, FIDSA, was appointed as the new Associate Vice

Chair of RYSE. Dr. Wiley, an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease, received her medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and completed both her internal medicine residency and infectious diseases fellowship at Emory. She stepped into this role after it was vacated by Kimberly Manning, MD, who was recently promoted to the Vice Chair of RYSE.

Here are a few thoughts from Dr. Wiley on her vision and goals in her new position:

“What I look forward to the most is collaborating with my amazing colleagues throughout the Department of Medicine. I have grown up in this department—from residency to hospital medicine to fellowship and now as an ID faculty and clinical researcher. I will use my personal experiences and these relationships to explore how we can continue to help lift and guide one another to be our best. I look forward to listening and implementing—a powerful combination.” ■

RYSE Virtual Visiting Mini-Clerkship enters year five!

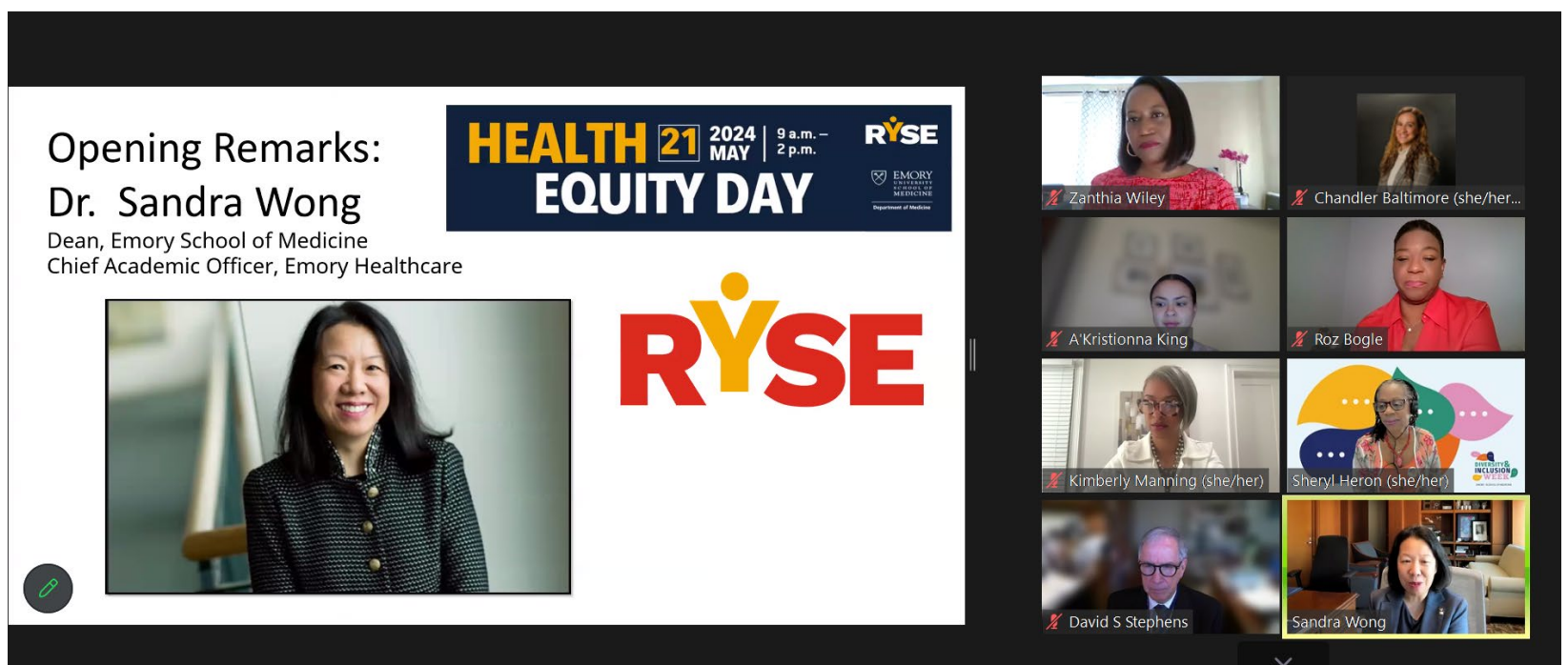
This is the fifth year RYSE has hosted its annual RYSE Virtual Visiting Mini-Clerkship. The clerkship aims to expose medical students from groups underrepresented in medicine (URiM) to Emory’s internal medicine residency program and various careers in internal medicine. The program includes mentorship sessions, virtual exposure to clinical sites at Emory, opportunities to meet with various faculty and residency leaders in the IM residency program, and a stipend. The clerkship, held earlier this fall, was separated into two blocks, each two weeks long, with a new group of participants in each block. There were ten participants total (five in each block), with nine different medical schools represented among them. This mini-clerkship has historically proven to be very successful in recruiting URiM scholars to our internal medicine residency program. Last year, four out of the seven participants matched with our residency program, and we hope to see similar results with our latest cohort. ■



Top row left to right: Jiana Baker, Destine Ede, Kenechi Ijemere, Brandi Muldrow, Loretta Ngoe. Bottom row left to right: Jelani Regan, Beatriz Ryan-Lora, Abigail Taye, Kristin Telford, Jarah Whitehead.



RYSE: REPRESENT, (YOU), SUPPORT, AND ELEVATE



Health Equity Day

The RYSE team is excited to announce that the fifth annual Health Equity Day conference will be, for the first time, a hybrid event. The DOM RYSE Council hosts an annual Health Equity Day each May. The department-wide event aims to raise awareness and encourage action around the systemic health disparities among racial, ethnic, cultural, and social groups. Health Equity Day highlights interventions and research centered on health equity across the entire School of Medicine. Over the years, Health Equity Day has grown in size and reputation, with the 2024 conference being the largest by far. Historically, the conference has solely accepted abstract

submissions from the DOM. However, for the 2024 Health Equity Day, in the spirit of interprofessional education and collaboration, we expanded our guidelines to include submissions from the Rollins School of Public Health and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. The theme for next year's Health Equity Day will be Community Partnerships. To promote the idea of community partnerships, the DOM is excited to further collaborate with health equity leaders and will partner with Grady Hospital's Office of Health Equity for this hybrid event taking place at Grady Hospital on May 20, 2025. ■

Represent, (You), Support, and Elevate

Our commitment to diversity includes:

- Being proactive and intentional
- Encouraging continual learning by creating courageous and psychologically-safe spaces
- Sharing these commitments across all divisions
- Imbedding these values into every departmental function



To learn more about RYSE,
[visit our website.](#)



OFFICE OF EDUCATION



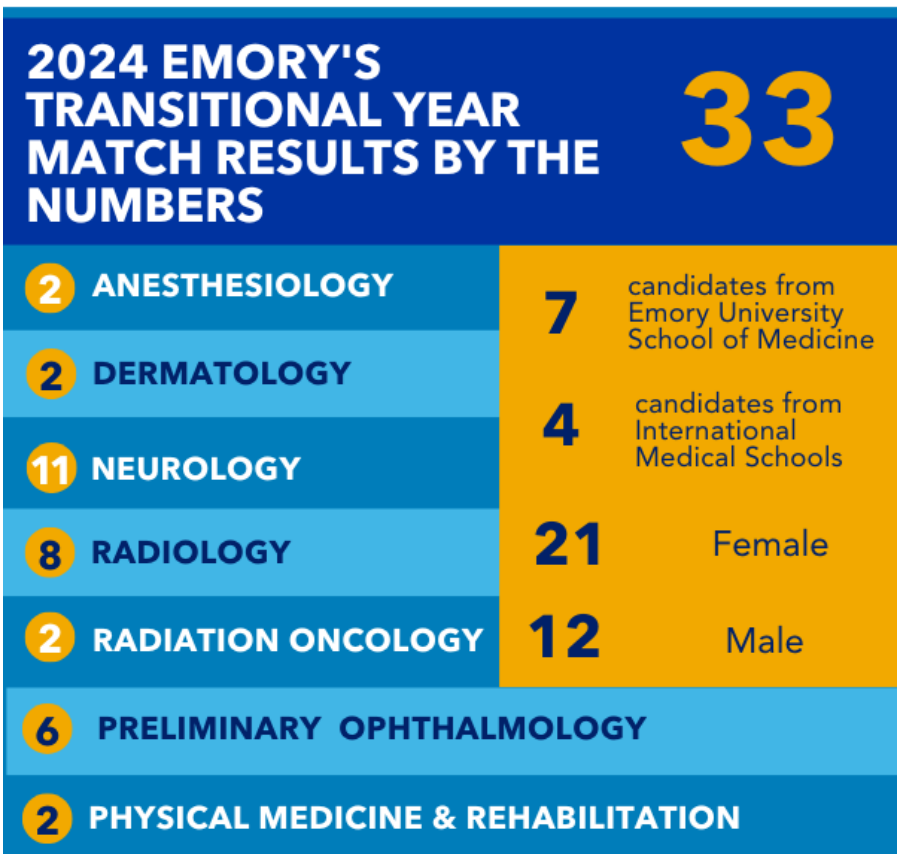
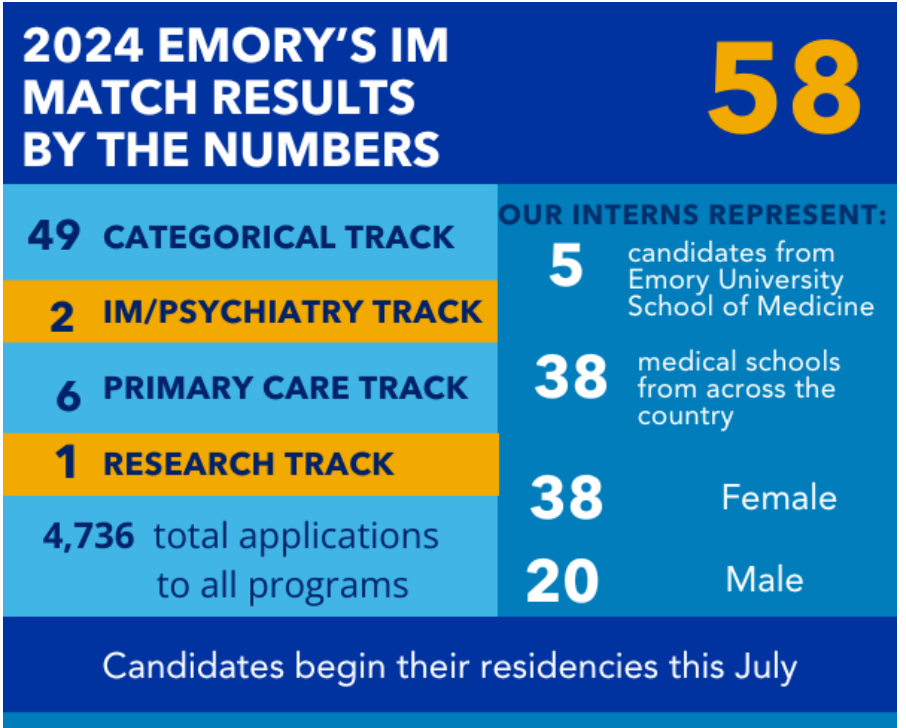
2024 Residency Match Day by the Numbers

We were thrilled to welcome the incoming 2024–2025 J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency interns to our program this past summer. This rising class of 58 candidates began their residencies in July 2024.

Match Day is the culmination of our annual recruitment season and celebrates a defining moment in these young physicians' careers. This year, we received more than 4,700 applications for 490 interview spots to recruit a class of highly talented trainees.

Transitional Year and Preliminary Track Residency Numbers

In addition to our J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency program match, we welcomed 33 interns to our 2024–2025 Transitional Year and Preliminary Track Residency program!





MATCH DAY 2024

Fellowship Match

Please join us in congratulating our residents, chief residents, graduates, and our divisions on another successful fellowship match! The success of our trainees is a direct reflection of our faculty's dedication to mentoring, teaching, and supporting our residents in their scholarly endeavors.

Our Internal Medicine residents successfully matched:



CARDIOLOGY

18 candidates



DIGESTIVE DISEASES

3 candidates



GERIATRICS

1 candidate



HEMATOLOGY/ ONCOLOGY

3 candidates



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

5 candidates



LGBTQIA+ HEALTH

1 candidate



NEPHROLOGY

1 candidate

In addition, our DOM fellowship programs successfully matched:



CARDIOLOGY

(including advanced programs)

26 trainees



CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

1 trainee



DIGESTIVE DISEASES

4 trainees



ENDOCRINOLOGY

5 trainees



GERIATRICS

3 trainees



HOSPICE/ PALLIATIVE CARE

8 trainees



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

5 trainees



INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY

1 trainee



NEPHROLOGY

6 trainees



PULMONARY/ CRITICAL CARE

6 trainees



RHEUMATOLOGY

3 trainees



SLEEP MEDICINE

4 trainees

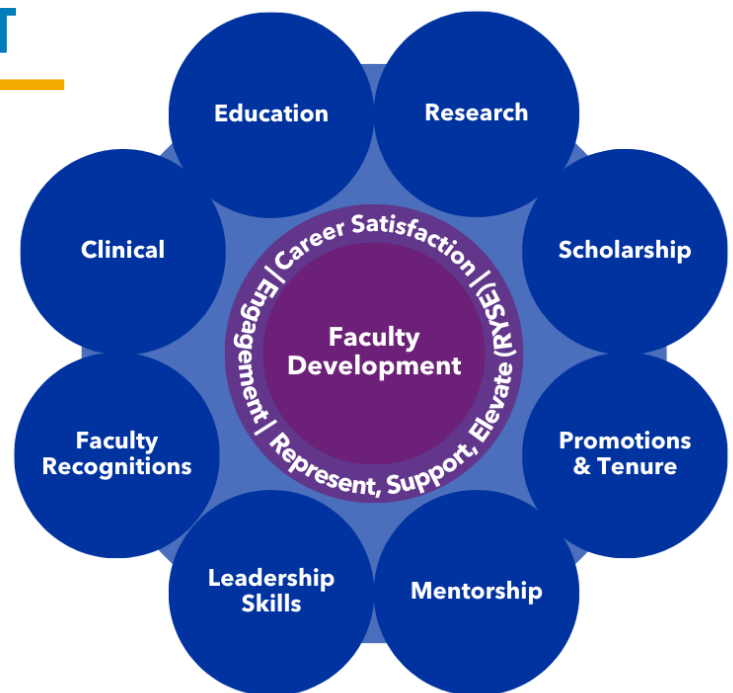


OFFICE OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Faculty Development's new mission statement and website

The Department of Medicine Faculty Development Office created a new mission statement to provide a vision for 2024 and beyond:

Faculty Development encompasses many different components and includes personal and professional development. At the core, we believe engagement in professional development opportunities can enhance career satisfaction, create an inclusive environment, and provide a sense of belonging that enhances professional fulfillment.



The components of faculty development include our academic missions (clinical, education, research, and scholarship) and other facets that promote these missions (recognizing faculty for their accomplishments, building leadership skills, mentorship, and faculty promotions). [Our website](#) has been refreshed with new resources and a more straightforward navigation to our focus areas. ■

New Mentoring Committee

Last summer, the DOM Faculty Development mentoring committee developed a new (pilot) mentoring matching program for new early career faculty. The program aims to foster meaningful connections and empower faculty to succeed along their academic journey and will match mentees with a mentor based on the mentee's goals and mentorship needs.

The Office of Faculty Development and the Mentoring Committee held their biennial half-day Mentoring Workshop on February 9, 2024. The goal of the workshop was to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge to become more effective mentors. Session topics included an introduction to mentoring, aligning



expectations, professional development, and fostering inclusion and belonging.

The committee also champions several key initiatives, including creating [Mentoring Moment videos](#) throughout the year on valuable and meaningful topics such as the characteristics of a good mentor, the joys of mentorship, and addressing equity and inclusion as a mentor. Additionally, the committee oversees peer mentoring groups across all Emory sites. These site-specific faculty groups foster a collaborative environment where faculty at all career stages can receive guidance, support, and a sense of community. ■



2024 Department of Medicine Kathy Griending Honors and Awards Celebration

Each fall, the Department of Medicine hosts its annual Kathy Griending Honors and Awards Celebration, a night dedicated to recognizing the outstanding achievements and contributions of our esteemed faculty and staff. Over 270 people attended this year's celebration, held on Thursday, September 12, 2024. Congratulations to all the faculty and staff award nominees, and faculty receiving senior promotions and clinical distinctions.

At the end of the celebration, it was announced that the annual DOM Research Day will be named in honor of David Stephens, MD, our former DOM Chair and current Vice President for Research in the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center. ■

HONOREES AT THE AWARDS EVENT

93

faculty
nominations

58

staff
nominations

31

clinical
distinction
honorees

59

newly
promoted
senior faculty

▶ [Click here to read the complete list of honorees and recipients on our blog, Emory Daily Pulse, and view the event photo album here.](#)





OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Research, Funding, and Publications

The Department of
Medicine received

\$172.5 MM

in research awards
for FY24

1,189

unique publications

435

contributing faculty

352

active clinical trials

6,593

enrollees

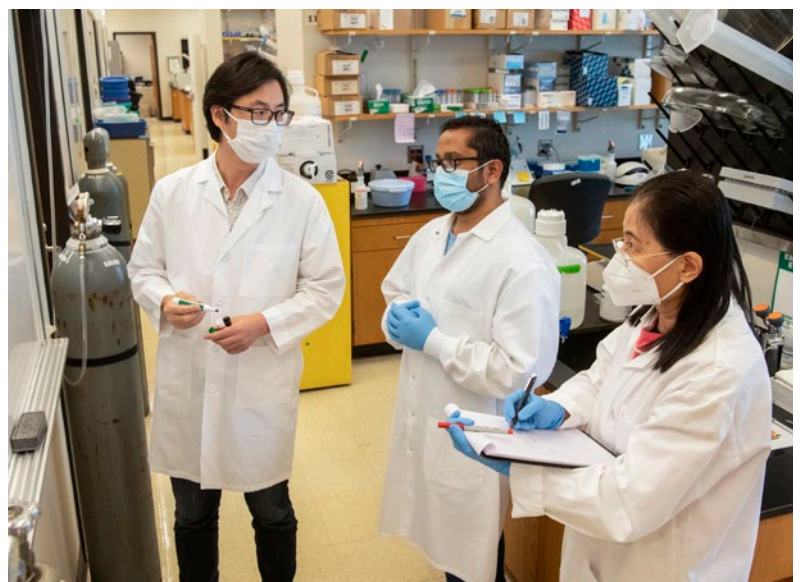
In FY 2024, our faculty had

12

active NIH K (01,12,23) awards

50

active R01s (39 Principal Investigators)



Ease of Research Initiative Town Hall Series



Our new town hall series launched this past September as a part of the Ease of Research Initiative. Over the last few months, we have welcomed speakers, including Robert Nobles, DrPH, MPH, Rebecca Rousselle, Holly Sommers, Esmerelda Meyer, MD, JM, CPIA, and Deepika Bhatia. They've shared their expertise as leaders from regulatory offices critical to performing research at Emory, including the Office of Research Administration, Office of Sponsored Programs, Office of Clinical Research,

Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and Office of Tech Transfer.

The goal of this series is to provide our DOM research faculty, staff, and trainees with significant insights regarding these offices' current functions and future plans, as well as the opportunity to give feedback on their impact on their research. For more information, past town hall recordings, and information for 2025, visit our [webpage here](#). ■

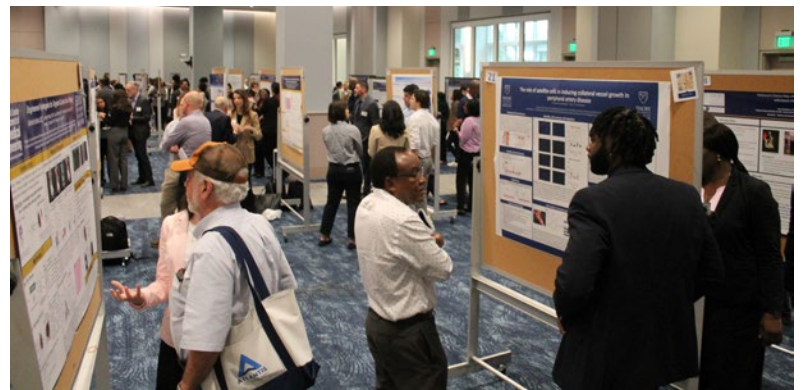


OFFICE OF RESEARCH

2024 DOM Research Day

On November 7, research efforts across the department were celebrated at the 17th Annual Department of Medicine David S. Stephens Research Day. This marks the first year the event was held under its new name, which recognizes David S. Stephens, MD, our former DOM Chair, who stepped down in August. Honoring Dr. Stephens in this way is especially fitting due to his many years of successful leadership and promotion of research in our department, throughout the School of Medicine, and within the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

This year, the Department of Medicine received a record breaking number of over 200 abstracts, all of which showcased progress, lessons, and breakthroughs from research across basic, translational, and clinical domains. Over 400 people attended this year's Research Day and heard the keynote address from Emory School of Medicine's new Dean, Sandra Wong, MD, MS. Thank you again to all our speakers, presenters, and attendees for your time and input, and congratulations again to the recipients of the 2024 awards! ■



► [Click here to read the full event recap and see the list of award winners.](#)

12 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Cardiology (2)
 Digestive Diseases
 Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Lipids (2)
 General Internal Medicine
 Geriatrics and Gerontology
 Infectious Diseases
 Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine (2)
 Renal Medicine
 Rheumatology

5 INVITED FEATURED RESEARCH TALKS

Cardiology
 Digestive Diseases
 Geriatrics and Gerontology
 Infectious Diseases (2)

187 POSTERS

Cardiology (34)
 Digestive Diseases (6)
 Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Lipids (9)
 General Internal Medicine (27)
 Geriatrics and Gerontology (9)
 Hospital Medicine (16)
 Infectious Diseases (31)
 Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine (29)
 Renal Medicine (11)
 Rheumatology (15)



Support our Programs

The Department of Medicine relies on gifts and partnerships to support the clinical, research, and educational goals of our ten divisions. Your charitable contributions can impact health care on a local, regional, national, and global scale. There are opportunities at every level of giving.



Make a Gift

Visit <https://bitly.com/dom-give> to make a gift today.

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Website: medicine.emory.edu