

INSIDE *Medicine*

April 2021

The Newsletter of the Department of Medicine



Our New Division of Hospital Medicine

A message from the chair, Steve Abramson

Among the many COVID-19 pandemic lessons learned has been the emergence of hospital medicine as a discipline. Bookended between the height of the pandemic one year ago and the current waning of the second surge we have observed hospitalists at each institution not only provide the highest quality care, but make clinical observations of previously unrecognized COVID-related syndromes, participate in novel clinical research and co-author high-profile publications with global impact. With access to large databases and patient outcomes, hospitalist physicians played integral roles, moving with agility from the bedside to research collaborations throughout the pandemic. These elements of the new hospital medicine built upon the talents of established investigators in diverse departments as well as the expertise of senior hospitalist faculty who over the years had assumed leadership roles in administration, quality, safety, value and clinical informatics.

The COVID pandemic therefore shone a light on the scope of our hospitalist program and the achievements of its faculty. In recognition, the department will launch a new Division of Hospital Medicine this month in order to support this new

and exciting academic environment. The focus will be not only on continuing to provide the highest quality patient care, but with an increased emphasis on mentoring, scholarship and career pathways for hospitalist faculty. I am delighted to announce that Dr. Katherine Hochman has accepted the position as the inaugural director of the new division. Kathy launched the hospitalist program at NYU Langone in 2004, and has grown the program through the crises of both Hurricane Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic. Kathy has been a dynamic leader, role model and mentor. We are extremely excited about launching the new division and thank Dr. Hochman for assuming this important position.

In This Issue

- Paying It Forward: NYU Langone Hospitalists Help During Texas Covid Surge
 - The Advisor Is In: "How to Succeed in Clinical Research " by Drs. Michael Pillinger and Binita Shah
 - Vaccine Corner
 - The Historian Is In: "April 1865, A Look Back" by David Oshinsky, PhD
 - Featured Student Essay: "Ideals and Imperfections: Thoughts on Being a Medical Student, an American, and a Human " by Prabhu Sasankan
 - News & Awards: Honors Among Our Educators, Association of Black Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists Launches, and More
 - Upcoming CME Events
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Kathryn Moore, PhD, Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Kathryn Moore, PhD, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Appointment to this community is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive, and recognizes extraordinary continuing and distinguished research achievements. Members of this elite group participate in committees to address some of society's toughest challenges.

Dr. Moore is the Jean and David Blechman Professor of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, and professor in the Department of Cell Biology. This past year she was named to serve as the inaugural director of our Cardiovascular Research Center, which was established to promote cardiovascular discovery and translational investigation. She has advanced our understanding of atherosclerosis, or the build-up of plaques in the artery walls that contributes to cardiovascular disease, the number one cause of death in the United States. She studies two approaches that hold particular promise in treating atherosclerosis: reducing the chronic inflammation that contributes to the progression of plaques, and finding innovative ways to promote the body's mechanisms for removing cholesterol. Her studies have identified potential new therapies for cardiovascular disease.



Paying It Forward: NYU Langone Hospitalists Help During Texas Covid Surge

Just over a year ago, with New York City in the middle of the first coronavirus surge, volunteers arrived at NYU Langone from across the country. Physicians, nurses, respiratory specialists, and other clinical staff provided much-needed relief to our workforce, which was strained by unprecedented numbers of seriously ill patients battling a disease that was still largely a mystery. The influx of help was a vital boost not only in staffing, but also morale.

And it wasn't forgotten. To repay the goodwill, hospitalists Christopher Sonne, MD (top photo), and Sean Breslin, MD (bottom photo), each spent two weeks of vacation in December working at Texas hospitals in urgent need of help. Though they were stationed at different hospitals — Dr. Sonne at BSA Hospital in Amarillo, and Dr. Breslin at University Medical Center in Lubbock — their experiences were similar: long days overflowing with coronavirus patients, mixed with a bit of culture shock as they adjusted to life in the Lone Star State.



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Photo at top: Buses dropping off hundreds of volunteer medical staff in front of BSA Hospital in Amarillo, Texas

THE ADVISOR IS IN

Michael Pillinger, MD

*Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry
and Molecular Pharmacology
Program Director, Rheumatology*



Binita Shah, MD

*Assistant Professor of Medicine
Associate Director of Research, Cardiac Catheterization
Laboratory*



How to Succeed in Clinical Research

1. Start with something you care about!

- No matter what your question or methodology, your study is going to take much longer than you think it will (trust us!).
- So commit to something you care about... it will make it much easier to stick with it when the going gets tough.
- “The joy of research must be found in the doing since every other harvest is uncertain.” - Dr. Theobald Smith

2. Know your topic well and define your question clearly.

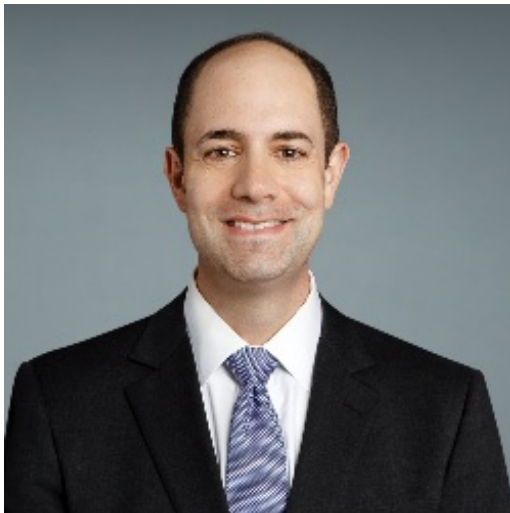
- Your goal is to ask questions that can make a difference.
- If you know your topic well, you won't ask questions that are trivial, unanswerable or already answered.

- Define your question precisely and you will build a more successful study.
- Ask yourself how your study results (whether they are ultimately “negative” or “positive”) can help change practice or advance future studies.

3. Collaborate!

- There are very few questions you can answer by yourself, and almost none that won't be answered better with colleagues.
- Look to multiple mentors for interdisciplinary expertise.
- Working with peers and junior colleagues speeds your study, lets you “pay it forward” and helps you build a network that you can call on again in the future.

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Faculty News & Honors

Congratulations to Adam Skolnick, MD, who has been named as one of the recipients of this year's New York University Distinguished Teaching Award. Read more about Dr. Skolnick, plus other news from our faculty and divisions below.



Vaccine Corner

Adam Ratner, MD, director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, weighs in on the importance of vaccinating children, while Arthur Caplan, PhD, director of the Division of Medical Ethics, assesses the AstraZeneca vaccine debate.

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The Historian Is In: April 1865, A Look Back

On the evening of April 15, 1865, Charles Augustus Leale, a 23-year-old graduate of the infant Bellevue Hospital Medical College—later merged with the NYU School of Medicine—was in Ford's Theater when Abraham Lincoln was shot. David Oshinsky, PhD, tells Leale's story—as well as relays the conflicting tales Leale told about that night over the years.

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Student Essay: "Ideals and Imperfections"

"My journey through medicine has taken place against the backdrop of a personal struggle to reconcile the randomness, tragedy, and injustice of our world with my longing for agency, hope, and altruism..." Prabhu Sasankan, winner of the Clerkship Award for Outstanding Essay In Medical Humanism, offers a thoughtful meditation on being a medical student, an American, and a human.

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NEWS & AWARDS

**Adam Skolnick, MD, Honored Among NYU's 2020-2021
Distinguished Teaching Award Winners**

Adam Skolnick, MD, associate professor of medicine and master clinician educator, is among the recipients of this year's [New York University Distinguished Teaching Award](#). Dr. Skolnick has previously been named Teacher of the Year in the Department of Medicine and in 2016 received the highest teaching award in our medical school, the Distinguished Teaching Award in Basic Sciences. Most recently he was named the 2020 Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Faculty Teacher Inductee.



Doreen Addrizzo-Harris, MD, Receives Outstanding Educator Award

Doreen Addrizzo-Harris, MD, has received the 2021 [Outstanding Educator Award](#) from the Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors (APCCMPD). The recipient of this annual award is chosen by their peers for demonstrating excellence in the development of future physicians by making significant, innovative, and/or cumulatively outstanding contributions to education in pulmonary and/or critical care medicine. Dr. Addrizzo-Harris has served as Program Director of the Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine Fellowship since 2001, and has grown the fellowship to over 27 fellows over the last 20 years.

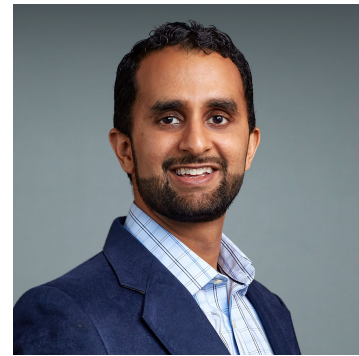


Shivam Joshi, MD, Receives National Kidney Foundation's Joel D. Kopple Award

Shivam Joshi, MD, clinical assistant professor, has been named the recipient of the [Joel D. Kopple Award](#) from the National Kidney Foundation's Council on Renal Nutrition. Dr. Joshi is the youngest physician to have received this award, which honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of renal nutrition through research, education, mentorship, clinical practice, and outreach.

Gregory B. Haber, MD, Honored by American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Gregory B. Haber, MD, has been named the 2021 Gene and Lyn Overholt Endowed Lecturer, to be given at the Digestive Disease Week conference in May 2021. This honor is appointed as part of the



prestigious Crystal Awards, presented by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, in recognition of outstanding achievement in endoscopy.

Association of Black Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists Launches

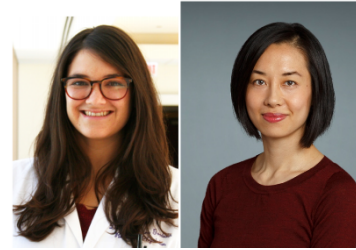
The [Association of Black Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists](#) (ABGH), founded by a group of 11 physicians including three faculty members



here at NYU Langone, recently launched. ABGH is a non-profit organization built to improve the disproportionately negative digestive health outcomes in Black communities, foster physician networking, develop the next generation of trainees, and promote scholarship. From among our faculty, **Sophie M. Balzora, MD**, serves as president and co-founder, **Renee Williams, MD**, serves as vice-president and co-founder, and **Valérie Antoine-Gustave, MD, MPH**, serves as treasurer and co-founder.

Gold Humanism Honor Society Faculty Inductees

Earlier this month, the NYU Grossman School of Medicine GME chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) inducted its eighth cohort of residents and fellows, recognized for their commitment to humanism in medicine. For the first time, three faculty members were also chosen to join the GME chapter of GHHS, including **Alexandra M. Goodwin, MD**, and **Yinan Lan, MD**, from the Department of Medicine (pictured), and Johana Oviedo, MD, MPH, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Recent Research and Grant News

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health has awarded a grant for ISCHEMIA-EXTEND (The International Study of Comparative Health Effectiveness with Medical and Invasive Approaches (ISCHEMIA) trial EXTENDED Follow-up). ISCHEMIA-EXTEND, led by **Judith Hochman, MD** (Study Chair) and David Maron, MD (Principal



Investigator/Study Co-Chair), assesses whether an initial invasive strategy—cardiac catheterization and revascularization when feasible plus optimal medical therapy (OMT)—reduces long-term all-cause mortality as compared with an initial conservative strategy of OMT for chronic coronary disease patients with moderate or severe ischemia over an extended 5 year period of follow-up.

A \$2.2 million grant from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation will help to address colorectal cancer disparities through an expansion of our programs in Brooklyn. The gift will support an early intervention program, as well increased screening capacity at NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn and the NYU Langone Brooklyn Endoscopy and Ambulatory Surgery Center, with a specific focus on reaching underserved communities. A portion of the funds will also expand screening for liver disease with support from **Saikiran M. Kilaru, MD**, clinical assistant professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. [Learn more.](#)



Upcoming CME Activities

Current Topics in Infectious Diseases 2021

May 1, 7:45am - 12:30pm

Course Directors: Gail F. Shust, MD; Stephanie Sterling, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

Cases and Controversies in Heart Failure

May 14, 8:00am - 2:45pm

Course Directors: Nader Moazami, MD; Shaline D. Rao, MD; Alex Reyentovich, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

Post-Acute Covid Syndrome

June 8, 7:45am - 4:00pm

Course Directors: Shari Brosnahan, MD; Rany Condos, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

Big Gut Seminars: Focus on Complex Esophageal Disease: Emerging Concepts and Controversies

July 16, 11:45am - 5:00pm

Course Directors: Tanuja Damani, MD; Abraham Khan, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

We welcome your announcements of awards, honors, publications,
presentations, new programs, and events. Email us at
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