



New Hematology Chief and Director of the Wesley Center for Immunotherapy Named

One of America's top cancer doctors with a national and international reputation for cancer research will lead the new Wesley Center for Immunotherapy at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center as well as the Division of Hematology.

Koen van Besien, MD, PhD, comes to UH Seidman Cancer Center from New York-Presbyterian Hospital, where he has been Director of the Stem Cell Transplant Program and an attending physician. He is also a Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

Dr. van Besien will lead the Wesley Center for Immunotherapy at UH Seidman Cancer Center, a cellular therapy facility that generates CAR-T, NK cell and other cellular-based therapies. Physician-scientists engage in groundbreaking research and bring new, life-extending immunotherapy treatments to patients. UH experts are creating cells for treatment in just eight days – an innovation that allows UH Seidman Cancer Center physicians to deliver life-enhancing therapy more quickly than previously possible.

With an established reputation for clinical research and care, **Dr. van Besien** has made numerous contributions to the field of cellular therapy and stem cell transplantation. Most recently, he has focused on methods to extend the use of transplantation to more patients in need. His group has recently reported the first successful transplant for a patient with HIV and leukemia using a haplo-cord graft – a unique procedure developed by his team. The patient remains free of HIV and leukemia more than four years after transplant.

Dr. van Besien is Editor in Chief of the Journal of Leukemia and Lymphoma and a member of the editorial review boards of the Journals Bone Marrow Transplantation and Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation. His NIH-supported research has been published in more than 300 peer-reviewed papers.

Dr. van Besien completed medical school and clinical training at College ND de la Paix in Namur and the University of Leuven, both in Belgium. He holds a PhD from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. He completed his hematology/oncology fellowship at Indiana University and in Bruges, Belgium.

Dr. van Besien has served on the faculty of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He also directed transplant programs at the University of Illinois for four years and at the University of Chicago for a decade.

He is fluent in five languages: English, Dutch, German, Spanish and French. **Dr. van Besien** joins UH Seidman Cancer Center on July 15.



Spring Dinner Awards

The Department of Medicine Spring Dinner was held Thursday, May 26th in the Tinkham-Weale Ballroom in Case Western Reserve's Student Center. The event was well attended and was also broadcast live on Zoom for participants and family who could not attend in person.

Numerous awards are handed out during the night. For a description of each, [please click here](#).

The Ambulatory Excellence Award-Douglas Moore Health Center
Salli Saxena

The Ambulatory Excellence Award-Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Antonina Nwankwo

The Faculty Teacher of the Year Award Inpatient
Sarah Deitz

The Faculty Teacher of the Year Award Outpatient
Dalal Chenouda

The Resident Clerkship Teaching Award
Xue Jing (Claire) Li & Nevin Kamal

The Faculty Clerkship Teaching Award
Sonali Khurana & Laura Coates

The Ramy Masroujeh, MD Intern Teaching Award
Niveditha Manivannan

The 17th Annual Agre Award for Outstanding Housestaff Research Mentorship
Shilpkumar Arora

The Norman Gordon Humanism Award
G. Alden Adkins

The Peter Morgan Award
Matthew Messana

The Willard A. Bernbaum Award
Lars Andersen

The Harold C. Klein Humanism Award
Claire Irons

The Charles C.J. Carpenter Award
Irfan Helmy

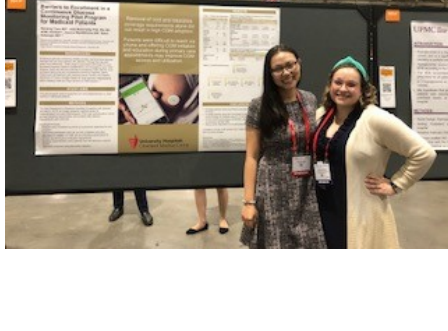
The Master Clinician Educator Award
Nilu Desai, Usha Stiefel & Mirela Dobre

COVID Hero
Adrian Lindsey & C. Barton Gillombardo

Appreciation Award
Amanda Pensiero & Crystal Lantz

Appreciation Award (and Retirement)
Barbara Jean Bonfiglio

Congratulations to all!



Diabetes Center Update

Diabetes Retreat - Nurture Your Body, Nurture Your Soul

The retreat will be held on June 25th and 26th at the Old Trail School in Bath, Ohio. Enrollment is open to all UH Employees but the 20 available slots are full.

Activities for participants include two days of hands-on experience with diabetes technology, nutrition information with live cooking, healthy nutritious meals with music therapy, exercise information with demonstrations of Forest therapy and yoga, and diabetes information education. This is all followed up by two months of deliveries from the farm's weekly produce.

National Meeting Talks and Presentations

Talks and presentations were given by **Betul Hatipoglu, MD** and **Julia Blanchette, PhD**.

As a member of the 2022 annual meeting organizing committee member, and the chair for cardiometabolic disease state network, **Dr. Hatipoglu** was invited to be a speaker and moderator in different sessions during the annual AACE 2022 meeting in May, 2022 in San Diego. She is honored to be selected as the chair of the organizing committee for next coming AACE's cardiometabolic conference also that will be held in San Antonio, Texas from September 30 until October 2, 2022

At the ADA 82nd Scientific Session, **Julia** gave the invited talk titled "Individualizing Diabetes Care and Education for Children, Teens, and Young Adults with Diabetes; Covering the Cost of Care: Health Insurance Literacy for the Transition to Adulthood." She also presented a poster/published abstract titled "Barriers to Enrollment in a Continuous Glucose Monitoring Pilot Program for Medicaid Patients."

Publications
Julia Blanchette, PhD was also recently published:

- Blanchette JE, Tran MJ, Grigorian EG, Jacob E, Edelman LS, Oser TK, Litchman ML, GoFundMe as a Medical Plan: Ecological Study of Crowdfunding Insulin Success. JMIR diabetes. 2022 Apr 15;7(2):e33205.
- Blanchette JE, Allen NA, Litchman ML. The Feasibility and Acceptability of a Community-Developed Health Insurance and Financial Toolkit for Emerging Adults With Type 1 Diabetes. The Science of Diabetes Self-Management and Care. 2022 Mar 15;26350106221087474.
- Grigorian EG, Litchman ML, Porter ME, Blanchette JE, Allen NA. Financial Barriers in Emerging Adults With Type 1 Diabetes: A Qualitative Analysis. Diabetes Spectrum. 2022 Jan 11.

Awards - Appointments - Publications



Mona Gupta, MD recently received recognition at the national level. She was elected for the following positions:

Chair of Geriatrics/Long term SIG 2022 at American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Co-chair Palliative Care 2022 at American Geriatric Society.

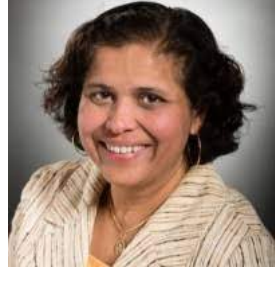
Congratulations, Dr. Gupta!



Women's Faculty Awardees

At the annual Women's Faculty School of Medicine Dinner last week, two of our amazing women faculty were honored with very prestigious awards.

Dr. Maya Mattar was awarded the Helen Evans Mid-Career Faculty Professional Development Award . This honor is given by the WFSOM to a woman faculty member > 5 years into her faculty career' for 'outstanding potential in academic medicine.'



Dr. Mimi Singh was awarded the President's Award for Special Service to the WFSOM leadership.

We are thrilled about these outstanding awards and congratulate these exceptional women on their accomplishments.



Anna May, MD Receives James B. Skatrud New Investigator Award

At the recent American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Society Meeting in San Francisco, **Dr. Anna May** was awarded the 2022 ATS Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology James B. Skatrud New Investigator Award.

The award is intended to recognize the career accomplishments to date and future promise of a new investigator working in the broad area of respiratory neurobiology and sleep, which includes control of breathing, sleep mechanisms, and sleep-disordered breathing. This award recognizes a new investigator who is beyond formal training, but not yet fully established. It is not intended as recognition for a single project, but rather for overall accomplishments and future potential.

Dr. May is based at the Cleveland VA Medical Center where she conducts her research supported by a VA Career Development Award, and Practices Sleep, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. We are very proud of Anna!!!

Research News



Department of Medicine – 2022 Research Day Awardees

Resident

Charit Tipparedy, MD, Louisa Oryewadume, MD, Andrew E. Sloan, MD, Gi-Ming Wang, MS, Nirav T. Patil, MBBS, MPH, Siyuan Hu, Jill S. Barnholtz-Sloan, PhD, Rasim Boyacoglu, PhD, Vikas Gulani, MD, PhD, Jeffrey Sunshine, MD, PhD, Mark Griswold, PhD, Dan Ma, PhD, Chaitra Badve, MD

3-D magnetic resonance fingerprinting radiomics in adult brain tumors

Elizabeth Jean-Marie, MD, Zahra Abbas, MD, Matthew Messana, MD, Maroun Semaan, MD, Sonali Khurana, MD, Jihane Fareess, MD

Taking a Deeper Dive: An Observational Analysis of Patients Who Returned to the Hospital Within 30 days of Hospitalization with Pneumonia

Mayadah Alabdely, MD, Sonya Kothadia, MD, Taissa Bej, MS, Brigid M. Wilson, PhD, Sunah Song, PhD, Ukwen Akpoji, PharmD, Corinne Kowal, BS, Federico Perez, MD, and Robin Jump, MD, PhD

Absence of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Survival among Residents of US Veterans Affairs Community Living Centers

Saud Abdulrahman Alsaleh, MD, Mahboob Rahman, MD, Mirela Dobre, MD, MPH, Sarah Delozier, PhD, Nishigandha Pradhan, MD

Association of Isolated Diastolic Hypertension with risk of Renal and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Chronic Kidney Disease: a report from the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) study

Travis Goettemoeller, MD, Hiba Mazhar, MD, Jessica Chippior, MD, Aman Rajnel, MD

Evaluating the Efficacy of Anti-Obesity Medications in a Multidisciplinary Weight Management Clinic at a VA Medical Center

Fellow
Richard Pham, MD

Social Vulnerability and Location of Death in Heart Failure in the United States

Scott E Janus, MD, Jamal Hajjari, MD, Tarek Chami, MD, Haytham Mously, MD, MPH, Anshul K Badwar, MD, Mohamad Karnib, MD, Herman Carneiro, MD, Mahboob Rahman, MD, Sadeer G. Al-Kindi, MD

Multi-Variable Biomarker Approach in Identifying Incident Heart Failure in Chronic Kidney Disease Results from the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) Study

[\(This study was recently published HERE\)](#)

Graduate Student / Post-Doc
Issam Motairek, MD

Historical Neighborhood Redlining and Contemporary Cardiometabolic Risk

Jenny Gong, BS, Emma Barnboym, CCRG, Megan O'Mara, MS, Natalie Gurevich, MS, Nora Singer, MD, Adam Perzynski, PhD, Donald Anthony, MD, PhD

Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance that Distinguish Persons with vs. without Autoimmune Disease

Education News



Clerkship Coffee Kudos

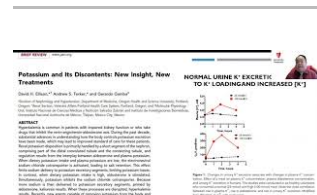
Coffee Kudos is an award presented every 6 weeks to a resident who has been especially helpful in teaching medical students. The winner receives a gift card to a coffee house. Here are the honorees for the students' coffee kudos recognitions – for April and May, 2022:

Jamie Capon MD
Eric Curfman MD
Josh Edmondson MD
Neha Jain MD
Ana Khazan MD
Matthew Messana MD
Jim Reader MD
Olivia Rizzo MD
Jenny Sun MD
Renato Yupari Yui MD

Upcoming Events

Recurring Events (Zoom information sent out weekly)
Tuesdays @ Noon - **Medicine Grand Rounds Seminar Series** (September - May)
Wednesdays @ Noon - **VA M&M Conference**
Fridays @ Noon - **UH M&M Conference**

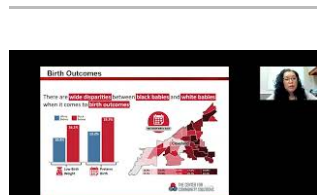
Recent Medicine Grand Rounds



View

Edgar Lerma, MD, FACP

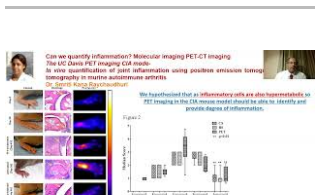
"Approaches to Prevent and Treat Chronic Hyperkalemia"



View

Celina Cunanan, MSN & Patrick Runnels, MD

"Won't You Be My Neighbor? UH's Role in Addressing SDOH to Achieve Health Equity in Cleveland"



View

Siba P Raychaudhuri, MD

"T Cell Targeted Therapies in Autoimmune Diseases"



View

Marjorie Greenfield, MD

"Career Development and Academic Promotion"

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