

Message

Dear Colleagues,

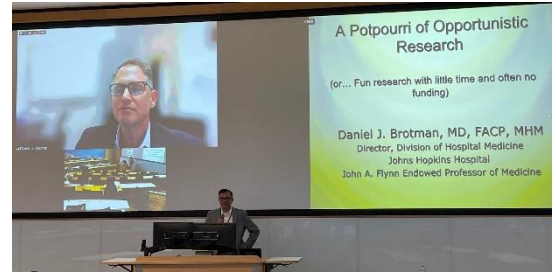
Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 7 of our Department of Internal Medicine Research Newsletter! The goal of this newsletter is to document and distribute information about ongoing research activities within the Department.

Autumn brings the joy of pumpkin spice lattes, changing leaves, cooler weather (finally) and...more research opportunities! On Sept. 8th, Dr. Andy Plunk led a well-attended workshop on “Grant Writing 101”. On Sept. 21, Dr. Daniel Brotman (Director, Division of Hospital Medicine at Johns Hopkins) presented IM Grand Rounds on “A Potpourri of Opportunistic Research (or...fun research with little time and often no funding).” Then, on Sept. 22nd, Dr. Rehan Qayyum continued the series with a much anticipated presentation on “Writing for Medical Journals”. The Internal Medicine Research Advisory Committee (IMRAC) met on Sept. 28th.

Major events this month include: Research Journal Club on Oct. 6th, EVMS Research Day (Friday, Oct. 14, noon-5PM), and a Research Workshop on “Research vs. QI: What’s the Difference?” led by Dr. Harry Tillman.

**PUBLICATIONS, MEDIA APPEARANCES, & PRESENTATIONS:**

- **O’Connell K.A., Sherani S., Kisteneff A., Bhat K., Slater J., Klein C., Lavey B., Malone A., Qayyum R., Derber C.** Factors Affecting Adherence with Follow-up Appointments in HIV Patients. *Cureus* 14(9): e29424. doi.7759/cureus.29424 [Publication]
- Rehan N, **Qayyum R.** Sex-specific relationship between blood selenium levels and platelet count in a large cohort representative of the United States population. *Platelets*. 2022;1-6. [Publication]
- **Okravi, H.** featured on local television [WAVY 10 News](#), “EVMS aims to get ‘Ahead’ of Alzheimer’s disease, local woman first African American to participate in study.” [Media Appearance]
- **Arora, K.** “Visualization of the Entire Portal and Hepatic Venous Systems in a Single Acquisition with Ferumoxytol-Enhanced MRA”. *Society of Magnetic Resonance Angiography Conference* [Abstract]
- Congratulations to **Dr. Tharini Gunapalan** on being selected for the 2022 American Thyroid Association Trainee Grant! This will support her travels to Montreal for the annual meeting in October.
- **Dr. David Johnson** spoke on “Role of the Microbiome in GI Cancers and Autoimmune Diseases” at the American College of Gastroenterology / Virginia GI Society Postgraduate Course Sept. 9 in Williamsburg. [Presentation]



*Congratulations to residents & their mentors whose abstracts were chosen for presentation at ACP Virginia Chapter’s Residents’ competition on Saturday, Oct. 22!*

- Pierce D, Derber C. “Meningovascular Syphilis Presenting as Acute Ischemic Stroke in a Young Adult Female”
- McAuliffe J, Summers M. “Fistula to Failure: An Unexpected Source of Biventricular Cardiomyopathy”
- Javaid A, Avila C, Qayyum R. “Long-term Effect of Financial Penalties on 30-day Hospital Readmissions”
- Javaid A, Sharma K, Goodman M. “Spine strangler: A case of spinal epidural lipomatosis in a young male”
- Vargas A, D’Souza S. “The Blindness of Binge Drinking: Purtscher-like Retinopathy”
- Ayesha, Mohan N, Ezedike C “Sweet Surrender – Post COVID-19”

**CONFERENCES & MEETINGS:**

**SHM (Society of Hospital Medicine) abstracts now open!** Deadline Tuesday, November 29th, 2022. Plenary and oral abstract authors invited to present at SHM Converge, March 26-29, 2023 in Austin, TX.  
**SGIM (Society of General Internal Medicine) 2023 abstract submission opens on October 24, 2022!** Selected abstract authors are invited to present at SGIM23, May 10-13, 2023 in Colorado.  
**ADA (American Diabetes Association) abstract submissions** open Oct. 3, 2022! Abstract authors will present at June 23-26 in San Diego, CA.  
**ACGME (Accreditation council for Graduate Medical Education).** Deadline Friday, October 7. Selected abstracts invited to present, Feb. 23-25 in Nashville, Tennessee.

The **Internal Medicine Research Advisory Committee (IMRAC)** will meet next on October 26 from 5-6PM in Hof. Hall, 5th floor, Large Conference Room. We welcome **Dr. Bahar Niknejad** (Geriatrics Assistant Professor) as a new faculty member!



#IMResearchEVMS

Scholarship

**IM Grand Rounds:**

10/05/2022

Scott Whitlok, MD  
EVMS Dermatology  
Topic: Skin & Elderly

10/19/2022

Wally Smith, MD  
VCU SOM, Richmond  
Topic: Sickle Cell Disease

10/26/2022

Edward Oldfield, MD  
EVMS Infectious Diseases  
Topic: Monkeypox



## Upcoming Events

Hofheimer Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Large Conference Room

In-person or virtual  
option available

## RESEARCH WORKSHOPS & JOURNAL CLUBS:



**October 6, 2022** (5-6 PM) Mark your calendar for fun at the **Research Journal Club** – we will be discussing [a clinical article](#) that used a cross-sectional study design: Aggarwal R, Bibbins-Domingo K, Yeh RW, et al. Diabetes Screening by Race and Ethnicity in the Equivalent Body Mass Index and Age Threshold. *Ann Intern Med* 2022;175(6):765-773 As always, there will be plenty of time for discussion and learning. Dr. Liza Botros will review study design, epidemiological principles, and some biostatistical rules. Previously, we have covered retrospective cohort study design and prospective cohort study design.



**October 20, 2022** (5-6 PM) **“Research vs. Quality Improvement: What’s the Difference?”** led by Harry Tillman, PhD. Dr. Tillman is Assistant Dean for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Human Subjects Protection. He has over 20 years of IRB experience working at EVMS and on institutional boards at Georgetown University and George Mason University. Dr. Tillman’s talk will review differences between Research and Quality Improvement from an IRB perspective, including: templates for writing a research protocol or a QI proposal, application process for an IRB Administrator to review submissions, timelines, hurdles typically experienced by first-time study or project applicants, and more!



**November 17, 2022** (5-6 PM) **“Understanding Survey-Based Research”** led by Michelle Rogers-Johnson, PhD. Dr. Rogers-Johnson is the Assistant Dean for EVMS Assessment and Student Learning, and teaches in the MHPE program. She has over 10 years of assessment experience and is responsible for management, collection, and timely reporting of data. Dr. Rogers-Johnson’s presentation will cover topics such as longitudinal vs. cross-sectional survey research, how to write survey questions, survey validation, and review of order effects bias.

### Office of Research Funding: (click [here](#) or copy and paste link)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/192ymEE6AJN7dP-xKs3jJRAohVdh1Ai2/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116238454152980653652&rtpof=true&csd=true>

### Walk to End Alzheimer’s:

Glennan Center among premier sponsors at the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on September 24 in Chesapeake City Park. Faculty and staff engaged with community members to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s research efforts.



### Milton Brown, MD, PhD

**Please tell us about yourself:** I came to EVMS from George Mason University where I served as Professor of Practice in the College of Science and Director of the Center for Drug Discovery. Prior to George Mason, I was Deputy Director of the Schar Cancer Center at Inova in Northern Virginia. I also previously served for 11 years as founding director of the Drug Discovery Program at Georgetown University Medical Center where I was appointed as Endowed Chair in Experimental Therapeutics, tenured associate professor in the Department of Oncology, and associate director for the experimental therapeutics program at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. I am an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, have over 65 issued patents, and authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. My licensed therapeutic inventions have led to the creation of five biotech companies, one that is currently traded on the NASDAQ. I have successfully designed and synthesized two drugs, both of which are in phase I/II clinical testing in humans and a third in the process of applying for an investigational new drug application. In 2015, I was honored as a recipient of the Percy Julian Award by the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers for significant contributions in pure and/or applied research in science. I was appointed to a four-year term by the U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services to serve as a scientific counselor on the National Toxicology Program Board, and have served as a scientific reviewer of grants and programs for the NIH, NCI, DoD, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Together, with the help of our corporate partners and friends from the community, I am hopeful that EVMS will accomplish its transformative academic mission by integrating drug discovery and development with an innovative clinical translation center to further advance EVMS discoveries from the bench to the bedside to address the region’s pressing health needs.

**What studies are you currently working on?** We are working on novel drugs for BRCA1 positive breast cancer, targeting cancer stem cells, inflammatory bowel disease and Alzheimer’s disease.

**What excites you most about your current position as Vice Dean for Research at EVMS?** I am excited about the opportunity to translate new medicines to continue to deliver on the promise and commitment to improve community health. I am also excited to work towards building a world class comprehensive center for women’s health, an innovative clinical research center, and a center for drug discovery and clinical translation.

**What advice do you have for someone looking to get involved in research?** Pick a disease for which you have a passion to cure or treat. Develop a competency in research methods, collaborate with trusted individuals, and seek to get preliminary data to launch grant applications and publications.

## Announcements



## Researcher Spotlight



*Dr. Milton Brown  
Department of Internal Medicine  
New Faculty Member*

Please send research updates to [Cindy Avila AvilaCJ@evms.edu](mailto:Cindy.Avila@evms.edu) for consideration in our upcoming newsletters