



In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

Message from the Chair

As we enter the heart of summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous work happening across the Department of Medicine. June marks an important transition for our institution with the implementation of the Epic. I am grateful to all of you for your flexibility, preparation, and support during this critical shift. While we know these changes can be complex, I am optimistic that, with your dedication, the transition will be smoother than expected and will ultimately enhance how we care for our patients.

This past month has also brought exciting recognitions and research milestones that showcase the caliber of talent in our department. Dr. Sami Tahhan and Dr. David Lieb were recently selected for Virginia ACP Chapter Awards for Mentorship and DEI Advocacy, respectively—a testament to their leadership and impact. Dr. Iuliia Kovalenko was accepted into the prestigious Journal of Hospital Medicine Digital Media Fellowship, and Dr. Manasi Shah has been selected for the competitive Junior Clinical Investigator Program, which provides protected time and research funding to cultivate the next generation of clinical investigators. Congratulations to Dr. JaEun Ahn, who received the EVMS Community Faculty Research Travel Award to present his work at the upcoming SLEEP 2025 meeting in Seattle.

I also want to remind a few things: 1) Eastern Virginia Medical Journal, now accepting submissions for its second issue. 2) Explore ODU’s newly defined strategic research thrust areas including Health Innovations and cross-cutting themes such as AI, data science, and cybersecurity, which may provide new avenues for collaboration and funding. 3) The Commonwealth Health Research Board (CHRB) grant competition is now open for internal submissions, and I urge interested faculty to apply. 4) Please join the 6th Annual Mid-Atlantic Concepts in Cardiology Conference and Young Investigator Forum. 5) Dr. Salvatore Carbone, will be delivering a CME lecture this August on non-surgical therapies for obesity and cardiometabolic disease.

Thank you for your continued scholarship; I remain proud of what we’re building together.

Peer Reviewed Publications

1. **Yehya A**, Al-Khatib SM. REPLY: Revisiting ICD Therapy for Primary Prevention: The CONTEMPICD Trial. *JACC Heart Fail.* 2025 May;13(5):881-882. PMID: 40335243
2. Letarte LA, Raju V, Feliberti JP, Antoine SM, Bindra AS, Yaranov DM, **Yehya A**, Garcia RA, Patel P, Fudim M, et al; SWIFT-HF Collaborative. Beyond GDMT: bridging the therapeutic gap in heart failure. *Heart Fail Rev.* 2025 Apr 30. PMID: 40304825
3. Snider BJ, Biffi A, Bozeat S, ..., **Okhravi H**, et al. System readiness and the patient care pathway for Alzheimer’s disease diagnosis and treatment. *Alzheimers Dement (N Y).* 2025;11:e70094. PMID: 40547330.
4. Rosenfeld RM, Grega ML, Karlsen MC, ..., **Panigrahi G**, et al. Executive Summary of Lifestyle Interventions for Treatment and Remission of Type 2 Diabetes and Prediabetes in Adults: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. *Am J Lifestyle Med.* 2025;19:132S-154S. PMID: 40546763.
5. Rosenfeld RM, Grega ML, Karlsen MC, ... **Panigrahi G**, et al. Lifestyle Interventions for Treatment and Remission of Type 2 Diabetes and Prediabetes in Adults: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. *Am J Lifestyle Med.* 2025;19(2 Suppl):10S-131S. PMID: 40546761.
6. **Yehya A**. Primary Prevention ICD: Essential Safeguard or Personalized Selectivity? *Eur Heart J Qual Care Clin Outcomes.* 2025;qcaf037. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40498918.
7. Lopez J, Makuvire T, Davis JD, **Carbone S**. The Short and Sweet on Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter Inhibitors and Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonists in Heart Failure. *US Cardiol.* 2025;19:e12. PMID: 40458830.

Published Abstracts, Posters, & Presentations

1. **Sadaieva, Diana** - Poster titled "STRN/ALK Fusion-Positive Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Following Childhood Craniospinal Radiation" has been accepted at the 2025 ATA Annual Meeting.
2. **Yehya A** et al. presented "Global Survey of Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) Wean Protocols: A VAD Wean Registry Report" as a mini-oral presentation at J Heart Lung Transplant in April 2025.
3. **Yehya A** et al. presented a poster titled "Association Between Early Gene Expression Profiling Scores and Renal Dysfunction Following Heart Transplantation" at J Heart Lung Transplant in April 2025.
4. **Yehya A** et al. presented a poster titled "Safety and Efficacy of SGLT2 Inhibitors in Heart Transplant Recipients" at J Heart Lung Transplant in April 2025.



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Researcher Spotlight — Atiq Bhatti, MD-MS Candidate

Please tell us about yourself Originally from Pakistan, I worked as a computer networks engineer before pursuing my BS in the Philippines and medical degree in Romania. I recently joined EVMS as Research Manager in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Emergency Medicine Innovation Collaborative (EMIC) Innovation Lab. I also hold fellowships at Earl Bakken Medical Device Center and Digitaldx Venture while pursuing my MS in Digital Healthcare Transformation at Northeastern University. Additionally, I serve as a board member for IgniteMN, supporting Minnesota's startup ecosystem. My focus is making innovation accessible to clinicians through advanced technological solutions addressing unmet clinical needs. I mentor Healthtech startups, bridging academic research with real-world application. In my free time, I enjoy golfing, cycling, and perfecting my barista skills



Describe the studies you are currently working on Right now I am leading AI/ML model development and LLM validation for clinical applications at EVMS and the University of Minnesota. I'm creating AI-driven medical devices for critical care and clinical decision support systems through my Innovation Fellowship. My research focuses on validating AI models for medical and surgical applications, utilizing technology-driven healthcare solutions to enhance clinical practice. I recently contributed to NIH-R01 studies at Ohio State focusing on healthcare disparities in cancer screening, and multi-institutional studies with the Mayo Clinic, OSU, and Vanderbilt University.

Can medical students and residents get involved in your research? If so, how will they be involved? Absolutely! Students can engage in AI model development, clinical data analysis, literature reviews, and manuscript preparation. Through EVMS initiatives, they gain experience in clinical AI applications and translational research. My aim extends beyond traditional publications by providing opportunities to develop and implement technology at the point of care, granting hands-on experience creating healthcare solutions that transform patient care delivery.

What were your research interests and what have you learned from them? My foundation in neurosurgery and spinal cord injury research at the Mayo Clinic instilled rigorous methodology and translational principles. Expanding into healthcare AI/ML and digital health innovation, I learned to leverage technology's transformative potential in healthcare delivery while advocating for equitable access to innovative solutions.

Who were/are your favorite mentors/collaborators and tell us what you enjoy working with them and/or what have you learned from them? My mentors at the Mayo Clinic, Ohio State University, and the Earl Bakken Medical Device Center have shaped my understanding of clinical research and the pathways from innovation to implementation. Collaborating with multidisciplinary teams across neurosurgery, data science, and medical device innovation highlighted the synergy between clinical expertise and technological advancement for improved patient care outcomes.

"Today's breakthrough was yesterday's impossible—keep questioning, keep discovering, keep pushing boundaries. "

Media Highlights, Awards, Services, Announcements

- Johnson DA** has a media coverage on Medscape titled 'The Overlooked Link Between Vitamin D and GI Health. Read the commentary [here](#)
- Congratulations to Dr. Manasi Shah** on being selected for the prestigious **Junior Clinical Investigator Program (JCIP)**.
- Congratulations to Dr. David Lieb** on being selected as the **2025 Virginia ACP Chapter George Abraham Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advocacy Award winner**.
- Congratulations to Dr. Sami Tahhan** on being selected as the **2025 Virginia ACP Chapter Mentorship Award winner**.
- Congratulations to Dr. Iuliia Kovalenko** on being accepted to the prestigious **JHM Digital Media Fellowship**.
- AMA Research Challenge** Open to medical students, residents, and international medical graduates (IMGs). Showcase your research for a chance to win \$10,000, presented by Laurel Road. *Deadline: July 16, 2025*
- ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts** Submit your hematology research abstracts for consideration at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting. *Deadline: August 5, 2025*
- 2026 Critical Care Congress** Contribute to the advancement of critical care by submitting your research abstracts. *Deadline: August 6, 2025*
- AMA Poster Showcase** Submit your research abstract for the AMA Poster Showcase. *Deadline: October 17, 2025*



Research Events:

Hybrid: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

5th Floor Large Conference Room & Zoom

7/8/25 - Research Workshop, **Biostatistics fundamentals and Study Design**

7/22/25 - Research Journal Club, EVMS/ODU authors

Research Office Hours
Fridays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

