

# In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

## Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to share some wonderful news! Our Cardiology Fellowship Program has successfully received its accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)! This is a significant achievement. My deepest gratitude goes to Dr. Amin Yehya and the many dedicated individuals whose tireless efforts and hard work were instrumental in making this accreditation possible. Congratulations!

As we look ahead, I also want to draw your attention to an important administrative matter: Open Enrollment for Health Insurance and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) begins this month, from May 16th through May 30th, 2025. This is your annual opportunity to carefully review and update your health benefits.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we have hired Dr. Atiq Bhatti as our new Research Manager for the Department, and he will be joining us later this month. I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Julie Sill for her continued and invaluable support of the research activities within the Department of Medicine, despite her demanding full-time responsibilities elsewhere. Her dedication has been truly impactful. Thank you all for your continued hard work, innovation, and commitment to our shared mission. The future of research in the Department of Medicine is bright, thanks to each and every one of you.

## Peer Reviewed Publications

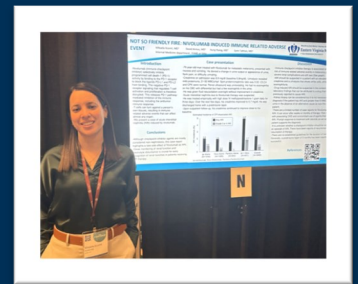
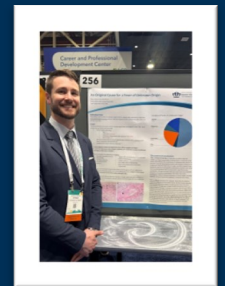
- 1) **Brush JE**, Harper AM, **Kohan LC**, **Bouker Z**, Dandamudi K, **Talreja DR**. Real-world interventional outcomes for cardiogenic shock complicating acute myocardial infarction. *American Heart Journal Plus: Cardiology Research and Practice*. 2025;53:100540. PMID: 40256419
- 2) Shekhar S, Tessa Tonleu J, **Okigbo C**, Leka H, et al. Thyroid Axis Adaptations to Moderate Short-term Energy Restriction in Healthy, Young Women. *Eur J Endocrinol*. 2025 Apr 23. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40265345.
- 3) Cheng R, Alvarez Villela M, Masoumi A, Esposito ML, **Baran DA**, Rommel KP, et al. Charting the Course for Careers in Interventional Heart Failure: Training, Challenges, and Future Directions. *J Soc Cardiovasc Angiogr Interv*. 2025;4:102569. PMID: 40231064.
- 4) Lavie CJ, Tutor AW, **Carbone S**. Is the Obesity Paradox Real? *Can J Cardiol*. 2025. PMID: 40187610.
- 5) **Hanrahan JA**. A New Look at Old Foes. *Med Clin North Am*. 2025;109:xvii-xviii. PMID: 40185561.
- 6) **Blumrick C**. Severe Infections in Returning Travelers. *Med Clin North Am*. 2025;109:695-704. PMID: 40185556.
- 7) **Weaver C**. Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections. *Med Clin North Am*. 2025;109:625-640. PMID: 40185551.
- 8) **DeBiase JM**. A Clinical Review of Prosthetic Joint Infections. *Med Clin North Am*. 2025;109:615-623. PMID: 40185550.
- 9) **Bulaeva A**, **Derber C**. Bacterial Meningitis. *Med Clin North Am*. 2025;109:587-599. PMID: 40185548.
- 10) Song J, Morgan AA, Abram AMD, Hong D, Kim G, Li WF, **Ahn J**, Chang Y, Chi KY, Chiang CH. Khorna risk score in lung cancer patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors: a real-world study. *J Thromb Thrombolysis*. 2025 Apr 1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40167886.
- 11) Stratton KJ, **Sciicluna VM**, Uttal S, Perlman RL. Reducing Barriers to Well-Being and Promoting Mental Health Resources Through a Pilot Opt-Out Check-In Program for Medical Residents. *H P Pr*.
- 12) **Naing AS**, **Bademian S**, Rogers R, **Rust HC**, **McCune TR**. The Ticking Time Bomb: A Case of Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis Triggered by Ehrlichiosis in a Kidney Transplant Recipient: SA-PO1005. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2024 Oct 1;35(10S):10-681.
- 13) **Aramas CD**, **Bademian S**, **Kcomt M**, **Burgess J**, **Qiao X**. No small dilemma: small bowel volvulus mimicking acute coronary syndrome. *Oxf. Med. Case Rep*. 2024 Jul; 2024(7):omae080.

## Presentations

- **Flathers E**, **Bautista A**, **Trinh L**, **Flemmer, M**. *Got Milk—Tube Feeds with Supplements Leading to Iatrogenic Milk Alkali Syndrome*, National ACP, New Orleans, LA
- **Kcomt, M**, **Armas, D**, **Naing A**, **Tahhan, S**. *Not So Friendly Fire: Nivolumab Induced Immune Related Adverse Event*. National ACP, New Orleans, LA.
- **Admire K**, **Sill JM**, **Gegick S**. *Using Endobronchial Ultrasound Guided Forceps Biopsies to Improve Yield of Rapid Onsite Examination*. National ACP, New Orleans, LA



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## Researcher Spotlight — Madeeha Deo, MD

What excites you about research and what type of investigations are you currently working on? I like how research can validate what we often see anecdotally in clinical practice. I've always believed that the stories we hear from patients & the patterns we observe as providers deserve to be explored and proven through research. Although I'm earlier in my research career, I'm drawn to projects that have a direct impact on patient outcomes and health equity. Working with adults living with sickle cell disease, I've become even more aware of how much remains unknown, even about a disease we've recognized for over a century. Being able to ask questions, investigate gaps, and contribute to evidence that could improve quality of life for patients — that's what keeps me excited and motivated to keep learning.



Have you had any research mentors over the years? If so, what have they taught you, and how did you find them? I've been fortunate to have mentors throughout my career. They have shown me that research isn't just about academic productivity, it's about asking the right questions that come directly from patient care. They taught me that good research starts with noticing the gaps, the patterns, and the frustrations we encounter every day. One of the mentors who has had a strong influence on my current development is Dr. Rehan Qayyum. His background, in various leadership roles at institutions like John Hopkins and VCU, brings a deep research perspective to clinical practice. He has helped broaden how I think about career development as an internal medicine physician. He has encouraged me to look beyond patient care and toward building clinical expertise through research and scholarly work & reinforced the importance of staying curious, patient centered, and willing to keep asking the bigger questions that can ultimately lead to better systems of care.

Describe the studies you are currently working on. Can medical students, residents, or fellows join your team? I'm leading a retrospective study that investigates hospital readmissions & length of stay in adults living with sickle cell disease at SNGH. We're analyzing over a decade of patient data to better understand what factors (clinical, social and systemic) predict higher readmission rates and prolonged hospital stays. I'm especially interested in how medication adherence, social vulnerability, and chronic complications like pain and organ damage impact outcomes over time. As SCD has been historically understudied in adult populations, this project is an important step toward building better predictive models & improving long term management. Absolutely, medical students, residents and fellows are welcome to join our team! I truly believe that engaging learners in research early—helps them connect the dots between clinical care and systems level change.

What is your favorite hobby outside of work? Tell us what you enjoy about it. Outside of work, my greatest joy comes from spending time with my family. I have two young boys and I'm very intentional about the time we share, knowing that every experience, every small moment, paves a future path for them. I also find a lot of peace and strength through moments of quiet reflection and spiritual grounding, which helps me stay centered amidst the demands of clinical work, research and leadership. Having that inner compass keeps me focused on service, gratitude and growth. Lately, I've been reflecting on *Letter to a Young Female Physician: Thoughts on Life and Work* by Suzanne Koven. Even though I haven't finished it yet, the parts I've read really resonated with me, especially how it captures the quieter, more personal struggles many physicians experience behind the scenes.

### Presentations continued...

- **Shahid L, Tahhan S.** *Not all Myelomas are Created Equal.* National ACP, New Orleans, LA
- **Seward A, Maniattu J, Chan SG, Sill JD, Qayyum R.** *Neighborhood Social Deprivation Affects Hospital Readmission Rates.* National ACP, New Orleans, LA
- **Flathers E, Platter D, Moez A, Tahhan S.** National ACP, New Orleans, LA

### Awards & Media Highlights

- **Deo, M, Herre JM, Hooper M** received the Healthcare Heroes award on 27 March 2025.
- **Shah M** organized & lead a national webinar for the Association of Program Directors in Diabetes, Endocrinology, & Metabolism (APDEM) & presented on Optimizing Program Leadership on 11 April 2025.
- First issue of EVMJ was recently published. Read the first issue [here](#). Thank you to the medicine faculty who serve as Editor-in Chief: **Hesselbacher S** & on the editorial board: **Qayyum, R, Hanrahan JA.**
- **Johnson DA** had 2 Medscape media publications: 1) New Cancer Risk Data Suggest Hitting Pause on CT Scans, on 18 & 29 April 2025. Watch the clip 1 [here](#) & clip 2 [here](#).
- **Cecchini A**—SNGH Clinical Excellence Award for Physician in Training
- **Batchelor E** won the Golden Humanism Honor Society Award.
- **Cecchini A**—Cystic Fibrosis Foundation PACE Award for CF-related research
- **Bademian S & Levkiavska Y** won the Golden Humanism Honor Society Awards for PGY fellows.

### Recently accepted:

- **Jones, G,** Mentor: **Hanrahan JA.** —Accepted to SHEA 2025
- **Cochrane JF, Sill JD, Pettaway JL, Paten J, Patten HP, Tahhan S.**—Accepted to SGIM 2025

### May 2025 Reminders:

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

5/7/25—Dr. Jordan Asher, Executive Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer, Sentara Helath

5/14/25—Dr. Marcy B. Bolster; Harvard Medical School

5/21/25 - Dr. Angela Hogan; Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences, EVMS at ODU

5/28/25 - Dr. S. Sethu K. Reddy, Central Michigan, College of Medicine

#### Research Events:

Research Office Hours, Friday afternoons 2-4 p.m.

Drop-in or 30-minute appointments are available.

PEG Grants due by May 27 @ 5 p.m. (Focus areas—AI and Digital Literacy & Team Approaches to Excellence in Education & Research)

Please send scholarly updates & photos to:

**Csantana@odu.edu**

