

# In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

## Message from the Chair

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our outstanding faculty members for their remarkable achievements at the recent ACP Virginia Chapter meeting—they brought home 7 out of 10 awards. Your contributions to the field of medicine are an inspiration to us all.

I'm also delighted to welcome new faculty members to our growing family – Madeeha Deo, Sarah Sergi, Roy Flemmer, Joseph DeBiase – we look forward to the unique contributions you will bring to our department.

Last month marked the beginning of our research workshop and research journal club for this year. These initiatives are pivotal in fostering innovation and knowledge exchange within our department. I encourage everyone to actively participate and make the most of these opportunities for collaborative learning and growth. Also, please attend the upcoming EVMS research day.

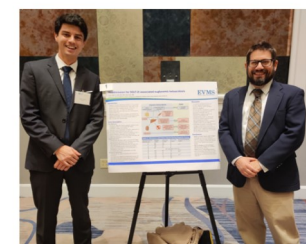
Once again, thank you for your dedication, hard work, and the positive impact you make on our department every day. Let's keep striving for excellence and pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve together.

## Peer-reviewed Publications

- 1) **Palmer RM.** Not enough geriatricians or not where they are needed? J Am Geriatr Soc. 2023 Sep;71(9):2701-2703. PMID: 37622453.
- 2) **Sadr N, Qayyum R.** Association between Klotho protein and melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer in the US adult population: A cross-sectional study. JAAD International. 2023;13:95-7.
- 3) Bavuso M, Miller N, **Sill JM**, Dobrian A, Colunga Biancatelli RML. Extracellular vesicles in acute respiratory distress syndrome: Understanding protective and harmful signaling for the development of new therapeutics. Histol Histopathol. 2023 Sep 1:18659. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37712224.
- 4) Karpov MV, Bartholmae MM, Levy BL, Roess AA, Renshaw KD, **Sill JM**, Dodani S. Exploring the influence of behavioral factors on depression and anxiety scores during the COVID-19 pandemic: insights from the Virginia statewide COVIDsmart longitudinal study. BMC Public Health. 2023 Sep 8;23(1):1749.

## Abstracts, Posters, & Presentations

- 1) **Johnson DA** was an invited speaker on 10 September 2023 for the virtual symposium, The Association of Consultant Physicians of Jamaica (ACPJ), Kingston, Jamaica
- 2) **Johnson DA** was a co-speaker on 10 September 2023 at the Alvin Zfass at the VA Gastroenterology/American College of Gastroenterology meeting, Williamsburg, VA
- 3) **Hanrahan J** was an invited speaker at the HIV/AIDS Fall Summit on 20 September 2023. What's new, what's not in HIV/AIDS for 2023
- 4) **Ryan M.** was an invited speaker at the HIV/AIDS Fall Summit. 20 September 2023. Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)
- 5) **Okhravi HR** was an invited speaker for the quarterly meeting of the Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Commission. 21 September 2023. **Niknejad B** was a collaborative team member on the project protocol.
- 6) **Phillips S, Ly M, Hornersmith, C, Qayyum R.** 23 September 2023 medical student poster competition at the Virginia Chapter of ACP annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. Hospital interventions to reduce pneumonia readmission rates: a systematic review.
- 7) **Sadr N, Qayyum R.** 23 September 2023 medical student poster competition at the Virginia Chapter of ACP annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. Money matters: exploring the relationship between household income and sunscreen urinary metabolite
- 8) **Peppiatt I, Tahhan S.** 23 September 2023 medical student poster competition at the Virginia Chapter of ACP annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. A Tale of Two  $\hat{I}^2$  Chains: Heterozygous Hemoglobinopathy in Sickle Cell Disease.
- 9) **Peppiatt I, Flenner R.** 23 September 2023 medical student poster competition at the Virginia Chapter of ACP annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. Babesiosis in the Backyard.
- 10) **Martin N, Hill K, Lieb D.** 23 September 2023 medical student poster competition at the Virginia Chapter of ACP annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. Readmission for SGLT-2i Associated Euglycemic Ketoacidosis
- 11) **Naseer A, McAuliffe J, Altaf Z, Bahniwal R, Robertson S.** 23 September 2023 medical student poster competition at the Virginia Chapter of ACP annual conference in Richmond, Virginia. Renal Flow To and Fro: A Case of High Output Heart Failure From an Unlikely Source.



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## Researcher Spotlight—Amanda “Amy” Cecchini, PGY5 PCCM Fellow

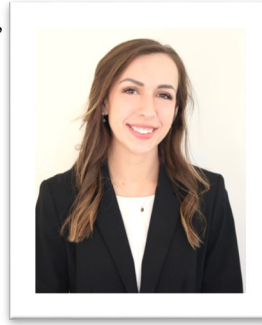
**Please tell us about yourself.** I was raised in southeastern Kentucky and went to college, medical school, & residency in the mountains of eastern Tennessee. I fell in love with pulmonary/critical care medicine while working in the ICU during the COVID pandemic. To me, no other specialty offered the opportunity for problem solving, critical thinking, & racing the clock to intervene in rapid and critical disease processes. The incredible teamwork with multiple disciplines allows us to care for the whole patient. It is a rewarding feeling to know that you did everything you could do for a person.

**What areas do you hope to improve upon in the future? What excites you about research?** I hope to investigate physician wellness and its impact on patient care in the future. Thus far, most of the research I have completed has been case reports & abstracts. I really love diving into an interesting case and figuring out how a disease process occurs to see if we can either prevent it or recognize it early. My project interests typically focus on patient safety and improving efficiency for better outcomes within the hospital/ICU.

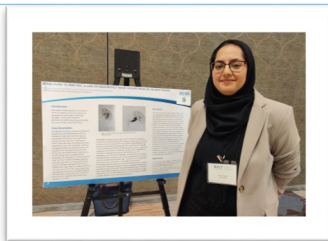
**Do you have a researcher mentor? If yes, how did you initially connect with them and what skills have you learned through their mentorship?** Until I was in residency, I had very little experience with research and was mostly self-taught. A PCCM fellow that I worked with in residency, Krupa Solanki, who is now an interventional pulmonary fellow at USC in LA, taught me how to write abstracts and case reports. I am extremely grateful. I learned how to include relevant information in a clear & concise manner and how to perform literature reviews. I have always loved writing and editing, so that part came easily. However, data analysis is more difficult for me, and I am still actively learning!

**What advice do you have for other fellows, residents, or medical students who wish to identify a scholarly project here at EVMS?** My advice is to choose a topic that interests you or that you are passionate about. Once you find that topic, reach out to find an appropriate mentor to determine what kind of research would best suit your interest and how to initiate a project. Know that it takes time and persistence, but you will never look back and regret a publication or conference presentation that is listed on your CV.

**What is your favorite hobby, a recent book you’ve read or a TV show that you’ve watched...and tell us what you enjoy about it/them!** My husband and I have spent the last 3 summers exploring several national parks! We both love to hike and explore nature. We lived near the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee which inspired us to see as many parks as we can. We have visited Arches, Canyonlands and Zion in Utah, Grand Canyon in Arizona, and Mount Lassen in California, and look forward to many more.



*“It always seems impossible until it’s done”*  
- Nelson Mandela



## Awards, Media Highlights, & Other Commentaries

Dr. **Kelly Hill**, 2nd-year endocrine fellow, has received the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital Physician-in-Training Clinical Excellence Award for this quarter

Pan CX, **Thomson K**, **Galacia-Castillo M**. hosts of the Fireside Chat discussion on 7 Sept 2023. Palliative Care Webinar - Listening: Distilling What Matters Most to Our Patient

**Mily Kannarkat**, MD was recently appointed with the Sue Faulkner Scribner Distinguished Professorship in Geriatrics.

**Derber C** served as the Course Director for the HIV/AIDS Fall Summit. 20 September 2023.

Recent EVMS graduate **Jairo Norena** published a book, The Power of Intermittent Fasting/El Poder del Ayun Intermitente

**Johnson, DA** quoted in online article 24 August 2023 - [Weblink](#)

### Reminders:

Grand Rounds

Wednesdays at noon

Waitzer Hall, Suite #300

AACE 2024 (New Orleans, LA) Call for abstracts opens 10/2/23

ACR Convergence, Late-breaking abstract submissions due 10/3/23

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (New Orleans, LA) abstract submissions due 10/6/23

EVMS Research Day, poster presentations & awards 10/20/23

Society of Hospital Medicine (San Diego, CA) abstract submissions due 11/28/23