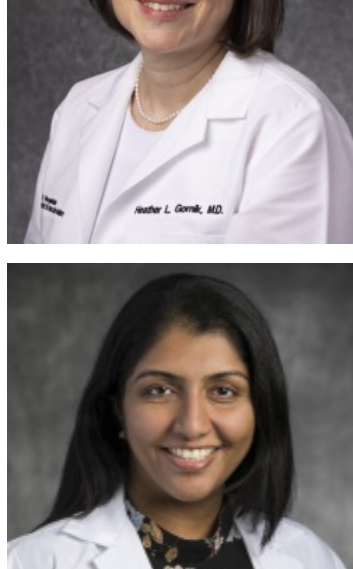




Top News

**Department of Medicine Faculty Honored at Women Faculty of the School of Medicine Annual Spring Dinner**

The Women Faculty of the School of Medicine (WFSOM) Annual Spring Dinner was held this past month and featured a program highlighting the accomplishments and career of Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the 19th Director of the CDC. The WFSOM is an organization of past, current, and future female faculty of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

DOM Faculty receiving awards this year include:

Heather Gornik, MD

The Pamela B. Davis, MD Ph.D. Senior- Achievement and Professional Development Award - This award further promotes women's careers in Academic Medicine. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in past academic achievements and outstanding potential for a continuing contribution to Academic Medicine commensurate with their professional experience. Evidence of mentoring or other activities promoting the academic careers of others is also expected.

Amrita Rebecca John, MD

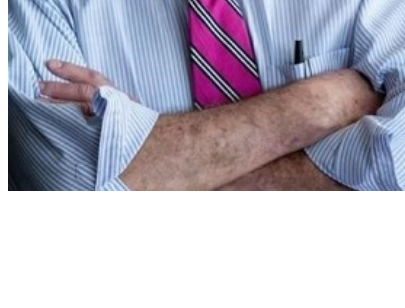
The President Award - The President Award is a non-monetary award established in 2019. The President of WFSOM offers this award each year to honor and acknowledge a WFSOM member for her unique contribution and exemplary service to WFSOM during the year/president term.

Megan McNamara, MD

The Toyoko Yamashita Service Award - The Toyoko Yamashita Service Award was established in 1997 to honor the memory of Dr. Toyoko Yamashita, a 15-year faculty member of the Department of Pediatrics in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Yamashita was an ardent supporter and mentor to women faculty – she served on the WFSOM steering committee and was its registrar for several years. This award is presented each year to honor a women faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary service to the Women Faculty of the School of Medicine.

Drs. Reema Gulati, Mona Gupta, Huyila Bukulmez, Amrita John, Holly Hartman, Usha Stiefel, and Kimone Lightford organized a truly memorable event for Cleveland!

[WFSOM Website »](#)

**Distinguished University Professor, Cancer Researcher Passes Away**

Nathan Berger arrived in Cleveland in 1983 with a vision: creating an oncology/hematology training program to position Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine as a leader in the burgeoning field of cancer care.

The program he developed went on to become a National Cancer Institute-designated consortium cancer center comprising 400 investigators and 6,000 healthcare professionals from Case Western Reserve, Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals that supports more than 15,000 new cancer cases annually.

This week, the university and broader Cleveland community are mourning the loss of **Berger**, a Distinguished University Professor, former School of Medicine dean and founding director of what is now the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. He died Saturday, June 15, at the age of 83.

Across more than 40 years at Case Western Reserve, **Berger** produced groundbreaking biomedical research into cancer development and its associated risk factors, co-directed the Gastrointestinal Specialized Program of Research Excellence (GI SPORE), and served as a mentor, teacher, and role model. He was a nationally renowned authority on hematology and oncology, while also building a legacy locally as an advocate for students from backgrounds typically underrepresented in science and medicine.

[Read more - Case Daily »](#)

[Nathan Berger Obituary »](#)

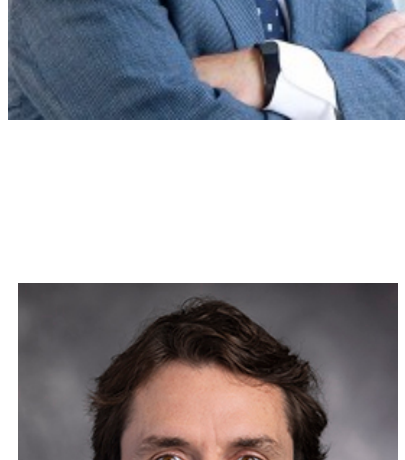
Clinical Updates and Research News

**Nephrology Updates - Kidney Korner Newsletter**

The Division of Nephrology and Hypertension publishes a quarterly newsletter called the Kidney Korner. Access the April 2024 edition below.

Highlights from the Kidney Korner Newsletter include honors and awards, publications and research, educations news, faculty and staff updates, clinical program updates and large list of publications since the last newsletter.

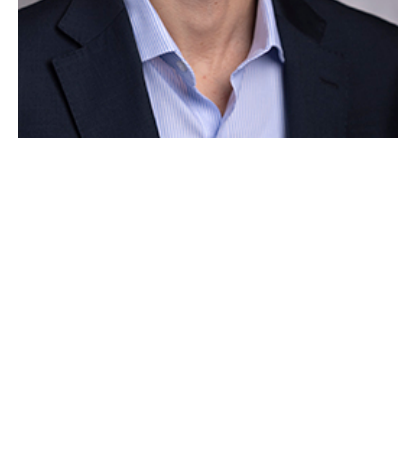
[View the Kidney Korner Newsletter »](#)

**Robert Bonomo, MD Presents on Antibiotic Pipeline in Development**

This past May, **Robert A. Bonomo**, professor in the School of Medicine, gave a presentation titled "Novel Antibiotics- focus on beta-lactam beta-lactamase inhibitors + some..." at the Making a Difference in Infectious Diseases Conference in Orlando, Florida.

His presentation reviewed the current antibiotic pipeline in development and highlighted the role novel therapeutic agents will play in combating multidrug resistant bacteria. He also discussed areas of the world that are most at risk for the emergence of antibiotic resistance, which are countries with limited resources.

[View the article on IDSE »](#)

**UH Seidman Cancer Center Offers Patients Rare Access to New Kidney Cancer Tracer**

UH Seidman Cancer Center is one of just a few cancer centers nationwide to offer its patients early access to a novel and more sensitive method of diagnosing kidney cancer. Care teams here are giving patients a special contrast specific to kidney cancer in conjunction with a PET scan, in advance of expected approval by the FDA at the end of the year. All adult patients with renal masses are eligible to participate.

"Compared to the normal scans, which can include CT scans or MRI or ultrasound, this PET scan with this contrast or tracer has a much higher sensitivity and specificity to find kidney cancer, particularly clear cell renal cell carcinoma in the kidney, but also outside the kidney compared to normal scans" - **Pedro Barata, MD, MSc, FACP**

The new contrast, given a few days before the actual PET scan, is an effort to improve diagnostic options for kidney cancer, says **Pedro Barata, MD, MSc, FACP**, Director of the Clinical Genitourinary Medical Oncology Research Program and Miggo Family Chair in Cancer Research; and Associate Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine He's leading the implementation of the novel tracer at UH Seidman.

"PET scans are available for many tumors, but for some tumors like kidney cancer, the tracer we normally use is FDG, which tests glucose metabolism," he says. "Its role in kidney cancer is limited. We needed a kidney cancer-specific tracer."

[Read more »](#)

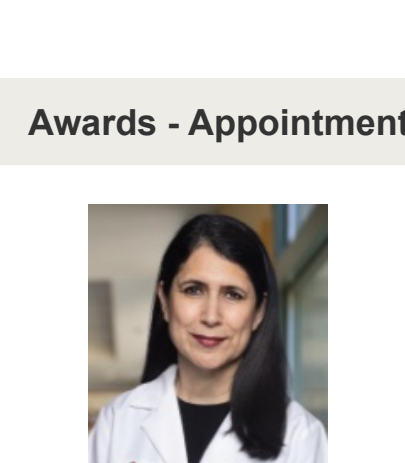
**UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute Preventive Cardiologist Leading Studies and Guidelines on Implementation of GLP-1s**

The wildly popular glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) agonists for weight loss, such as semaglutide, liraglutide and tirzepatide, require doubling down on scientific expertise to better understand their effects and implications. That's the view of University Hospitals (UH) Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute's **Ian Neeland, MD, FAHA, FACC**, Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Prevention and Director of the Center for Integrated and Novel Approaches in Vascular-Metabolic Disease (CINEMA). Dr. Neeland is making important contributions in this regard. He's conducting novel studies into these medicines and helping guide the clinical recommendations for heart and vascular specialists who want to offer them to their patients.

Dr. Neeland is Vice Chair of the American Heart Association's guideline writing committee on implementing obesity science into clinical practice, which recently published its scientific statement in the journal **Circulation**.

"FDA approval and insurance coverage of the latest treatments, including GLP-1 medications, are integral to improving access to care and outcomes for people who need these therapies the most," he says. "This is especially true for high-risk, high-need patients for the prevention of adverse cardiovascular events. It is encouraging that these steps in increasing access may lead to reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and improved outcomes for potentially millions of adults in the U.S."

[Read more »](#)

**Case Western Reserve University researchers develop new method of DNA testing—expanding scientific innovation**

New study finds 'AMPLON' method offers faster, more accurate pathogen identification, even in complex DNA sequences.

A team of researchers from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine has developed a new method for target DNA sequence amplification, testing and analysis.

This new technique, or reaction, known as AMPLON (Amplifying DNA with Multiarm Priming and Looping Optimization of Nucleic Acid), offers an alternative to the previously accepted "gold-standard" Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method, opening the opportunity for more applications in medical diagnosis.

The team's findings were recently published in the journal *Advanced Materials*.

"AMPLON has the potential to positively change the way molecular analysis and clinical diagnostics are performed," said **Mohamed S. Draz**, an assistant professor at the School of Medicine and the study's principal investigator, "from infectious-disease diagnostics to personalized medicine and environmental monitoring."

[Read more »](#)

Awards - Appointments - Publications

**Dr. Magrey serves as Panel Expert on JAK inhibitors**

Medscape Education Rheumatology presents: Axial Spondyloarthritis Treatment Advancements: Where Do Janus Kinase Inhibitors Fit In?

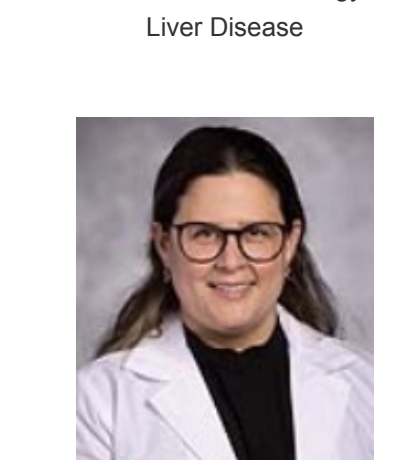
View the educational session from Medscape Education Rheumatology below. It is eligible for CME / ABIM MOC until April 24, 2025.

[View the roundtable here »](#)

**Dr. Rahman Co-I on New R01**

Dr. Mahboob Rahman and Dr. Ming Wang in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences are Principal Investigators on a new NIH R01 grant to develop new statistical techniques for evaluation of antihypertensive drugs in chronic kidney disease.

Education News

**Acacia Williams, MD selected to the NRMP Board of Directors**

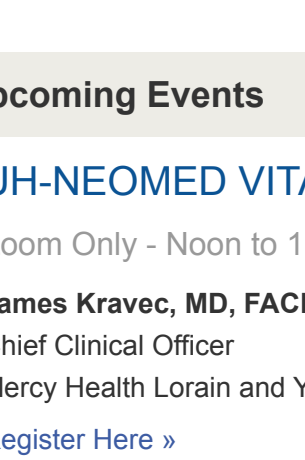
The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) recently presented five new board members who were appointed to its 20-member Board of Directors. **Dr. Williams** was selected as one of the five new board members.

Acacia Williams, MD, is an Internal Medicine Resident at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining Case Western Reserve, **Dr. Williams** received dual degrees in medicine and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana University. Her leadership roles include serving as Vice President of Finance for the Medical Student Council while at Indiana University and serving as President of Local Initiatives for 7 Elements, a volunteer program in the Center for Global Health Equity at Indiana University, through which she established a partnership between the Indiana University School of Medicine and the Salvation Army Center Harbor Light Drug and Rehabilitation Center.

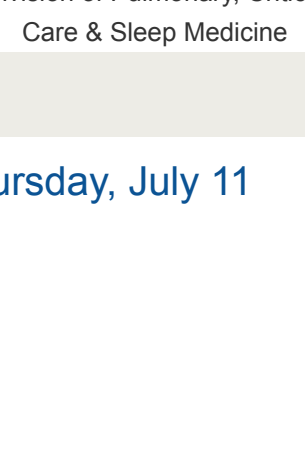
The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) is a private, non-profit organization established in 1953 to provide an orderly and fair mechanism for matching the preferences of applicants for U.S. residency and fellowship positions with the preferences of clinical program directors. The NRMP conducts the annual Main Residency Match® for more than 48,000 registrants and the Specialties Matching Services for more than 70 subspecialty Fellowship Matches.

[View the announcement here »](#)

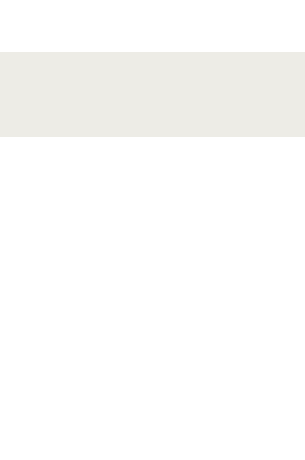
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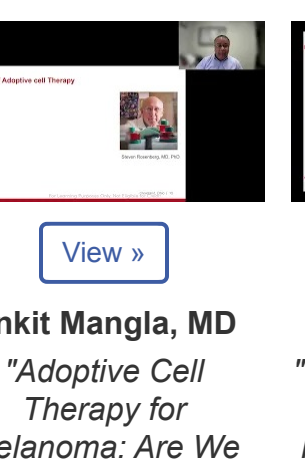
Thomas Bierman, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine / Advanced Fellow
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Disease



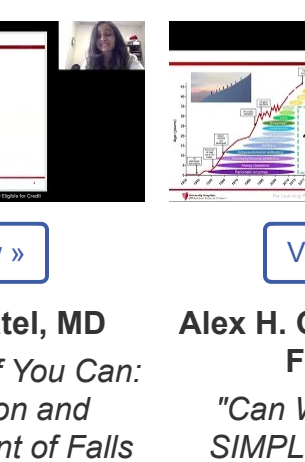
Haseeb Chaudhary, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Rheumatology



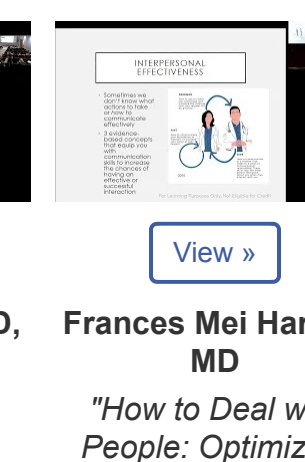
Joan Cullen, DO
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine



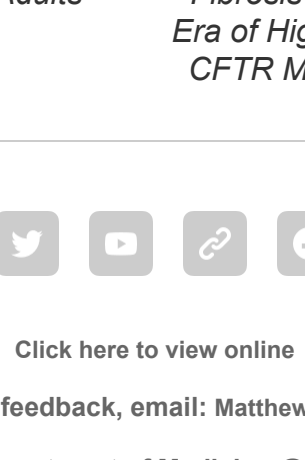
Damarys Hernandez, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine



Andrew Norris, DO
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine



Robert Okyere, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine / Advanced Fellow
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine



Zachary Strumpf, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

Upcoming Events

UH-NEOMED VITALS - Thursday, July 11

Zoom Only - Noon to 1 PM

James Kravec, MD, FACP
Chief Clinical Officer
Mercy Health Lorain and Youngstown
[Register Here »](#)

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

[View »](#)

Ankit Mangla, MD
"Adoptive Cell Therapy for Melanoma: Are We There Yet?"

[View »](#)

Ishani Patel, MD
"Catch Me If You Can: Evaluation and Management of Falls in Older Adults"

[View »](#)

Alex H. Gifford, MD, FCCP
"Can We Finally SIMPLIFY Cystic Fibrosis Care in the Era of Highly Effective CFTR Modulators?"

[View »](#)

Frances Mei Hardin, MD
"How to Deal with People: Optimizing Interpersonal Effectiveness"

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

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