

In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”



Message from the Chair

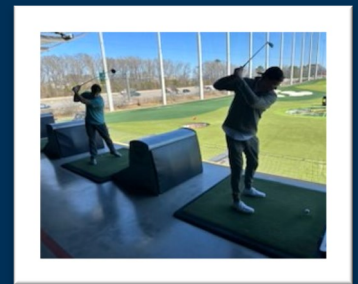
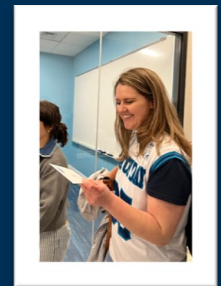
Dear Colleagues,

This month, we celebrate several faculty, fellows, and residents recognized for excellence, including inductions into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Congratulations to Dr. Cecchini, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine fellow and incoming faculty, for receiving the PACE Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation—an outstanding achievement.

While we celebrate these achievements, we must also acknowledge the challenges ahead. Recent federal policy changes at USAID and the NIH indirect cost cap have created financial constraints, and the proposed Medicaid cuts, if enacted, may further strain institutional resources. Dr. Abuhamad, urges vigilance in resource optimization and spending. Despite these challenges, I remain confident in our collective ability to navigate them with resilience and innovation. Your support in maintaining efficiency is vital as we navigate this uncertainty together. Thank you for your dedication to our mission.

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 1) **Vargas A**, Dutta P, Hawa F, Quingalahua E, Marin R, **Vilela A**, Nix T, Mendoza-Ladd A, Wilcox CM, Chalhoub JM, Machicado JD. Effect of selective COX-2 inhibitors and non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on severity of acute pancreatitis: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Pancreatology*. 2025:S1424-3903(25)00061-4. PMID: 40155261.
- 2) Rajji TK, Baksh SN, Shade DM, Ismail Z, Burhan AM, **Okhravi HR**, Padala PR, Rosenberg PB, Schneider LS, Porsteinsson AP, Lyketsos CG; S-CitAD Research Group. Escitalopram for agitation in Alzheimer's dementia: a randomized controlled phase 3 trial. *Nat Med*. 2025 Mar 25. doi: 10.1038/s41591-025-03569-y. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40133524.
- 3) Al-Allawi N, Al-Mousawi MM, **Al Allawi S**, Ibrahim KJ. Alloimmunization in β -Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease in Middle Eastern Countries: A Systemic Review. *Hemoglobin*. 2025:1-15. PMID: 40069098.
- 4) **Carbone S**, Lavie CJ, Neeland IJ. Weight changes in obesity: the obesity paradox revisited. *Heart*. 2025 Mar 7;heartjnl-2024-325611. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2024-325611. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40054887.
- 5) Smith WR, **Qayyum R**, Ulbing A, Guy MS, Sop DM, Zhang YM. Preliminary validity of a daily functional status pain assessment tool. *J Sick Cell Dis*. 2025;2(1):yoaf006. doi: 10.1093/jscdis/yoaf006. PMID: 40123944.
- 6) Creecy A, Awosanya OD, Harris A, **Qiao X**, **Ozanne M**, **Toepp AJ**, Kacena MA, **McCune T**. COVID-19 and Bone Loss: A Review of Risk Factors, Mechanisms, and Future Directions. *Curr Osteoporos Rep*. 2024 Feb;22(1):122-134. doi: 10.1007/s11914-023-00842-2. Epub 2024 Jan 15. PMID: 38221578; PMCID: PMC10912142.
- 7) Harris TB, Givens RH, López A, Tariq S, Knight N, Hackworth JM, Brown ET, **Fanning LG**, Núñez A, McNeal-Trice K. Women of Color and Intersectionality Initiative: A Workgroup Report on the Continued Need to Support and Retain Women of Color. *J Womens Health (Larchmt)*. 2025 Mar 18. doi: 10.1089/jwh.2024.1096. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40098533.
- 8) **Johnson DA**, **Vargas A**, **Oldfield EC 4th**. Plastics: Here, There, and Everywhere - Implications for Gastrointestinal Health and Disease. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2025 Mar 12. doi: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000003417. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40071768.
- 9) McConeghy KW, **Davidson HE**, Canaday DH, Han L et al. Recombinant vs egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccination for nursing home residents; a cluster randomized trial. *JAMA Network Open*;2025;8(1)e2452677.
- 10) Jayasekera J, Wilson OWA, Wojcik KM, Kerr EM, Brick R, Berrigan D, Sheng JY, Fujii T, Thomas K, **Parson HK**, Rajagopal PS, Street RL Jr. Healthcare provider perspectives on a clinical decision tool to support individualized exercise prescriptions and discussions for breast cancer survivors. *J Cancer Surviv*. 2025 Mar 12. doi: 10.1007/s11764-025-01750-3. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40074972.



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Researcher Spotlight — Omar Jafar, PGY2, IM Residency Program

What excites you about research and what type of investigations are you currently working on?

Research is the opportunity to deeply understand a topic and contribute to the broader body of knowledge. I also enjoy the collaborative aspect of research—working with different members of the research team and learning from their perspectives. Currently, I am involved in two investigations: one is a retrospective review of heart failure patients who received subcutaneous furosemide and the other focuses on transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and its associated conduction disturbances.

As a research track resident, how do you manage your time (i.e., clinical responsibilities and research)?

Time management as a resident requires flexibility. On busy clinical days, I aim to dedicate even just a few minutes to my active projects; these small efforts accumulate over time. Additionally, the dedicated research week as a research track resident allows me to focus solely on advancing my projects.

Have you had any research mentors over the years? If so, what have they taught you, and how did you find them?

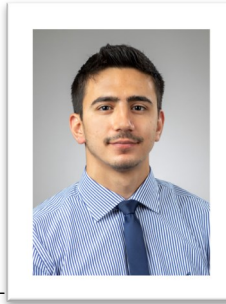
Yes, Dr. Qayyum and Dr. Sill. They have provided invaluable guidance on navigating research projects, from starting the project to preparing the IRB submission and much more. I connected with them through our department's research workshop early in my intern year.

What research skills do you hope to develop over the next few years?

Over the next few years, I hope to enhance my understanding of data analysis and data analysis software. Additionally, I hope to learn more about conducting meta-analyses.

What is your favorite hobby outside of work? Tell us what you enjoy about it.

My favorite hobby outside of work is cooking. I love trying new recipes and experimenting with different techniques. It's always a bonus when a dish turns out good!



Presentations & Media Highlights, & Awards

- **Johnson DA** had a Medscape media publication on the topic of, Bowel Prep for Colonoscopy: Quality Matters on 27 March 2025. Watch the clip [here](#).
- **Batchelor E** was awarded elected to the EVMS Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) for exemplary service, integrity, clinical excellence, and compassion.
- **Sill JD, Huang A,** & Gemeda M presented a break out session at AAMC-GDI on 25 March 2025 in Columbus, OH; Community Based Participatory Research: Realty vs. the Dream.
- **Huang, A, Sill JD,** Gemeda M, **Figgs T, Sholi C, Choi C, Schmidt A, Herfarth N, Bernstein RC** et al., had a poster presentation at the AAMC-GDI on 25 March 2025 in Columbus, OH; How Does Transportation Equity DRIVE Access to Health Care for Residents of Hampton Roads?
- **Fanning L,** Parks-Savage A, Holland D presented a break out session at AAMC-GDI on 25 March 2025 in Columbus, OH; A Psychological Safety Model: Improving Techniques to Mitigate Learner's Trauma Responses.
- **Knight N, McIntosh D, Fanning L** presented a break out session at AAMC-GDI on 25 March 2025 in Columbus, OH; Advancing Inclusive Support for Medical Student Mental Health: A Culturally Responsive Approach

Congrats to all who have recently had Abstracts accepted for Upcoming Conferences

- **Flathers E, Platter D, Moez A, Tahhan S**—National ACP, New Orleans, LA
- **Shahid L, Tahhan S**—National ACP, New Orleans, LA
- **Kcomt Lam M**—ATS International Conference, San Francisco, CA
- **Kcomt Lam M**—SHM Converge 2025, Las Vegas, NV
- **Seward A, Qayyum R**—National ACP, New Orleans, LA

April 2025 Reminders:

Medicine Grand Rounds: Wednesdays, 12-1 p.m.

4/2/25—Dr. Vimal Mishra;
Mercy San Juan Medical Center

4/9/25—Dr. Vanderbilt
University of Virginia Health System

4/16/25 - Dr. Stephanie Peglow; Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences, EVMS at ODU

4/23/25 - Dr. Edward Oldfield IV; Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences, EVMS at ODU

Research Events:

Second and Fourth Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Hybrid: 5th Floor Large Conference Room & Zoom

4/8/25 - Research Workshop, Best Practices for Conducting a Comprehensive Literature Review

4/22/25 - Research Journal Club

⇒ Please note that Macon & Joan Brock VHS, EVMS at ODU Physicians are eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) if taken from USDoE

Please send scholarly updates & photos to:

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