

INSIDE *Medicine*

November 2020

The Newsletter of the Department of Medicine

A Time for Thanksgiving

A message from the chair, Steve Abramson

It is commonplace to say that this has been a year of upheaval, loss, and unprecedented challenge. So much so that the Oxford English Dictionary could not determine a single “Word of the Year,” reflecting the many forces of disruption in 2020. And yet this week of Thanksgiving is also a time for reflection as we look back at 2020 and recognize that through this pandemic, heightened awareness of racial injustice, and a divisive election, our community has shown enormous resilience, experienced numerous successes, and pulled together in a most remarkable way. This issue of the Newsletter highlights many of those achievements, beginning with an interview with Dr. Verity Schaye describing our department’s response to the COVID-19 surge this past spring, which was published as an Editors' Pick in NEJM Catalyst. The description exemplifies what we can achieve collaborating as a unified faculty, residents, students, and staff to bring the best care to patients across our institutions. Challenges remain, but it is clear that the vitality, talent, and commitment of each member of this department is something for which we should be proud, giving confidence for the future. For that, I thank each of you and wish all a very Happy Thanksgiving.



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One Faculty



Collaboration and Communication: Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic Response

Clinical leaders from the Department of Medicine recently published "Collaborating Across Private, Public, Community, and Federal Hospital Systems: Lessons Learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic Response in NYC," providing a superb overview of the NYU Grossman response at the height of the COVID-19 surge this past spring. The piece was selected as an Editors' Pick in *NEJM Catalyst*. Lead author **Verity Schaye, MD, MHPE**, talks about how the article came together, and the importance of sharing strategies and perspectives.

[Continue reading](#)

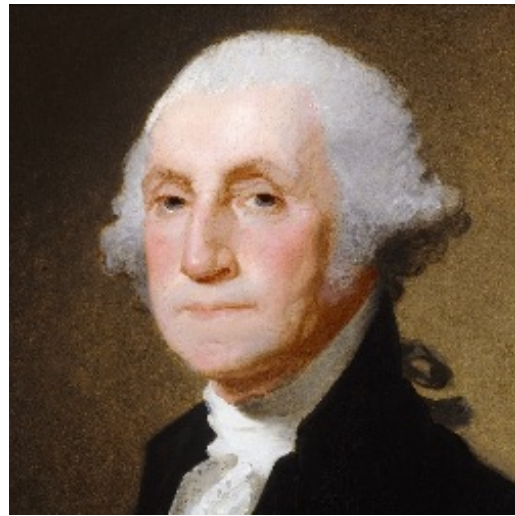




The Advisor Is In: Leading in Quality Improvement & Safety

Dr. Ilseung Cho, Chief Quality Officer at NYU Langone Health, describes how we can work together to improve quality and safety, with a focus on team-building, creativity, and innovation.

[Learn More](#)



The Historian Is In: The Maladies of Our First President

By today's standards, George Washington's story reads like something from a medical encyclopedia: diphtheria, tuberculosis, smallpox, dysentery. The list goes on. David Oshinsky, PhD, describes the health woes of our first president and the methods doctors employed to treat him.

[Continue reading](#)

Rudin Fellowship in Medical
Ethics and Humanities

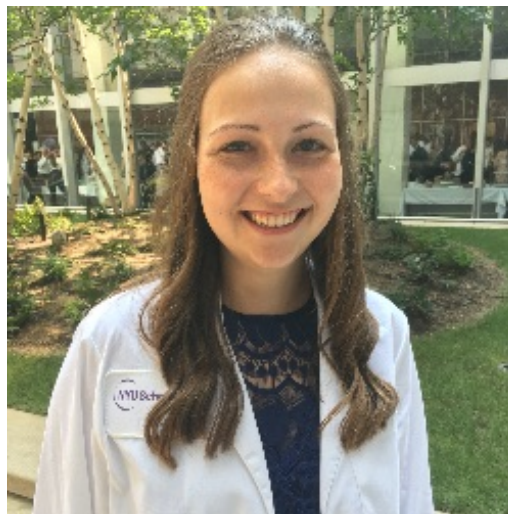
Project Showcase

Rudin Showcase Highlights Medical Humanities & Ethics Projects

The Rudin Fellowship in Medical Ethics and Humanities is a competitive fellowship that supports medical students, residents, and clinical fellows in conducting year-long, innovative research projects in medical humanities and biomedical ethics. The program's recent virtual showcase highlighted projects including "[A Graphic Narrative Exploration of Communication in Serious Illness](#)," by internal medicine resident Michael Shen, MD.

[Explore more individual presentations](#)

[Watch the full showcase](#)



Student Essay: "Between Life and Death"

"The line between life and death is a place where most only find themselves a handful of times, the worst times, in their lives...."

Jennifer Rutishauser's essay, winner of the Clerkship Award For Outstanding Essay In Medical Humanism, weaves together her personal and professional experiences with death.

[Read the essay](#)

NEWS & AWARDS

National Leadership Roles



Mark Pochapin, MD, recently completed his tenure as President of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG). During his president's address at the recent ACG annual meeting, Dr. Pochapin spoke of the unprecedented health and social challenges faced in 2020. [Read highlights from Dr. Pochapin's address.](#)



Doreen Addrizzo-Harris, MD, has been elected as the incoming President-Designate for the American College of Chest Physicians, and will assume the role of ACCP president for the year 2022-2023. Dr. Addrizzo-Harris has been recognized as a Distinguished CHEST Educator each year since its inception since 2017 and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2019. She will serve as the sixth woman to lead the American College of Chest Physicians.



Celine Gounder, MD, clinical assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation, has been named to President-elect Joe Biden's [COVID-19 advisory board](#).

Awards Presented at National Conferences



Glenn Fishman, MD, received the Distinguished Scientist Award of the American Heart Association for 2020 at the AHA's Scientific Sessions, held virtually November 13–17, 2020. This title recognizes Dr. Fishman's extraordinary contributions to cardiovascular research.



Kathryn Moore, PhD, received the American Heart Association's George Lyman Duff Memorial Lecture Award for her contributions to the field of atherosclerosis. Dr. Moore was presented with the award at the AHA's Scientific Sessions.



Sophie Balzora, MD, has been recognized with the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) President's Special Recognition Award, which is presented to recognize outstanding contributions that have advanced public health, the practice of medicine, clinical science, patient care, or the College. Dr. Balzora is a member and incoming Vice Chair of ACG's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and co-founder of ACG's #DiversityinGI Social Media Campaign.



At the 2020 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Annual Meeting, **Michael Pillinger, MD**, received the prestigious Amgen Fellowship Training Award from the Rheumatology Research Foundation.



Also at the ACR Meeting, **Ruth Fernandez Ruiz, MD**, received the Distinguished Fellow of the Year Award, which recognizes up to ten clinical and research fellows who are in a rheumatology fellowship training program and who have performed meritoriously.

Awards and Recognition From Other Organizations



Ann Garment, MD, section chief of General Internal Medicine at Bellevue Hospital and assistant professor in DGIMCI, recently received an honorable mention in the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's 2020 Pearl Birnbaum Hurwitz Humanism in Healthcare Award for her "transformative, empathic leadership in serving patients in great need." [Read more about Dr. Garment](#), plus this year's winner, Hoonani (Nani) Cuadrado, and fellow honorable mention awardee, Dr. Chinazo Cunningham.



Ashira Blazer, MD, MS, assistant professor in the Division of Rheumatology, was selected by the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) as a recipient of their [40 Under 40 Leaders in Health Awards](#). The NMQF is a research and educational organization dedicated to ensuring that high-risk racial and ethnic populations and

communities receive optimal health care. This nonprofit, nonpartisan organization integrates data and expertise in support of initiatives to eliminate health disparities. Annually they select 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health who represent the next generation of thought leaders in reducing health disparities.



Robert Pitts, MD, clinical assistant professor, was selected as a Bloomberg American Health Initiative Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. During the Fellowship, he will obtain an MPH and work with public health leaders across the nation to minimize health disparities among vulnerable populations. His particular focus will be LGBTQ gender affirming care and HIV prevention.

NYU Grossman School of Medicine Educator Community Awards



UME Clerkship Educator of the Year

Michael LoCurcio, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

Associate Chair for Education

Director, Core Medicine Clerkship



Excellence in Diversity in Education Award

Renee Williams, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship Program



Basic Medical Sciences Educator of the Year

Kelly Ruggles, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine
Director, Academic Programs
Assistant Director for Biomedical Informatics,
Institute for Innovations in Medical Education



Best Medical Education

Collaboration: Disparities and Social Determinants of Health Curriculum Innovation Taskforce



From Medicine:

Richard E. Greene, MD, MHPE

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Director, Health Disparities Education

Ruth M. Crowe, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Director, Integrated Clinical Skills, Director,
Practice of Medicine Module and Content



Blen Girmay, MD

PGY-2, Internal Medicine

**Innovation Showcase Winner:
NYU Langone Family Connect**



One of the winning projects at the recent Innovation Showcase was **NYU Langone Family Connect**, which created a network of volunteers to deliver timely, accurate, and personalized clinical updates every day, thereby reducing the anxiety that patients and families experienced during the COVID-19 surge earlier this year, when in-person visits were not allowed. **Katherine Hochman, MD, MBA**, associate chair for quality, Department of Medicine, and assistant chief of medicine, was recognized, along with team members Rachel Ramsey, MHA, administrative director, Sala Institute and Children’s Services; Regina Grinblat, MEd, senior director, patient experience; Kathleen DeMarco, RN, MSN, senior director, nursing; and Jaya Sondhi, RN, BSN, project manager, Hospital Operations. [Read more about the showcase and winning projects.](#)

Research & Grant News

The National Institutes of Health has launched two of three adaptive Phase 3 clinical trials evaluating the safety and effectiveness of varying types of blood thinners to treat adults diagnosed with COVID-19. Part of the [Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines \(ACTIV\)](#) initiative, these trials will be conducted at more than 100 sites around the world and will involve patients in various clinical settings — those who have not been hospitalized, those currently hospitalized and those discharged after hospitalization for moderate to severe disease. **Judith Hochman, MD**, is the Study Chair; **Harmony Reynolds, MD**, is a co-principal investigator; and **Jeffrey**

Berger, MD, is co-principal investigator and the NYU Langone site PI.

The NIA has awarded **Joshua Chodosh, MD, MSHS** one of four NIA COVID-19 Supplemental Awards under the collective of the NIA IMPACT Collaboratory. The project, COVID-19 Serology Strategies in Skilled Nursing Facilities (CERO), will design and pilot test an intervention that leverages the COVID-antibody and PCR status of residents and staff to inform staff-residents care assignments that will minimize COVID-19 transmission rates. [Read a study snapshot of Dr. Chodosh's project here.](#)

Gregg Silverman, MD, received the Lupus Research Alliance Lupus Mechanisms and Targets Award for his project examining the gut microbiome of Lupus patients. His preliminary work has identified a particular candidate human pathobiont that is linked to active Lupus nephritis. He intends to examine various strains of this pathobiont to characterize them and determine how variations may affect autoimmune pathogenesis.

Andrew Wallach, MD, along with Drs. Lorna Thorpe and Natasha Williams of the Department of Population Health and Donna Shelley of the NYU School of Global Public Health, are Principal Investigators of a new two-year \$2.2 million grant from the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations \(RADx-UP\)](#) program to support community-engaged research to improve COVID-19 testing for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents.

Upcoming CME Activities

The Irwin D. Mandel Advances in Cardiovascular Risk Reduction: Improving Treatment for Patients with Diabetes

December 3, 7:45am - 5pm

Course Director: Arthur Schwartzbard, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

Sixth Annual NYU Langone Advanced Seminar in Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis

December 11, 8:30am - 2:00pm

Course Directors: Andrea Neimann, MD; Soumya Reddy, MD; Jose Scher, MD
Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

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

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