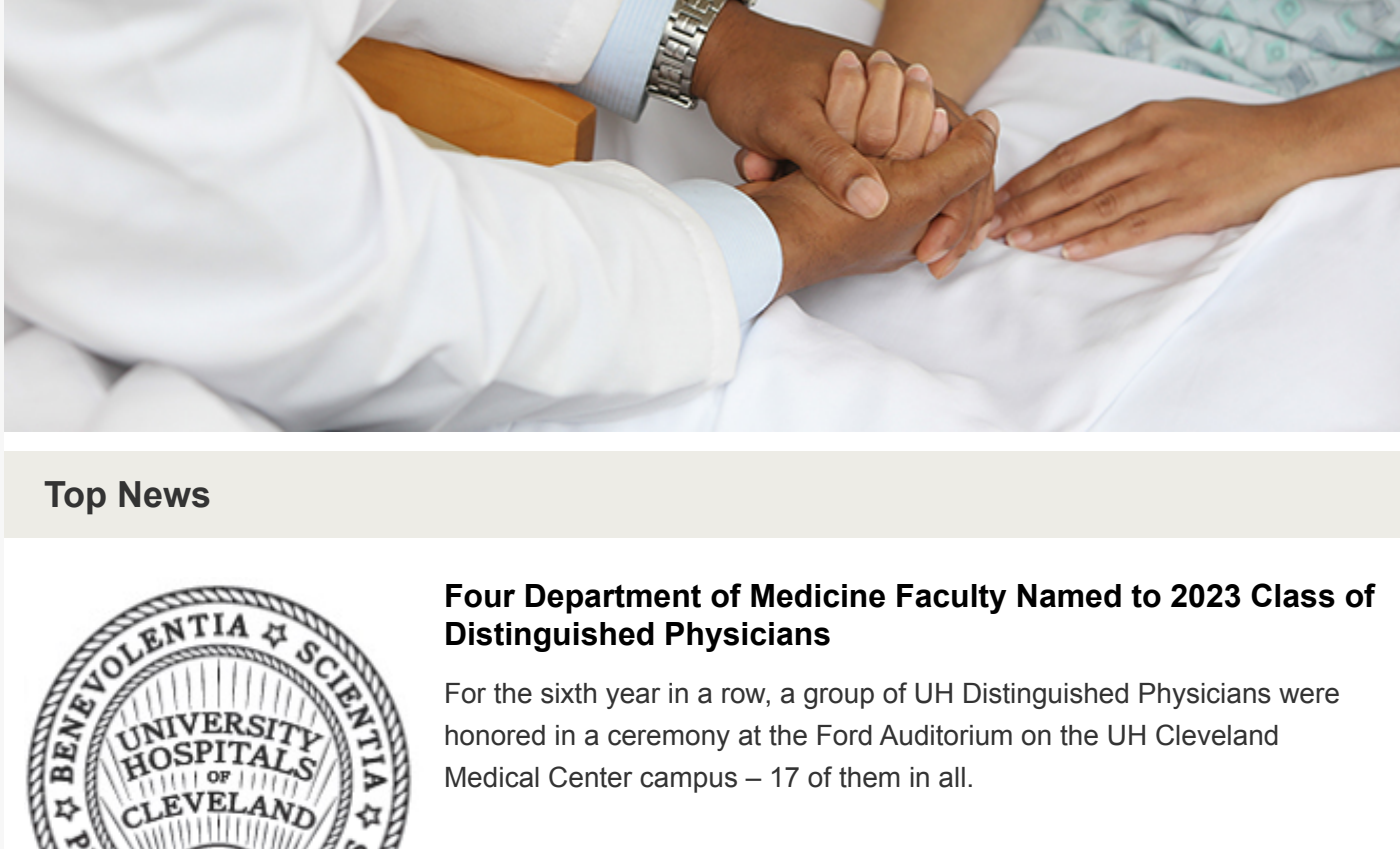




Top News



Four Department of Medicine Faculty Named to 2023 Class of Distinguished Physicians

For the sixth year in a row, a group of UH Distinguished Physicians were honored in a ceremony at the Ford Auditorium on the UH Cleveland Medical Center campus – 17 of them in all.

They receive this honor in recognition of their exceptional clinical skills and dedication to patient care. These are the physicians who are widely considered to be the “doctor’s doctors,” meaning they provide such extraordinary care that their colleagues turn to them to care for their loved ones, themselves and their patients.

They also serve as the top role models and mentors in the training of the next generation of physicians, including medical students, residents and fellows.

The awardees from the Department of Medicine are:

- **Teresa L. Carman, MD**
- **Brett E. Glotzbecker, MD**
- **Steven J. Filby, MD**
- **Sona S. Kirpekar, MD**

Congratulations to all!



Internal Medicine 2024 Subspecialty Match

For our residents who applied for subspecialty training- we had another great match and the residency leadership and the residents are grateful to the faculty for mentorship and opportunities for scholarly work.

Match by Subspecialty and School

- **Addiction Medicine**
 - Ohio Health – Grant Me
 - Stanford University
- **Allergy & Immunology**
 - National Institute of Health
- **Cardiovascular Disease**
 - Case Western/UH-VA
 - Emory University
 - Maine Med Center
 - University of Colorado
 - University of Louisville
 - University of Maryland
 - University of Michigan
 - Washington University
 - Yale-New Haven Hospital
- **Endocrinology**
 - Cleveland Clinic Foundation
 - University of Cincinnati
- **Gastroenterology**
 - Case Western/UH-VA
 - Cleveland Clinic Foundation
 - U Texas Southwestern
 - Virginia Tech Carilion
- **Geriatric Medicine**
 - Northwestern University
- **Hematology and Oncology**
 - Beth Israel Deaconess
 - Case Western/UH-VA
 - Indiana University
 - Temple University
 - Thomas Jefferson University
- **Infectious Disease**
 - Cleveland Clinic Foundation
 - Pediatric Nephrology
 - Cincinnati Children's
- **Pulmonary/Critical Care**
 - Case Western/UH-VA
 - Temple University
 - UC Irvine Med Center
 - University of Michigan
 - University of Maryland
 - Washington University
- **Rheumatology**
 - Cleveland Clinic Foundation



Dr. Muralidhar Pallaki - New Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) Director

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Muralidhar Pallaki as the new GRECC Director!

A Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANECHS) is pleased to formally announce Dr. Muralidhar Pallaki is the new Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) Director.

Muralidhar Pallaki, MD, FACP is Associate Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He is the Chief of Geriatrics and Hospice and Palliative Care at the Cleveland VA Medical Center and the facility co- lead for the VISN ICC REC, and the Facility GEC lead. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Hospice and Palliative Care. He received his medical degree from Bangalore Medical College in Bangalore, India and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Lutheran Medical center and fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

Since May 2020, Dr. Pallaki has served as the Associate Director, Clinical Center for the VANECHS GRECC. His research interests include cognitive impairment, especially diagnosis treatment and delivery of care for this vulnerable veteran population. Also, HIV associated dementia, frailty in chronic diseases and terminal delirium. He has led several programs, including the clinical demonstration project “ Hospice and Palliative Care: See Me Hear Me Comfort Me”. He also supports the “Antipsychotic Stewardship” clinical demonstration project in the Community Living Center. In 2022, Dr. Pallaki was recently awarded funding from the National Geriatric Office for dementia care expansion project.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Health Systems Implementation Initiative Capacity Building Grant

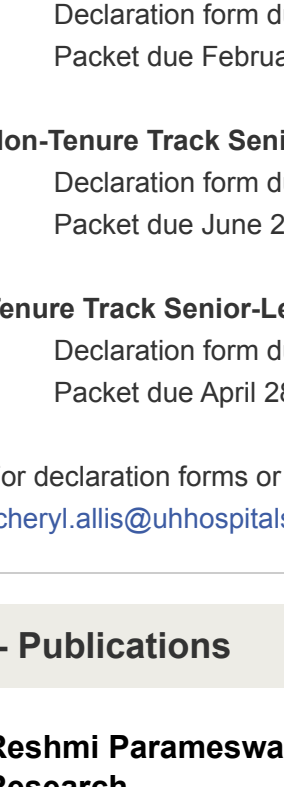
The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has awarded University Hospitals a PCORI Health Systems Implementation Initiative (HSII) Capacity Building grant. This grant aims to provide training in implementation science and data analytics and support teams in applying for PCORI grants to implement evidence-based innovations.

Implementation science addresses the challenge of effectively integrating research-proven innovations into clinical practice, as less than 50% of such innovations become routine within healthcare, causing needless patient suffering.

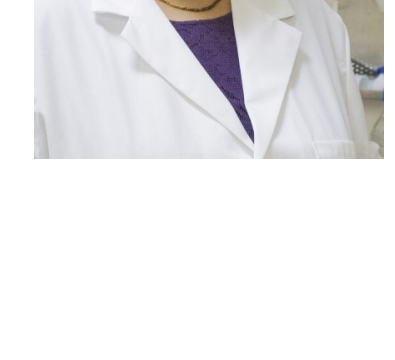
The UH Implementation Science Training Program includes biweekly Zoom education sessions and independent projects with mentoring. Participants can expect to gain knowledge in implementation science, quality improvement, and data analytics and build a professional network. This training is open to UH employees and affiliates; more information is included in the attached FAQ.

Cohort 1 runs from January to August 2024, focusing on ideal antibiotic use. Additional cohorts starting in the Spring and/or Summer of 2024 will have different focuses. The time commitment includes a 2-hour virtual kickoff in January, biweekly 1-hour Zoom sessions from February to August, self-study, and mentoring for projects. All UH Caregivers are welcome to apply.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code below to apply. Teams (anticipating to work on a common project) are encouraged to apply using a single form.



[Click here for additional info »](#)



A Trusted Second Opinion

Thousands of cardiovascular patients cross the country for care from UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute specialists

Thousands of patients come from across the United States and beyond each year for the compassionate and complex care offered by UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute specialists.

Patients find vascular medicine expert **Heather Gornik, MD**, for fibromuscular dysplasia, interventional cardiologist **Guilherme Attizzani, MD**, for transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) or MitraClip, and cardiac electrophysiologist **Mauricio Arruda, MD**, for atrial fibrillation ablation – just to name a few – through their established reputations, media coverage and published work online. Physicians also know them through the live cases performed at international conferences that set UH Harrington HVI apart as a global leader for cardiac care.

[Read more here »](#)



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2024 FAR/FIS Reporting for 2023 Information

It is anticipated that the FIS system will open in January 2024 for faculty to begin filling out their 2023 FAR information. Final reports will need to be submitted by the end of February.

All faculty are encouraged to log in now to ensure access is available and to become familiar with the system.

Useful Links:

- FIS (<https://fis.case.edu/>)
- FAR Training Video
- Faculty User Support Documents
- Detailed FAR Guide for Faculty
- FAR Guide for SOM - Step 1
- FAR Guide for SOM - Step 2



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UNIVERSITY**

Faculty Senior-Level Promotion Deadlines

“Tips for Faculty from the 2022-2023 CAPT” - highlights recommendations and tips for faculty applying for senior level appointments and promotions

Non-Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective January 1, 2025

Declaration form due January 6, 2024 ([Form](#))
Packet due February 28, 2024 ([Guidelines](#))

Non-Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective July 1, 2025

Declaration form due May 1, 2024 ([Form](#))
Packet due June 2, 2024 ([Guidelines](#))

Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective July 1, 2025

Declaration form due March 31, 2024 ([Form](#))
Packet due April 28, 2024 ([Guidelines](#))

For declaration forms or any questions, please contact Cheryl Allis: (cheryl.allis@uhhospitals.org or cheryl.allis@case.edu)

Awards - Appointments - Publications



Reshmi Parameswaran Receives \$1M for B-Cell Cancer Research

Reshmi Parameswaran, PhD, MS, a member of Case CCC's Immune Oncology Program, has received the Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust award. The \$1M was awarded to Parameswaran for her work in cancer cell therapy. It is to be used over three years to advance novel approaches to treating B-cell cancers.

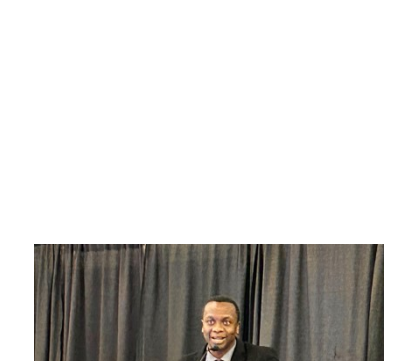
Parameswaran has developed a new treatment strategy for B-cell cancer patients—especially for those who don't respond to conventional therapies and for whom the disease returns. About 100,000 of the 250,000 B-cell cancer patients diagnosed annually in the United States need a more effective therapy option.

Parameswaran has built modified immune cells that have more power to kill cancer cells without killing normal cells, and, thus, minimize a patient's side effects. To do this, she purifies “Natural Killer (NK)” cells—white blood cells with tumor-killing capabilities. Then a piece of DNA called “BAFF CAR” is inserted, which gives the NK cells more “specificity” and “power” to kill cancer cells, sparing normal cells.

“NK cells from any donor can be used to make BAFF CAR-NK cells,” explains Parameswaran, “and when a need arises, these specialized cells can be thawed and injected into patients.” Her lab hopes to validate the tumor-killing potential and safety of BAFF-CAR NK cells using mouse models with support from the Falk Trust.

“Both pharmaceutical companies and clinicians treating B-cell cancer patients have expressed a strong interest in the BAFF CAR-NK cells as a needed therapeutic,” Parameswaran said. “With this funding, we are optimistic to get this product to the clinic within three years.”

[View the article here »](#)



VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Re-Competed as an Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence

Dr. Dustin Freshwater and Dr. Usha Stiefel successfully re-competed the status of the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System as an Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence this Fall, accredited by the *Infectious Diseases Society of America*.

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Centers for Excellence Program promotes excellence in antimicrobial use and combating antimicrobial resistance by recognizing hospitals that effectively demonstrate excellence in this work. Possessing a Center designation signifies that an institution has the policies and processes in place to deliver high-quality stewardship services consistently, execute novel stewardship principles, and demonstrate the highest level commitment to improving antimicrobial use and reducing resistance

Currently 150 hospitals across the United States and internationally have earned the Center of Excellence designation. This is the third such accreditation led by Drs. Freshwater and Stiefel for the VANECHS, which was the first VA in the nation to receive this honor in 2019.

[Read more about the IDSA COE Program »](#)



Drs. Musoke and Van Epps Receive IDSA 2023 Program Committee Award

Dr. Lewis Musoke and Dr. Puja Van Epps' project, “PrEP Inequity Across Geographic, Racial and Sex Groups in a Nationwide US Veteran Cohort,” was honored with one of four 2023 Program Committee Awards by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Dr. Musoke delivered the presentation at the Society's Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, in October.



Dr. Bonomo Presents VA Shield at ID Week

Dr. Robert Bonomo was invited to deliver a presentation on the VA SHIELD (VA Science and Health Initiative to Combat Infectious and Emerging Life-Threatening Diseases) to the Infectious Diseases Society of America at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, in October.

The VA SHIELD houses specimens and data related to COVID-19 and other emerging diseases to help VA investigators and other collaborators develop diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventative strategies for use in clinical care. The new initiative will support the VA's national emergency preparedness efforts by helping to facilitate a faster, more coordinated response to emerging diseases.

Dr. Bonomo was selected by the Veterans Health Administration as the Director of the National Coordinating Center for VA SHIELD in 2022.

[Read more about VA Shield here »](#)

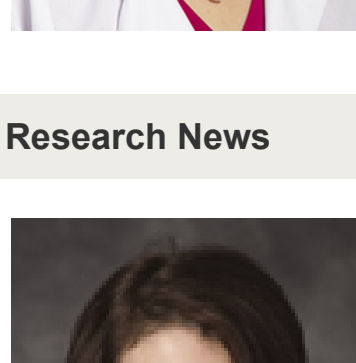


Other IDSA Awards

Dr. Curtis Donskey's paper, “Transfer of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* by fist bump versus handshake,” was honored as one of the “Best Infection Prevention Papers of the Year” by the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and was featured at the Society's Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, in October.

Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Oladayo Oyebanji, working in the laboratory of Dr. David Canaday, was honored with the 2023 Yoshikawa and High Long-Term Care Abstract Award at the Infectious Diseases Society of America's Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, in October

[Read more about the award here »](#)



Dr. Patil First Author on Multi-Society Commentary about the Effects of CPAP on Obstructive Sleep Apnea

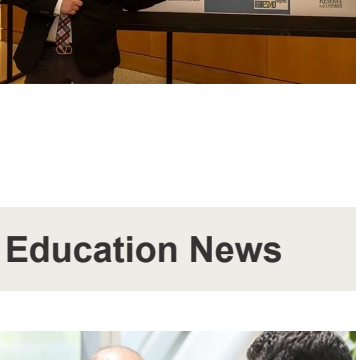
Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine - Long-term health outcomes for patients with obstructive sleep apnea: placing the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality report in context—a multi-society commentary

A new multi-society commentary on the long-term health outcomes for patient with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, CHEST, Sleep Research Society, and American Thoracic Society led by Dr. Sushel Patil has been recently published.

This document is a commentary on a systematic review performed by the Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) done in the past year that suggested little benefits in treating OSA on long-term cardiovascular outcomes. The multi-society commentary acknowledged the limitations of currently published literature, but also reviewed the benefits of sleep apnea treatment including improvements in sleepiness, sleep-related quality of life, motor-vehicle crashes, and blood pressure.

The commentary also reviewed a number of potential strategies for future research to more definitively address the potential cardiometabolic benefits of treating OSA. The commentary is expected to significantly contribute to how future research in the field of OSA is conducted and may have implications for government policies written by CMS.

[Click here to view the article »](#)



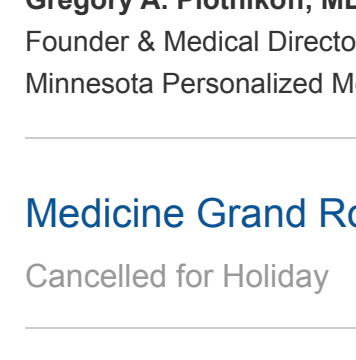
Dr. Gupta Appointed as the Regional Director of AAPI

Mona Gupta, MD, AGSF, FAAHPM, was appointed as the Regional Director of American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPIO) 2023-2024 for North East Central Region which includes Ohio and Michigan 2023-2024.

The mission of the AAPIO is to be a forum to facilitate and enable Indian American Physicians to excel in patient care, teaching and research and to pursue their aspirations in professional and community affairs. AAPIO represents a conglomeration of more than 80,000 practicing physicians in the United States and serves as a platform for more than 40,000 medical students, residents and fellows.

[Read more about the association here »](#)

Research News



Dr. Dobre Receives Northeast Ohio Renal Research Innovation Award

Mirela Dobre, MD, has been awarded the Northeast Ohio Renal Research Innovation Award. This award, made possible through funding from the Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation, represents our community's commitment to supporting innovative clinical research projects with potential to improve the diagnosis, evaluation and management of kidney disease.

Dr. Dobre's research interest is in developing new approaches to study cardiovascular risk and metabolic complications in chronic kidney disease (CKD). As a nephrologist and physician scientist, she has experience in conducting large-scale multicenter studies using models of cardiovascular risk that combine novel circulating biomarkers. For over 10 years, she successfully served in leading roles and collaborated with investigators in multicenter studies, such as the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort (CRIC) and the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT).

Dr Dobre's team found the innovative link between acid base abnormalities and heart failure in CKD. Her more recent research efforts have been focused on the discovery of circulating proteins implicated in the mechanisms of arrhythmic sudden cardiac death and myocardial fibrosis in CKD.



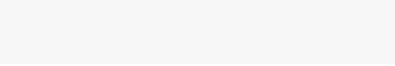
UH Research & Education Institute - 5th Annual Research & Innovation Day

UH Cures: Caring for Our Community Through Research & Innovation

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Wolstein Research Auditorium

[Register Now »](#)

Education News



Intern Recruitment - Interviewers Still Needed

Medicine will continue to use Zoom for interviews this year.

Medicine interviews continue until 1/25/24
Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 AM

We appreciate your continued support this season, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. If you have only partial availability for specific dates, let us know.

Please email Deena if you have availability.

[Email Deena »](#)

Upcoming Events

Medicine Grand Rounds - December 12

Topic TBD (Connor Whole Health – Heller Mind and Body Lecture Series)

Gregory A. Plotnikoff, MD, MTS, FACP
Founder & Medical Director
Minnesota Personalized Medicine

Medicine Grand Rounds - December 19, 26 and January 2

Cancelled for Holiday

Medicine Grand Rounds - January 9

Topic TBD

Robert A. Salata, MD, FACP, FIDSA
STERIS Chair of Excellence in Medicine
John H. Hord Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Physician-in-Chief
Distinguished Physician
Senior Attending Physician
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

Recurring Events ([Zoom information sent out weekly](#))

Tuesdays @ Noon - **Medicine Grand Rounds Seminar Series** (September - May)
Wednesdays @ Noon - **VA Conference**
Fridays @ Noon - **UH M&M Conference**

Recent Medicine Grand Rounds

GRAND ROUNDS	GRAND ROUNDS	GRAND ROUNDS	GRAND ROUNDS
View »	View »	View »	View »
Vasu Sidagam, MD "Myocardial Injury after Non Cardiac Surgery- Moving from Risk Prediction to Surveillance"	Jerrold Elinor, MD Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD Memorial Lecture "Tuberculosis 2023 – The Known Knowns and Known Unknowns"	Betul Hatipoglu, MD, Julia Blanchette, PhD RN, and Natalie Bellini, DNP APRN- CNP "Diabetes Awareness"	Priya Nori, MD, FSHEA, FIDSA "Top 5 Public Health Issues Impacting the Future of Our Field (an ID doc's perspective)"

Social: [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#)

[Click here to view online](#)

To contribute or provide feedback, email: Matthew.Zelesnik@UHhospitals.org

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