

# INSIDE *Medicine*

February 2022

The Newsletter of the Department of Medicine

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## ***Rebirth of the Physician-Scientist***

*A message from the chair, Steve Abramson*

About fifteen years ago there was growing concern about *The Vanishing Physician-Scientist*. NIH funding had become increasingly difficult, medical school debt was rising and the income gap between clinicians and physician-scientists had widened. Scientific advances and technologies had made a career in science daunting for a physician without a PhD degree. But then something changed – and we can see it reflected in this issue of the Newsletter that highlights the work of several NYU physician-scientists. Outstanding translational programs in Psoriatic Arthritis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease, led by Jose Scher and David Hudesman, respectively, together with the exciting work of junior faculty members Jordan Axelrad and Michael Garshick, are encouraging signs that the tide has turned. Physician-scientists have reemerged, partnering with basic scientists, helping to bring discoveries at the bench to the bedside (and back). The importance of physicians' understanding of disease, the emergence of outstanding clinical programs with well-characterized patient cohorts and the burgeoning fields of genetics, data sciences and health equity, have created new opportunities fertile for the development of physician-investigators. As a department, we are committed to support the careers of aspiring physician-scientists through mentoring, the Young Scholars research support program and the growth of translational research programs. And it is clear here at NYU that the physician-scientist, though still pursuing an arduous pathway, is vanishing no more.

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## In This Issue

- Innovation in Education: Translating Data into Curricular Improvement
- The Advisor Is In: "How to Build a Center" by Jose Scher, MD, and David Hudesman, MD
- The Historian Is In: "Antibiotics - Discoveries & Legacies"
- Junior Faculty Research Showcase: Jordan Axelrad, MD, MPH, and Michael Garshick, MD, MS
- Featured Student Essay: "Words From Home" by Emma Keteku
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### **Innovation in Education: Translating Data into Curricular Improvement**

Over the three years of internal medicine residency, trainees are exposed to a range of clinical experiences. However, given that medicine is comprised of a number of subspecialties, each with a wide array of diseases and conditions, it is difficult to measure whether a resident is gaining adequate knowledge across all of the core content areas. But what exactly is missing?

A few years ago, Daniel Sartori, MD, (above, center) and David Rhee, MD, began to develop a plan to address this question. At the time, both were new to NYU Langone-Brooklyn, Dr. Sartori as a faculty member following his chief resident year and Dr. Rhee as one of the incoming chief residents. Having primarily trained at NYU Langone’s Manhattan sites, they were interested in understanding whether the diagnoses they were seeing at NYU Langone-Brooklyn were distinct from other sites.

Through the electronic health record, they had access to a wealth of data—diagnoses, medical histories, treatment plans—but needed to find a way to extract this data in a different way. “We had to take the language of the hospital and translate it into a language that's more educationally meaningful,” says Dr. Sartori.

To do this, alongside Jonathan Chun MD, and David Stern MD, PhD, they developed a crosswalk tool that takes the ICD-10 codes attributed to resident teams and maps them to the content areas of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), which already defines certain conditions with which residents should be familiar. This allows for a better understanding of what content areas internal medicine residents may not be seeing enough of during their inpatient clinical experiences.

The data showed that the content areas that residents experience most frequently during their clinical training are cardiovascular disease and infectious disease, the latter likely driven by the Covid era. However, other categories—including rheumatology, hematology, and medical oncology—are not experienced as often in the inpatient setting, though these are core content areas that residents will need to know. “Our goal is to be able to identify these curricular gaps and come up with creative ways to fill them,” says Dr. Sartori.

[Continue reading the full article](#)

THE ADVISOR IS IN

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**Jose Scher, MD**

*Director, Psoriatic Arthritis Center*



**David Hudesman, MD**

*Co-Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center*



## How to Build a Center

*“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”*

*– Winston Churchill*

In philosophical terms, the function of the center is to orient, to balance, and to organize the structure, making it stable. Centers are not fixed “truths,” but rather are flexible and constantly evolving.

Drawing on our experiences with building the [Psoriatic Arthritis Center](#) and [Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center](#), we offer advice on how to begin developing your own specialized center.

**Always be humble, grateful and respectful to your mentors and supporters alike; if you promised to do something, just deliver! Credibility brings trust to every relationship.**

- When envisioning and building the Psoriatic Arthritis Center (PAC) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center, we were thankful for the mentorship and invaluable advice of leadership, including Steve Abramson and Andrew Brotman.
- The PAC was grateful for initial funding from the NIH and foundations, and the generosity of initial funding partners (The Riley and The Snyder families).

**Generate a vision that even when grandiose can inspire others to join you on the journey.**

- Propose structural concepts around how to build an entity that could organically shape the ideas behind a complex disease process while keeping all the parts together (i.e., focusing on the clinical, educational and research missions).
- Create a business plan, find physical space, gather generous support, and identify outstanding clinicians and researchers within and outside the field.
- Strive for ever-expanding projects and collaborations.
  - For example, the PAC went from a very lean clinical operation with two rheumatologists and a dermatologist to a more inclusive and integrative approach by including a nurse practitioner, more rheumatologists with specific interest in psoriatic disease, and subspecialists.
  - Similarly, the IBD center, co-directed by Feza Remzi, MD, professor in the Department of Surgery, has focused on multidisciplinary care including a nutritionist, psychologist, ostomy support, and midlevel providers.
  - Research collaborations are also key, with both centers involved in basic, translational, and clinical research.

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## The Historian Is In: Antibiotics: Discoveries & Legacies

The discovery of streptomycin, for which Selman Waksman won the Nobel



## Junior Faculty Research Showcase

At Medicine Grand Rounds in December, the spotlight was on some of the research being conducted by

Prize seventy years ago, had long-lasting reverberations in the scientific community over how credit should be shared. What is lost, however, in the story of antibiotic use is the role played by a Bellevue-NYU clinician named Edith Lincoln, who ran the pediatric unit at Bellevue's sprawling chest service for close to forty years.

[Continue reading](#)

junior faculty members. Here, Michael Garshick, MD, MS, describes his work exploring the connections between psoriasis and heart disease, and Jordan Axelrad, MD, MPH, (shown above) discusses his work studying how gastrointestinal infections may complicate inflammatory bowel disease or trigger it to develop.

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## Chiefs' Clinical Inquiry Corner

Chief residents of the NYU Langone Internal Medicine Residency give quick-and-easy, evidence-based answers to interesting questions posed by house staff, both in their clinics and on the wards.

[Read more on \*Clinical Correlations\*](#)



## Featured Student Essay: "Words From Home"

*"One patient interaction I had showed me that trying to communicate, even if it is as small as saying 'hi,' can go a long way...."* In "Words From Home," winner of the Clerkship Award For Outstanding Essay In Medical Humanism, Emma Keteku describes how language can comfort and connect us.

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# NEWS & AWARDS

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## **Katherine Hochman, MD, Elected to NYU Langone Medical Board**

**Katherine Hochman, MD**, director of the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been elected Secretary of NYU Langone's new Medical Board. The Board is now led by three women and includes the highest number of members from communities that are underrepresented in medicine in NYU Langone's history.

Other members of the Department of Medicine who serve on the Medical Board At-Large include Nicole Adler, MD, Adam Goodman, MD, and Adriana Quinones-Camacho, MD.



## **National Pancreas Foundation Names NYU Langone Health a "Center for Excellence" for Pancreatitis**



Under the leadership of **Tamas A. Gonda, MD**, NYU Langone Health was named a Center of Excellence in pancreatitis (along with pancreatic cancer), by the National Pancreas Foundation (NPF). The NPF Centers of Excellence are located at premier healthcare facilities that focus on the multidisciplinary treatment of pancreas disease, treating the “whole patient” with a focus on optimal patient outcomes and improved quality of life. Dr. Gonda, chief of endoscopy and director of the Pancreatic Disease Program at Tisch Hospital, is working to coordinate efforts across the GI Division and other departments to provide a

multidisciplinary, integrated, patient-centered approach to care for patients suffering with acute or chronic pancreatitis.

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## Faith Davies, MD, Appointed Inaugural Director of Center for Blood Cancers



**Faith E. Davies, MD**, a nationally renowned hematology expert, has been appointed the inaugural director of the Center for Blood Cancers at NYU Langone Health's Perlmutter Cancer Center. Dr. Davies currently serves as director of the Clinical Myeloma Program at Perlmutter Cancer Center.

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## Recognition from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Two faculty members from the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Palliative Care were recently recognized by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM): **Susan E. Cohen, MD, FAAHPM**, was



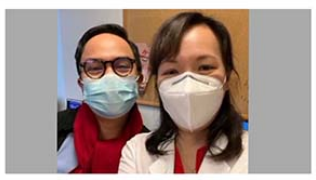
**Cohen, MD, FAAHPM**, was elected to the AAHPM's 2022-2023 Board of Directors Nominating Committee, and **Robert Smeltz, RN, MA, NP, ACHPM**, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (FAAHPM), one of the highest honors the Academy can bestow on an AAHPM member.

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The Department of Medicine Goes **RED**



Members of the Department of Medicine participated in Wear Red Day, a national awareness day held each year on the first Friday in February as part of American Heart Month, to raise awareness of the importance of women's heart health. [See more photos on Inside Health.](#)





## EVENTS & CME

### AHA 2022 Wall Street Run & Heart Walk

Join your colleagues to raise funds, celebrate survivors, and have fun along the way at this year's Heart Walk. Sign up for one of NYU Langone's teams to support the AHA in its efforts to defeat heart disease and stroke.

**Thursday, May 19 -- Check-In: 5:00pm, Start Time: 6:45pm**

[Register here](#)

### Upcoming CME Activities

#### **Controversial Topics in Sarcoidosis**

March 4, 7:00am - 4:15pm

Course Directors: Rany Condos, MD; Randal Goldberg, MD; Kerry Hena, MD; Alex Reyantovich, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

## **NYU Langone Seminar in Advanced Rheumatology**

March 17-19, 8:45am - 1:15pm

Course Directors: Steven Abramson, MD; Jill Buyon, MD; Bruce Cronstein, MD;

Michael Pillinger, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

## **Updates in Endocrinology 2022**

April 1, 7:40am - 5:00pm

Course Director: Nidhi Agrawal, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

## **Big Gut Seminars: Focus on Complex Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

April 8, 7:35am - 3:55pm

Course Directors: David Hudesman, MD; Lisa Malter, MD; Feza Remzi, MD

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

## **Interdisciplinary Palliative Care Conference 2022: Exploring Culture and Identity in Palliative Care**

April 26, 8:15am - 4:45pm

Course Directors: Susan Cohen, MD, FAAHPM; Robert Smeltz, MA, NP, ACHPN

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

## **2nd Annual Cardiometabolic Risk in Inflammatory Conditions: Emerging Insights and Treatment of Inflammation in Cardiovascular Disease**

April 29, 8:00am - 1:00pm

Course Directors: Michael Garshick, MD; Nehal Mehta, MD, MSCE, FAHA

Virtual Webinar ~ [Learn more](#)

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We welcome your announcements of awards, honors, publications,  
presentations, new programs, and events. Email us at  
[DOMcommunications@nyulangone.org](mailto:DOMcommunications@nyulangone.org).

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