

In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

Message from the Chair

First, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your incredible efforts during our transition to the new electronic health records system; your resilience has been remarkable as workflows continue to improve daily. Beyond this operational success, it is with immense pride and excitement that I share a wave of remarkable achievements from the past month, truly reflecting our department's vibrant spirit of discovery and collaboration. We warmly welcome our new leaders, Dr. Raymond Benza as Chief of Cardiology, a renowned researcher in pulmonary hypertension, and Dr. Timothy Pike as Chief of General Internal Medicine, bringing extensive operational and quality improvement expertise. Congratulations are also in order for Dr. Varun Malhotra on becoming the new Division Chief for Nephrology, Dr. Milton Brown for his selection into the prestigious Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Dr. Manasi Shah as our second JCIP scholar, and Dr. Iuliia Kovalenko for her Digital Media Fellowship at the Journal of Hospital Medicine. Our faculty's dedication to excellence was further recognized with Dr. David Lieb receiving the George Abraham Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advocacy Award, Dr. Sami Tahhan earning the Mentorship Award, and Dr. Cayleigh Blumrick securing the Inpatient Subspecialty Teaching Award, all from the distinguished ACP Virginia Chapter. Additionally, we celebrate success in securing two individual PEG grants for professional development for Dr. Saard Mussarat and Dr. Alastair Thomson, alongside a team-based PEG grant for developing an adaptive learning model using generative language models. The depth and breadth of your work, detailed in the publications and presentations list below, are truly inspiring, and I strongly encourage each of you to continue pursuing high-impact clinical research, aiming for publications in leading journals, and presenting your groundbreaking work at national conferences to further elevate our department's presence.

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 1) **Brush JE Jr**, Harper AM, Kohan LC, Bouker Z, Dandamudi K, **Talreja DR**. Real-world interventional outcomes for cardiogenic shock complicating acute myocardial infarction. *Am Heart J Plus*. 2025;53:100540. PMID: 40256419
- 2) **Brush JE Jr**, Kim C, Liu Y, Xin X, Huang C, Lundy IJ, Asher JR, Sawano M, Young P, McPadden J, Anderson M, Burrows JS, Krumholz HM, Lu Y. Association Between Neighborhood-Level Social Vulnerability and Hypertension Outcomes. *JACC Adv*. 2025 Jul 7 PMID: 40627892.
- 3) Lu Y, **Brush JE Jr**, Kim C, Liu Y, Xin X, Huang C, Sawano M, Young P, McPadden J, Anderson M, Burrows JS, Asher JR, Krumholz HM. Delayed Hypertension Diagnosis and Its Association With Cardiovascular Treatment and Outcomes. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2025;8(7):e2520498. PMID: 40658418.
- 4) **Valle NJ**, **Yehya A**, Rathore A, et al. Emergent Transcatheter Tricuspid Edge-to-Edge Repair for Right Ventricular Shock From Tricuspid Regurgitation in Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. *JACC Case Rep*. 2025;30(19):104448.
- 5) Rosenfeld RM, Grega ML, Karlens MC, Abu Dabrh AM, Aurora RN, Bonnet JP, Donnell L, Fitzpatrick SL, Frates B, Joy EA, Kapustin JF, Noe DR, **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.
- 6) **Munir MZ**, **Galicia-Castillo MC**, **Achitoov M**, **Yehya A**. Left Ventricular Assist Device Destination Therapy: A Journey to Home and Beyond. *JACC Case Rep*. 2025 Jul 9;30(18):103944. PMID: 40645697.
- 7) Fuentes-Mendoza JM, **Muñoz-Moreno J**, et al. Advances in regenerative cardiology: Stem cells versus bioartificial tissues. *Eur J Clin Invest*. 2025 Jul 22:e70101. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40693822.
- 8) Yang X, Gazzanigo M, **Fang F**, House S. Vagally mediated heart rate variability modulates the association between the perceived workload and the Stroop effect on behavioral performance. *Physiol Rep*. 2025 Jul;13(14):e70466. PMID: 40693346.
- 9) Wilcox CM, ... **Parekh PJ**, et al. Management of the Disconnected Pancreatic Duct in Pancreatic Necrosis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2025 Jul 16:S1542-3565(25)00586-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40680906.
- 10) Shchendrygina A, **Yehya A**, Skouri H. The Timing for Primary Prevention for ICD in the Current Era of Pharmacotherapy. *Card Fail Rev*. 2025 Jun 25;11:e14. PMID: 40671966.
- 11) **Carbone S**. Artificial intelligence in cancer-related malnutrition and cachexia: a transformative tool in clinical nutrition. *Adv Nutr*. 2025;16:100447. PMID: 40374013.

INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL RESEARCH BOOTCAMP 2025

17 SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 2025

Congratulations!



Dr. Milton Brown

Elected member of the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine



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INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL RESEARCH BOOTCAMP 2025

17 Saturday, August 23rd, 2025

Register Now



Register Now

Researcher Spotlight — David Lieb, MD

Please tell us about yourself:

I grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and completed medical school and endocrinology fellowship at the University of Virginia. I did my internal medicine residency at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland before joining the faculty at Eastern Virginia Medical School in 2009. I currently serve as Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Internal Medicine and Program Director for the Endocrinology Fellowship. I live in Norfolk with my wife, Emily, a family physician, and our three boys—Spencer, Elliott, and Henry.

Describe the studies you are currently working on:

I am the principal investigator for the Western Tidewater United project, a community-based initiative focused on understanding diabetes and improving care across a predominantly rural region of over 150,000 people. Our work includes screenings, outreach, and collaboration with Sentara to address disparities and reduce preventable emergency visits and hospitalizations. I'm also involved in pharmacologic studies related to obesity and thyroid disease, as well as investigator-initiated projects exploring medication adherence in diabetes and therapeutic preferences in those receiving gender-affirming care. Recently, my team and I received a grant from EVMS/ODU to develop AI-driven medical simulations to enhance medical education.

Can medical students and residents get involved in your research? If so, how will they be involved?

I've had the good fortune to work with medical students and residents on a variety of research projects at EVMS. Learners have been involved in all aspects of research, from data collection and literature review to co-authoring posters and presenting findings. Several have also participated in community-based work, such as conducting diabetes screenings. These collaborations are a highlight of my work, and I view them as a chance for mutual learning and growth in both clinical and community-oriented research.

What were your research interests, and what have you learned from them?

During my endocrinology fellowship, I conducted basic science research exploring the mechanisms of hypertension, using both animal models and bench techniques. As an undergraduate, I also participated in cellular research at the National Institutes of Health. While I continue to value and learn from basic science, my current focus is on clinical and community-based research. I'm especially interested in studying diabetes and other common endocrine conditions through the lens of health disparities, with a focus on understanding differences in outcomes across rural and urban communities and among disadvantaged populations.

Who were/are your favorite mentors/collaborators, and tell us what you enjoy about working with them and/or what you have learned from them?

I've been fortunate to have many mentors, collaborators, and community partners throughout my career, and I've learned something valuable from each of them. From my training in endocrinology to my current research and clinical work, these individuals have helped shape my approach to medicine, scholarship, and service. I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to work alongside committed colleagues and to learn from the many learners—students, residents, and fellows.



Tomorrow's medicine isn't one-size-fits-all—it's precision-crafted, data-driven, and uniquely human

Media Highlights, Awards, Services, Announcements

- Dr. Manasi Shah was invited to deliver Primary Care Grand Rounds talk on "Obesity Management: Common Questions Answered" at North Texas VA Healthcare System, Dallas, TX on July 16, 2025.
- Dr. Cayleigh Blumrick was selected for 2025 Virginia ACP Chapter Inpatient Subspecialist Teaching Award.
- **Congratulations** to Drs. Saad Mussarat, Alastair Thomson, and David Lieb on receiving the Professional Enrichment and Growth (PEG) Grant for their projects
- **Ryan Translational Research Fund (RTRF)** - Round 7 now accepting applications for creative translational research projects. Deadline: August 13, 2025.
- **EVMS Community Faculty Research Awards available:** Travel Awards (8 awards up to \$1,500 each) and Publication Awards (10 awards of \$500 each) for students, residents, and fellows.

Published Abstracts, Posters, & Presentations

- **Siraj E.** "The Effect of War and Siege on Children with Diabetes Admitted to Ayder Hospital in Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia". International Diabetes Federation (IDF) conference in Bangkok, Thailand, April 2025.
- **Arif A, Osman R** "A Rare Case Report: Discordance Between Profound Hyperprolactinemia And Hormone Immunostaining In A PIT1-positive Pituitary Neuroendocrine Tumor". Endocrine Society's 2025 Annual Meeting, July 12-15, 2025, San Francisco, CA.
- **Sadaieva D, Lieb D.** "STRN/ALK Fusion-Positive Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Following Childhood Craniospinal Radiation". ATA 2025 Meeting, September 10-14, 2025, Scottsdale, AZ.
- **Okigbo C, Kamran A.** "Late Diagnosis of Klinefelter Syndrome: Overcoming Phenotypic Variability and Diagnostic Oversights" Endocrine Society's 2025 Annual Meeting, July 12-15, 2025, San Francisco, CA.
- **Davis B, Lieb D.** "Iatrogenic Hypercalcemia During Lactation in a Patient with Postsurgical Hypoparathyroidism". AACE 2025 Meeting in May 2025, Orlando, FL.

Grand Rounds;

September 3rd: *Dr. Rubani Desai—EVMS*

September 10th: *Dr. Alex Krist—Virginia Commonwealth University*

September 24th: *Dr. Jeremy Walke—University of Alabama*

Research Events:

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

5th Floor Large Conference Room & Zoom

8/12/25 - Research Workshop, *Essential KNIME Training: Zero-Coding Data Analysis for Researchers*

8/26/25 - Research Journal Club

Research Office Hours

Fridays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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