Whither the White Coat; State of the Department and Award Ceremony; Graduation Ceremony Highlights; Department of Medicine 22nd Annual Research Day Symposium at NYU – Washington Square; Incoming Chief Residents Inducted; Reflections from the Outgoing Chief Residents; Innovations in Medicine featuring Steven Lamm, MD; Beyond the White Coat featuring Sunil V. Rao, MD; 2nd Annual TEDxNYU Langone Health Event; Historian Is In – Graduation Address; Faculty QuickTake Video featuring Sunil V. Rao, MD; Featured Student Essay by Felicia Pasadyn

June 2025



The Newsletter of the Department of Medicine

# A Message from the Chair, Steve Abramson Whither the White Coat

It's been almost 2500 years since Hippocrates wrote in the "Ideal Physician" that a physician "must have a clean appearance, and wear good clothes, using a sweet-smelling scent." The ancient message is clear: the physician, with "clean appearance" and in "good clothes," should dress with the patient in mind. Since the advent of antisepsis in the 19th century, the physician's white coat has come to symbolize cleanliness, professionalism, and trust. The White Coat Ceremony for first-year medical students in the presence of faculty and family, has become a rite of passage— a reminder of the responsibility that comes with caring for patients. Similar rituals continue: we welcome new residents as they don their NYU white coats for the annual group photo— a tradition followed by both our departing and newly inducted chief residents (photos below). But despite these traditions, the white coat has virtually vanished from the hospital. During the COVID-19 pandemic— when the frequent donning and doffing of PPE rendered white coats impractical— hospital culture shifted. It has become common for most healthcare team members, regardless of role, to wear scrubs as daily attire. For some, scrubs are worn to and from home, prompting concerns about cleanliness. For some others, scrubs and fleece jackets have become not just functional attire, but fashion statements—popularized by companies (FIGS, FRUBS) marketing "hospital chic." Whatever the cause, the sartorial shift has blurred the lines of professional identity. The literature is clear—

patients prefer doctors in white coats. A recent study conducted at Johns Hopkins revealed that individuals more readily identify physicians wearing white coats as doctors, compared with those wearing scrubs or fleece jackets, who were more likely to be mistaken as nurses, medical technicians, or physician assistants (Xun et al. JAMA Network Open. 2021). Physicians in white coats were also perceived as significantly more experienced and professional. Similarly, a study of 4062 patients from 10 academic medical centers found that formal attire with a white coat was most highly rated by patients and that patients perceive physicians not wearing white coats as less knowledgeable (Petrilli et al. BMJ Open. 2018). Our own Chris Petrilli, the first author, concluded "As physicians we should make sure that our attire reflects a certain level of professionalism that is also mindful of patients' preferences." In the current era of team-based care, where scrubs are common to most members of unit teams, a confusion of attire can interfere with effective communication, trust-building, and clarity. Recently, the Division of Hospital Medicine, led by Dr. Kathy Hochman has instituted a White Coat strategy to enhance patient communication by clearly defining the physician's leadership role within the healthcare team. The white coat, therefore, is less about tradition and more about the message it sends to those who place their trust in us. To help ensure that trust, it's time we resume dressing with the patient in mind with "clean appearance" and in "good clothes," with using a sweet-smelling scent optional.



"So who do I get to call Doc?"

## Missed an Issue of the Inside Medicine Newsletter?

Visit our archive on the Department of Medicine webpage to explore past issues.

Inside Medicine Newsletter Archive

# Department of Medicine About Us Divisions Clinical Services Education Research Inside Medicine Newsletter

#### **Inside Medicine Newsletter**



183 and Counting

May 2025

Internal Medicine Residency Advising Reception: 3-Year Pathway & Summer Research Fellowship Alumni Career Night: The Empathy Project; CME Highlight featuring Asthuna, Airways, and Environment Symposium; Innovations in Medicine featuring Jenualer M. Reckrey, MD: Beyond the White Coat and Faculty QuickTake Video featuring Sapria Mebita, MD: Featured Student Essay by Abgait Korenek



See One, Do One, Teach One

April 2025

See One, Do One, Teach One: Shaping the Future of Medicine: Alec C. Kimmelman, MD, PhD, Appointed ChiefEvecutive Officer of NYU Langon Health and Dean of NYU Groosman School of Medicine: Healthcare Policy Headwards: Match Day 2023: 4th Annual Hospital Medicine Symposium: CME Highlight featuring the NYU Langone Health Seminar in Advanced Rheumatology: Innovations in Medicine featuring Anoma Nellore. MD: Humanities and Artin Medicine: Featured Soudent Essay by Jettrey Park

## **State of the Department and Award Ceremony**

#### A Year of Accomplishment, Advancement, and Department-Wide Recognition



Chair Steven B. Abramson, MD, giving the State of the Department Address

At this year's annual State of the Department and Award Ceremony, held on June 18th, Department Chair Steven B. Abramson, MD, recognized and thanked medical students, residents, fellows, faculty, and staff across all sites and specialties for their continued commitment to excellence in advancing the Department of Medicine's research, education, and clinical missions over the past academic year.

Now comprising 1,842 faculty members, including 92 research faculty and 441 residents and fellows across 14 subspecialties, the Department of Medicine was responsible for over \$87 million in research funding, 480 scientific publications, and contributed to 50% of the medical school curriculum during the 2024–2025 academic year.

As part of the event, Dr. Abramson presented numerous departmental awards in recognition of outstanding work and achievements, including the Dr. Anthony J. Grieco Distinguished Teaching Award, as well as awards for Mentor of the Year, Exceptionalism in Hospital Medicine, Teaching Faculty of the Year, Fellow of the Year, Resident of the Year, and Intern of the Year. He also celebrated faculty members promoted to associate or full professor and acknowledged individuals whose work has made a lasting impact on the department's growth and excellence.

In addition, Dr. Abramson formally welcomed John P. Leonard, MD, as the new Division Director of Hematology and Medical Oncology, commending his leadership and vision for the division's future.

The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the Department of Medicine's ongoing pursuit of excellence across education, patient care, and research.

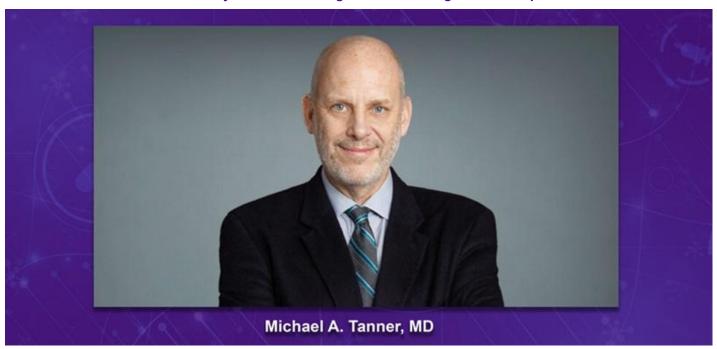




View the PowerPoint of Dr. Abramson's State of the Department Address and Awardees

Awards presented at the event included

Dr. Anthony J. Grieco Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient



#### **Mentors of the Year**



#### Exceptionalism in Hospital Medicine Award Recipients



A full list of faculty and house staff awards can be found at the end of the newsletter.

## **Graduation Ceremony Highlights**



Resident Graduation Ceremony, Manhattan

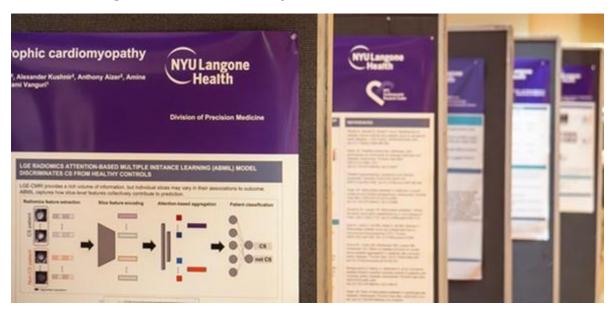


Resident Graduation Ceremony, Brooklyn

The Manhattan and Brooklyn Internal Medicine resident graduation ceremonies were significant and greatly deserved milestones in the academic and professional lives of our residents. The ceremonies celebrated the dedication and hard work of the graduates, after their successful completion of the rigorous training programs here at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. The invaluable education and mentorship provided by our esteemed faculty were instrumental in guiding these accomplished residents to this pivotal point in their career paths. We extend our congratulations to the graduates and wish them the very best in their future endeavors as physicians. We know they will continue in their commitment to excellence and to making a meaningful contribution to advance the field of medicine.

## Department of Medicine 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Research Day Symposium at NYU – Washington Square

**Celebrating Innovation, Discovery, and Excellence in Academic Medicine** 



Poster presentations filled the room, highlighting innovative research by Medicine faculty, fellows, residents, and students

The Department of Medicine held its 22nd Annual Research Day, led by Vice Chair of Research, Glenn I. Fishman, MD, and team, on May 29th in the Rosenthal Pavilion at the NYU Kimmel Center, Washington Square. The all-day event celebrated research excellence across the department, showcasing innovative work from Medicine faculty, fellows, residents, and students.

This year's symposium featured a keynote lecture by Paul Cohen, MD, PhD, on the role of brown fat in health and disease. Additional oral presentations included talks by David M. Charytan, MD; Chiara Giannarelli, MD, PhD; Marcus D. Goncalves, MD, PhD; Carine Hamo, MD; Fanny Matheis, PhD; Michael E. Pacold, MD, PhD; Collin J. Popp, PhD; and Ann Marie Schmidt, MD—highlighting cutting-edge research spanning the microbiome, metabolic disease, cardiovascular and kidney health, immunology, neurodevelopment, and obesity. The popular "lightning round" returned with ultra-brief presentations from seven outstanding abstract submissions, followed by two poster sessions featuring over 200 posters.

A highlight of the event was the Excellence in Research Award presentation ceremony, which recognized outstanding posters and their authors for their significant contributions to medical research. Awards were presented for best poster and runner-up at each level of training.

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Award recipients included:

#### **STUDENTS**

Winner: Richard Von Itter (PhD candidate)

Myocardial Infarction Accelerates Tumor Growth via Adrenergic Signaling

Runner-Up: Sarah Kricheff (medical student)

Using Human Colonoids as a 3D-Model to Study the Epithelial Response of *Clostridioides difficile* Infection in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease

#### **RESIDENTS**

Winner: Yuri Ahuja, MD, PhD

Al-MI: A Deep Learning Model to Predict Actionable Acute Coronary Syndrome Using 12-Lead ECGs

Runner-Up: Aaron Rhee, MD, MA

Real-World Evidence Linking the PREVENT Risk Score and Coronary Artery Calcium

#### **FELLOWS**

Winner: Stacey Bartlett, PhD

The Role of Nasal Inflammation in the Transmission of Influenza A Virus in an Infant Mouse Model

Runner-Up: Vikas Kumar, PhD

Ligands of the Receptor for Advanced Glycation End Products (RAGE) Induce Trained Immunity in Mouse Bone Marrow-Derived Macrophages (BMDMs)

#### JUNIOR FACULTY

Winner: Ramesh Nimma, PhD

Integrated microRNA and Proteomic Expression Profiling in Small Extracellular Vesicles derived from Diabetic Macrophages Identifies Novel MicroRNA Targets and Networks Associated with Diabetic Vascular Complications

Runner-Up: Hortense Le, MS

A Self-Supervised Framework for Uncovering Prognostic and Diagnostic Features in Digital Pathology

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"We want to congratulate our awardees and thank everyone who contributed their time and expertise—including our invited speakers, poster authors, and faculty mentors, staff, and attendees—in making this year's Medicine Research Day a success and continuing to advance our research mission across the Department of Medicine. The breadth of research in the department is truly remarkable," said Dr. Fishman.







View the Full Gallery - Password: DOM (ALL CAPS)

## **Incoming Chief Residents Inducted**

Honoring Outgoing Leaders and Welcoming the Class of 2026 Chief Residents



Incoming 2025-26 chief residents and faculty leadership (L-R): First Row - Margaret R. Horlick, MD; Zaynab Marzuk, MD;

Aaron Tabibzadeh, MD; Lauren Heery, MD; Kripali Gautam, MD; Lena Jorde, MD; Stephanie Rasmussen, MD

Second Row – Patricio Castillo, MD; Prahan Chetlur, MD; Noah Figman, MD; Gigi Constable, MD;

Dalia Littman, MD; Steven B. Abramson, MD

On Wednesday, June 4th, the Internal Medicine Residency Program held its annual event to recognize the achievements of the class of 2025 chief residents and induct the class of 2026 chief residents. Department Chair Steven B. Abramson, MD, and Program Director Margaret R. Horlick, MD, extended their sincere thanks to outgoing chief residents Ehab Abaza, MD; Maaz Ahsan, MD, MS; Kathryn Havranek, MD, MPH; Sharon Klein, MD; Terry Li, MD; Navina Mohan, MD; Sharnendra Sidhu, MD; Jahnavi Udaikumar,

MD; Jacqueline Wang, MD; Shawn Wen, MD, MS; Amber Whitley, MD; and Jenny Yang, MD; for their hard work, dedication, and impactful contributions to the residency program and department over the past year. Dr. Abramson and Dr. Horlick presided over the induction of the incoming chief residents and wished them success as they embark on a new academic year ahead in their new roles.

## Reflections from the Outgoing Chief Residents

#### Looking Back on a Year of Mentorship, Challenge, and Community

Outgoing 2024-25 chief residents and faculty leadership (L-R): Ehab Abaza, MD; Sharnendra Sidhu, MD; Navina Mohan, MD; Jenny Yang, MD; Shawn Wen, MD, MS; Sharon Klein, MD; Margaret R. Horlick, MD; Steve B. Abramson, MD; Terry Li, MD; Jahnavi Udaikumar, MD; Jacqueline Wang, MD; Kathryn Havranek, MD, MPH; Maaz Ahsan, MD, MS (not pictured: Amber Whitley, MD)

The Department of Medicine extends its gratitude and appreciation to its outgoing chief residents. Beyond clinical leadership and coordination, the 2025 Chief Residents brought empathy, resilience, and mentorship to the heart of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. As their tenure concludes, they leave behind not only a legacy of excellence but also words of advice and encouragement for the incoming class:

Throughout residency, I've come to realize that much of our satisfaction as physicians stems from the small wins: guiding a patient toward wellness, supporting a colleague, or sharing a moment of vulnerability with another. As you go through your intern year, look for these moments in your day-to-day—they will breathe growth, curiosity, and meaning into your craft.

-Ehab Abaza, MD, Chief Resident, Manhattan VA Ambulatory Care

Residency is where dedication meets exhaustion, and hard work isn't just expected—it's the currency of growth, grit, and becoming the physician you're meant to be.

-Maaz Ahsan, MD, MS, Chief Resident, Bellevue Ambulatory Care

Intern year is an entirely new way of learning. Treat every abnormal vital sign, lab, imaging finding, and patient concern as an invitation to learn! The faculty at NYU and Bellevue are so supportive and are here to help you become the best physician you can be!

-Kathryn Havranek, MD, MPH, Chief Resident, Primary Care

Training across NYU's three hospitals pushed me to grow in ways I never imagined, with clinical rigor matched only by the strength of the friendships and mentorships I've found here. Wishing you all the best as you begin this incredible journey!

-Sharon Klein, MD, Chief Resident, QIPS

Welcome to residency! As many have likely already advised you, these next few years will be some of the most challenging you will experience in your medical career. At the same time, you will make lifelong

friends, you will have unforgettable experiences, and you will grow exponentially. Make sure you enjoy the ride—the ups and downs, good and bad, and everything in between.

—Terry Li, MD, Chief Resident, Manhattan Campus Inpatient

Residency is where I learned to steady others while quietly rebuilding myself, showing up with compassion even on the days when I felt empty. Somewhere between the sleepless nights, the constant giving, and the quiet doubts, I became someone I'm proud of and realized that growth was hiding in the moments that no one saw.

-Navina Mohan, MD, Chief Resident, FHC Ambulatory Care

You finally get to practice medicine—something you've worked so hard for! Take it all in. And along the way, you're going to make some amazing friends among your peers and colleagues.

-Sharnendra Sidhu, MD, Executive Chief Resident, Tish-Kimmel Inpatient

Welcome to residency! Intern year is a great opportunity to learn, grow, and make meaningful contributions. Embrace the challenges, stay curious, and always strive to make the most of this exciting experience!

—Jahnavi Udaikumar, MD, Chief Resident, NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn Inpatient

Congratulations on this momentous step in your careers, and welcome to the NYU family! We're excited to watch you grow both as physicians and as people, just as we all have. Residency is a challenging, transformative, and deeply rewarding journey—one best navigated through teamwork and mutual support!

—Jacqueline Wang, MD, Executive Chief Resident, Bellevue Inpatient

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone of starting residency, where your years of hard work and dedication starts to deeply impact patients' lives! Trust in your training, lean on your team, and remember that growth comes with every challenge you face.

-Shawn Wen, MD, Chief Resident, Health Equity

Residency is a marathon, not a sprint. Embrace the challenges, cherish the camaraderie, and find joy in caring for your patients.

—Amber Whitley, MD, Chief Resident, Manhattan Campus Inpatient

Residency will be one of the most challenging and rewarding journeys you experience. You will stretch and grow in unforeseen ways to become not only the future physician but also the future person you will be.

—Jenny Yang, MD, Assistant Hospitalist Educator, NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn

#### **Innovations in Medicine:**

#### **Conversations with Our Expert Faculty**



Steven Lamm, MD

Ronald and Susan Frankel Family Clinical Professor

Department of Medicine

Medical Director, Preston Robert Tisch Center for Men's Health

This month, we spotlight Steven Lamm, MD, Medical Director of NYU Langone's Preston Robert Tisch Center for Men's Health. A passionate advocate for proactive, personalized care, Dr. Lamm has built a practice centered on guiding patients-primarily men, though not exclusively-toward greater ownership of their health. In this interview, he shares insights into the evolving landscape of men's health, the clinician's role in fostering trust and connection, and how mentorship and medical education sustain his commitment to the field. Dr. Lamm also reflects on the future of internal medicine, including the promise of precision care and the importance of balancing innovation with humanity in an era of rapid change.

## You've been described as a master clinician. What do you see as the most important qualities of a great internist?

I am humbled by the title of master clinician. A master clinician as a result of their many years of practice is reminded every day that there is no place for hubris. Clinicians face the daunting task of addressing not only the health but often the social needs of their patients. A master clinician carries added responsibilities—as a mentor, role model, and innovator. Through years of experience and a lifetime of study, a master clinician learns to move beyond a "one-size-fits-all" model, integrating individualized care within the evolving landscape of precision medicine. For me "doctor " is all I had ever strived to be.

## As Medical Director of the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Men's Health, how has men's health evolved, and what unique opportunities does the Center provide for improving care?

Men's health has evolved significantly, but challenges remain. Too many men continue to die from preventable conditions—heart disease, many forms of cancer, substance abuse, and suicide. There remains a longevity gap of about 5 years between men and women. However, I believe we're seeing a shift. Men are beginning to understand the importance of prevention. The Center for Men's Health is working to remove barriers to care by offering a multidisciplinary, one-stop model that addresses the unique needs of men. It's designed to be sensitive to the fragile psyche and generational resistance many men have toward seeking help. This approach is helping both younger and older men reach their full health potential. Notably, we now see more than 300,000 patient visits per year—a reflection of growing engagement. Still, we know there is more to do, and we continue to strive for better.

How do you foster trust and connection in the clinical setting—and how do you pass that skill along to trainees and physicians who are early in their medical careers?

At the heart of medicine lies a simple truth: one size does not fit all. Every patient brings a unique blend of genetics, environment, and life choices. To deliver truly effective care, clinicians must integrate these variables thoughtfully, applying clinical guidelines with flexibility, nuance, and human insight. Trust is foundational to this work. Fortunately, most patients come to us with a deep respect for the medical profession. It is our responsibility to honor that trust—by listening carefully, empathizing sincerely, communicating clearly, and educating meaningfully. A physician must not only hear what the patient is saying but be attuned to what is left unsaid. Connection must precede correction; treat the person before treating the disease. In doing so, we not only serve our patients but also nourish a sense of purpose and pride that can sustain a lifetime in medicine.

## What motivates your continued commitment as an educator and mentor in the Department of Medicine, and what do you find most rewarding about this aspect of your work?

What motivates me to continue as a mentor and teacher to doctors, medical students, and health professionals is the profound sense of purpose and fulfillment it brings. This role is not an obligation—it is a privilege. Each interaction is an opportunity to pass forward the values that my own mentors instilled in me: curiosity, respect, empathy, and a deep sense of awe for the human body and spirit. Mentorship challenges me to stay current and open-minded in a field where medical knowledge now doubles every 72 days. It demands that I continually adapt, reflect, and grow alongside those I teach. In guiding others, I am constantly reminded of why I entered medicine in the first place—and why I remain so grateful to those who guided me. Teaching is not just about sharing knowledge; it is about nurturing the next generation with the same dedication and humility that shaped my own journey.

## Looking ahead, what excites you most—in the future of your own work and in the growth of department and internal medicine in general?

The next 5 years may be the most exciting period of discovery and therapeutic advancement we have ever seen. Many conditions once deemed intractable are on the verge of meaningful treatment. The rise of personalized, precision-based care promises not only improved outcomes but enhanced vitality, well-being, and longevity for our patients and society at large. Emerging tools like artificial intelligence will amplify our abilities. When used wisely, AI can support clinicians with real-time data, tailored insights, and dynamic decision-making aids. But this must never replace human judgment—it must augment it. The synergy between technology and compassion, between innovation and intuition, is where the future of medicine lies. We are moving from a model of disease management to one of wellness optimization. Defining and achieving "optimal health" is no longer a dream—it is fast becoming a reality. And I am fully committed to this future.

## **Beyond the White Coat**

#### The Pulse of Precision

My passion for medicine was sparked early, watching the profound impact my father—a pediatric cardiologist—had on his patients and their families. I was struck by how even a brief clinical encounter could change the course of someone's life. In medical school, this deeply humanistic interest merged with a growing fascination for human physiology. I've always been something of a "gearhead," and it was my curiosity about the cardiovascular system that led to an unexpected passion: building and collecting mechanical wristwatches.

Like the human heart, a mechanical watch is a marvel of precision—an intricate system of interdependent parts working in perfect synchrony. The balance wheel echoes the heart's rhythmic beat; the escapement, its regulating force. While collecting watches gave me an appreciation for history, engineering, and design, it was the process of repairing and assembling them that truly resonated. Disassembling a movement, identifying what's not functioning, and restoring the piece to working order felt remarkably familiar. It mirrors the mindset we bring to cardiology: a focused, problem-solving approach that demands curiosity and attention to detail.

This analogy extends beyond the mechanics. Just as a watch relies on every gear to function seamlessly, patient care depends on teamwork and collaboration. At NYU Langone Health, it's that spirit of collaboration—each member contributing their unique skills—that sets our cardiovascular program apart. It's also what makes working here such a meaningful experience for me.



Sunil V. Rao, MD

Professor, Department of Medicine

Deputy Director, Leon H. Charney Division of Cardiology

Director of Interventional Cardiology, NYU Langone Health

Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Tisch Hospital



Dr. Rao reassembling the inner workings of a mechanical watch

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TEDxNYU Langone Health Event

Department of Medicine Faculty Featured at 2025 TEDxNYU Langone Health



On Tuesday, June 10th, NYU Langone Health hosted its second annual TEDxNYU Langone Health event, once again organized by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute under the leadership of Miriam A. Bredella, MD, MBA, Associate Dean for Translational Science. Themed "Beyond Boundaries: Innovating for a Healthier Tomorrow," this year's program featured a powerful series of 10-minute inspirational talks from a diverse lineup of NYU Langone faculty and staff, each sharing personal, thought-provoking stories rooted in healthcare, science, and human experience.

Department of Medicine faculty were prominently featured in the evening's lineup. Fritz François, MD, MSc, gave a deeply reflective talk entitled "The Evolution of Purpose," exploring how personal values and professional identity evolve over time and what it means to stay connected to purpose in the medical profession. Melanie R. Jay, MD, MS, delivered an inspiring talk entitled "Seizing This Miracle Moment to Transform Obesity Care," emphasizing the critical opportunity we have right now—through science, compassion, and systemic change—to reimagine the way obesity is understood and treated. Christopher M. Petrilli, MD, spoke on "Al and Natural Imperfections: Why Humans and Machines Need Each Other," highlighting the strengths and limitations of both human intuition and artificial intelligence, and why synergy—not replacement—is the future of clinical decision-making.

Each of these talks represented not only innovative thinking within the Department of Medicine, but also the humanism and curiosity that drive forward the future of healthcare.

Other featured speakers included Debra Albert, DNP, MBA, RN; Marie Bragg, PhD; Jeffrey Held; Megan A. Morris, PhD; and Eduardo D. Rodriguez, MD, DDS. The event was held in the Murphy Auditorium and opened with remarks from incoming Dean and CEO Alec Kimmelman, MD, PhD.



(L-R): Fritz François, MD, MSc; Melanie R. Jay, MD, MS; and Christopher M. Petrilli, MD

**View the Full Gallery - Password: DOM (ALL CAPS)** 

#### Historian Is In

#### **Graduation Address**

A condensed version of the graduation address delivered by David M. Oshinsky, PhD, to the Class of 2025 at the commencement ceremony on June 18.

Dear Graduates,

Dean Grossman (Robert I. Grossman, MD) has given you all the advice you'll need for the future—my job is to celebrate your accomplishments, reflect on our institution, and remind you of the journey that brought you here.

You are an exceptional class. Whether you completed the 3-year, 4-year, or MD/PhD program, you represent academic excellence—top 2% of applicants, a median GPA of 3.97, and a median MCAT score tied for #1 in the nation. Many of you had multiple offers; you chose NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Today, 40% of you are staying at NYU Langone Health for residency—a powerful vote of confidence.

It's also a time to reflect on this institution. Since its founding in 1841, NYU Grossman has fostered innovation, inclusion, and excellence. From pioneers like Jonas Salk, MD, and Albert Sabin, MD, to today's cutting-edge researchers, our community has shaped the course of medicine. NYU Langone Health stood apart during a time of exclusion, offering opportunity to those denied elsewhere—including women, immigrants, and Jews—well before others.

This spirit continued through moments of crisis. During Superstorm Sandy, students helped evacuate patients and deliver fuel up dark stairwells at Bellevue. During COVID, NYU Langone became the first med school to graduate students early to join the frontline. That's who we are—and that's who you are becoming.

Today we also celebrate the leadership that helped bring NYU Langone Health to where it is: Ken Langone's transformative philanthropy and Dr. Grossman's visionary leadership. Together, they've helped build a place where students learn not just medicine, but resilience, humility, and purpose.

Lastly, as you head on your way, take a moment to thank those who've supported you along this journey.

Congratulations!

**View the Full Graduation Address** 



**David M. Oshinsky, PhD**Professor, Department of Medicine
Director, Division of Medical Humanities

## Faculty QuickTake Video

A brief glimpse into the journeys of those who make our department exceptional.

In each QuickTake video, a Department of Medicine member answers a few rapid-fire questions about their path to medicine, their passion for the work, and the advice that's stuck with them.

Featured: Sunil V. Rao, MD | Specialty: Interventional Cardiology



## **The Digital Pulse**

A roundup of select posts from our social media channels...

Be sure to join the conversation, and don't forget to tag us as you share your accomplishments!





Follow our social channels by clicking the photo or icons above!

## **Featured Student Essay**

Clerkship Award for Outstanding Essay in Medical Humanism

## The Weight of Walking Away

I'll never take walking for granted again.

As a student on the medicine wards, you gain exposure to a range of conditions, from simple, acute, and treatable diagnoses that make you feel proud to have quickly nursed a patient to health, to chronic, progressive, and debilitating ones that make you question entering medicine as a field entirely. While most cases in the hospital lie somewhere in between these two extremes, it can be profoundly emotionally taxing to stand at the bedside of someone whose life is slipping beyond medicine's reach.

A "zebra" patient is one whose case is rare, as if simply sharing the case with a fellow provider grants you unspoken bragging rights for contributing to the care of an uncommon presentation or diagnosis. As a student, seeing patients with dramatic or horrifyingly progressive conditions might yield a strong learning experience because the case sticks with you for months after seeing it. Yet, I find myself grappling with the other side of extreme cases - the side where you perseverate on your helplessness, stay awake at night thinking about the patient's prognosis, and doubt the career you once eagerly jumped into at the start of medical school.

During my first week on the wards, I met a 53-year-old Navy veteran admitted for new-onset back pain and a possible renal abscess. When I introduced myself at his door, he greeted me with a wide smile, cheerful to see company. On physical exam, everything seemed unremarkable, until I asked him to lift his leg off the bed.

"Can you try to touch your shin to my hand, please?" I said. He simply moved his legs from side to side, rolling them slightly in the bed.

"You should see my legs when I am in my chair. I can do so much more with them!" he replied energetically.

As we talked, I realized he was not recovering from an injury. He was living with the permanent consequences of one. He told me that just a year earlier, in March of 2023, his daughter noticed something was off.

"Dad, you're swaying, limping... please don't drive me to school today. I'll take the bus. Please, please, go to the doctor," she had urged. That morning was the last time he walked the same. In the ER, he collapsed multiple times, only to be told his symptoms were from diabetic neuropathy - a diagnosis he knew did not fit. Later that day, at the Brooklyn VA, an MRI showed inflammation in his spinal cord. The diagnosis: transverse myelitis. Irreversible. Life-altering.

Prior to this diagnosis, the patient told me he had served in the Navy for several years, then used the IT knowledge he gained in service to work for a technology company for 20 years. He spoke about March of 2023 with tears in his eyes. That one day took everything. His independence. His plans for retirement. His relationships. His sense of identity. He had flashes of hope with intermittent standing abilities on plasmapheresis a few months after diagnosis, but his condition progressed to complete wheelchair use and chronic steroid use. Now he lives in a long-term rehabilitation facility, his days punctuated by physical limitations and the silent ache of lost possibility.

As I wrapped up the patient visit, my heart sank. Not from lack of learning - this could be considered a textbook "zebra" case - but because no textbook had prepared me for the weight of it. My team and I could never resolve this rare, chronically debilitating disease, and I had to come to terms with that. All we were left to do was patch the complications, treat the infections, and manage the side effects. I left the room defeated.

His case stuck with me, not for the medical complexity, but for the emotional gravity. The smile he gave me despite his pain. The pride in his voice when describing the small leg movements he could still make. The vulnerability of a man who had served his country, only to be betrayed by his own body.

In medicine, we study the anatomy of disease. But we rarely acknowledge the anatomy of powerlessness. Of watching, feeling, and knowing that our science will never be enough. That day, I learned what it means to sit with a patient, not as a healer but as a human.

He does not know this, but he changed me. It taught me reverence for what I take for granted. There is privilege in walking. In standing. In the simplicity of rising out of bed in the morning without help. I will not be able to cure every patient. But I will carry his story with me - a reminder that while we are not guaranteed to heal, we can bear witness. And I will never forget the quiet, immeasurable weight of walking away.

**Felicia Pasadyn** is a second-year MD student at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Felicia plans to apply this coming fall into the Diagnostic Radiology Residency, with a special interest in Breast Radiology. She

graduated from Harvard University in 2023, where she studied Integrative Biology and became a seven-time Ivy League Champion and set seven school records, four Ivy League meet records, and six pool records for the Varsity Women's Swim Team. She then went on to attain a Master's Degree in Bioethics from Ohio State University, where she became an NCAA Academic All-American, Big 10 Individual Champion, and OSU School Record Holder in two events. Outside of her medical studies, Felicia is passionate about fitness, wellness, and running. She was the Female Champion of the 2025 Brooklyn Half-Marathon in a time of 1:15:37 and placed first for women under 24 years of age at the 2025 Boston Marathon in a time of 2:44:17. Beyond medicine and running, she likes to explore parks and bake her own healthy recipes.



#### **News & Awards**

#### **Faculty Honors**

#### Holman Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism



Ramesh Nimma, PhD, has been awarded the Robert W. Hobson II MD Early Career Investigator Award, by the American Heart Association, for his work on "Integrated microRNA and Proteomic Expression Profiling in Small Extracellular Vesicles Derived from Diabetic Macrophages Identifies Novel MicroRNA Targets and Networks Associated with Diabetic Vascular Complications."

**Division of Nephrology** 



**David S. Goldfarb, MD**, was selected as Chair of the Sustainability Project, a component of the Humanitarian Kidney Support Program, by the American Society of Nephrology.

Division of Geriatric Medicine & Palliative Care



Olivia Seecof, MD, was named Director of Supportive Oncology at the Perlmutter Cancer Center. In this role, she will lead the development and coordination of comprehensive, interdisciplinary palliative care for patients with cancer and will develop educational and academic opportunities to ensure the optimal integration of supportive symptom management and advance care planning throughout the cancer treatment continuum.

#### Division of Rheumatology





**Aryeh M. Abeles, MD**, has been selected by the Rheumatology Research Foundation to receive its Community Practice Innovation Award—an \$80,000 grant supporting impactful, community-driven research. His project, "Mapping Practice Settings and Workforce Trends in U.S. Rheumatology," is the sole awardee this year.

**Michael H. Pillinger, MD**, has been selected as a Master of the Gout, Hyperuricemia and Crystal-Associated Disease Network (G-CAN). The recognition will be presented at the upcoming G-CAN meeting in Chicago in October. Dr. Pillinger's work focuses on gout and its relationship to cardiovascular and other comorbid risks.

#### **Faculty and House Staff Awards and Honors**

#### Recognized at the State of the Department and Award Ceremony

#### **Medicine Division Teacher & Fellow Awards**

#### Cardiology

Fellow of the Year:

John Medamana, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Samuel Bernard, MD

#### **Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism**

Fellow of the Year:

Brendan Dillon, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Michael Bergman, MD

#### **Gastroenterology & Hepatology**

Fellow of the Year:

Saif Laljee, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Michelle Lee, MD

#### **Geriatric Medicine**

Fellow of the Year:

Dallas Miller, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Sakina Ouedraogo Tall, MD

#### **Hematology & Medical Oncology**

Fellow of the Year:

Julie Fishman, MD

Teacher of the Year, Hematology:

Orrin Pail, MD

Teacher of the Year, Oncology:

Susan Talbot, MD

#### **Hospice & Palliative Medicine**

Fellow of the Year:

Rachel Bubly, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Olivia Seecof, MD

#### **Infectious Disease & Immunology**

Fellow of the Year:

Judith Beryl Ratcliffe, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Matthew Ringer, MD

#### Nephrology

Fellow of the Year:

Mikhail Dmitriev, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Nathan Thompson, MD

#### **Pulmonary Critical Care & Sleep Medicine**

Fellow of the Year:

Brian Dougherty, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Gail Schattner, MD

#### Rheumatology

Fellow of the Year:

Philip Carlucci, MD

Teacher of the Year:

Bruce Solitar, MD

#### Internal Medicine Residency Faculty Recognition

#### Teacher of the Year Brooklyn

Carl Drake, MD

#### Teacher of the Year Inpatient Medicine

Roisin Finan, MD

#### Teacher of the Year Outpatient Medicine

Ann Garment, MD

#### Teacher of the Year Critical Care

Radu Postelnicu, MD

#### Internal Medicine Residency Resident Recognition

#### Resident Research Recognition

Jason Avigan, MD, PGY-3

Aparna Narendrula, MD, PGY-2

Adam Schweber, MD, PGY-2

#### Intern of the Year Brooklyn

Benjamin Rosenthal, MD

#### Intern of the Year Manhattan

#### PGY-2 Resident of the Year (Brooklyn)

Jonathan Specht, MD

#### PGY-2 Resident of the Year (Manhattan)

Seokjae Albert Hong, MD

#### PGY-3 Resident of the Year (Brooklyn)

Umar Farooq, MD

#### PGY-3 Resident of the Year (Manhattan)

Patricio Castillo, MD

#### New Director of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology

John P. Leonard, MD

#### **Promotions:**

#### Professor of Medicine:

Mukundan G. Attur, PhD

Rashmi N. Aurora, MD

Kathleen Hanley, MD

Melanie R. Jay, MD, MS

Jose U. Scher, MD

Craig T. Tenner, MD

Andrew B. Wallach, MD

#### Associate Professor of Medicine:

Jose O. Aleman, MD, PhD

Jeremy R. Beitler, MD, MPH

Shari B. Brosnahan, MD

Justin C. Chan, MD

Robert M. Donnino, MD

James Horowitz, MD

Matthias C. Kugler, MD

Jonathan Newman, MD, MPH

Violeta B. Popov, MD, PhD

#### Clinical Professor of Medicine:

Francis Adams, MD

Ezra E. Dweck, MD

Brian D. Golden, MD

Ronald M. Goldenberg, MD

Wayne G. Holman, MD

Rachel Pessah-Pollack, MD

Paula J. Rackoff, MD

Ira C. Schulman, MD

Susan Zweig, MD

#### Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Robert M. Applebaum, MD

Scott A. Bernstein, MD

Tamara Brodsky, MD

Catherine Constable, MD

Maria C. Crisanti, MD

Kelly J. Crotty, MD, MHPE, MPH

Jennifer L. Dong, MD

Cindy Fang, MD

Avram Z. Goldberg, MD

Nasir M. Gondal, MD

Alexandra M. Goodwin, MD

Douglas S. Holmes, MD

John I. Hwang, MD

Hannah Jackson, MD

Carrie M. Mahowald, MD

Manuel Martinez, MD

Aron J. Mednick, MD

Elena Nemytova, MD

Henry J. Neumann, MD

Oliver Pacifico, MD

Smitha Shetty, MD

Adam C. Szerencsy, DO

Seagram M. Villagomez, MD

Anand Viswanathan, MD

#### We want to hear from you!

Have ideas or topics for the next issue of *Inside Medicine*? Email us at <a href="mailto:InsideMedicineNewsletter@nyulangone.org">InsideMedicineNewsletter@nyulangone.org</a> with your topic suggestions, updates, or achievements. Let's work together to showcase the <a href="mailto:incredible-contributions">incredible contributions</a> across the Department of Medicine!



## **Upcoming Events & CME**

**CME: NYU Langone Invasive Cardiology Symposium** 

September 5, 7:30am – 4:40pm Details and registration link here

**CME: Big Gut Seminars: Focus on Complex Liver Disease** 

September 20, 7:30am – 4:45pm Details and registration link here

CME: 10th Annual Dietary and Lifestyle Strategies for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction

October 10, 7:30am – 4:40pm Details and registration link here

CME: The 5th Annual NYU Langone Critical Care Cardiology Symposium

October 17-18, 7:00am – 6:00pm Details and registration link here

#### **Select Publications**

#### Leon H. Charney Division of Cardiology

Tompkins R, Venkatesh P, **Small AJ**, **Halpern DG**. Lifelong care of females with congenital heart disease. *Circ Res*. 2025 Mar 14;136(6):553-565. doi: 10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.124.325596. Epub 2025 Mar 13. PMID:

**Slater** J, Maron DJ, Jones PG, **Bangalore S**, **Reynolds HR**, Fu Z, Stone GW, Kirby R, **Hochman JS**, Spertus JA; ISCHEMIA Research Group. Evaluating the appropriate use criteria for coronary revascularization in stable ischemic heart disease using randomized data from the ISCHEMIA trial. *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes*. 2025 Mar;18(3):e010849. doi: 10.1161/CIRCOUTCOMES.124.010849. Epub 2025 Feb 26. PMID: 40008421.

**Massera D**, **Sherrid MV**, Scheinerman JA, Swistel DG, **Razzouk L**. Medical, surgical, and interventional management of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. *Circ Cardiovasc Interv*. 2025 Mar;18(3):e014023. <u>doi:</u> 10.1161/CIRCINTERVENTIONS.124.014023. Epub 2025 Feb 10. PMID: 39925290.

#### Holman Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

Zheng Y, **Iturrate E**, Li L, Wu B, **Small WR**, **Zweig S**, Fletcher J, Chen Z, Johnson SB. Classifying continuous glucose monitoring documents from electronic health records. J *Diabetes Sci Technol*. 2025 Mar 12:19322968251324535. doi: 10.1177/19322968251324535. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40071848; PMCID: PMC11904921.

**Lee C, Naik R**. The role of continuous glucose monitoring in people without diabetes: a US perspective. *Chronicle of Diabetes Research and Practice Jan–Jun 2025*. 2025 Jan 3;46852(2):172. doi: 10.4103/cdrp.cdrp16.24

Locasale JW, **Goncalves MD**, Di Tano M, Burgos-Barragan G. Diet and cancer metabolism. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med*. 2024 Dec 2;14(12):a041549. doi: 10.1101/cshperspect.a041549. PMID: 38621831; PMCID: PMC11610756.

#### **Division of Environmental Medicine**

**Thurston GD**, Andersen ZJ, Belesova K, Cromar KR, Ebi KL, Lumsden C, de Nazelle A, Nieuwenhuijsen M, Soares da Silva A, Teixidó O, Rice MB. Transitioning from climate ambitions to climate actions through public health policy initiatives. *Environ Epidemiol*. 2025 Mar 6;9(2):e373. doi: 10.1097/EE9.000000000000373. PMID: 40060026; PMCID: PMC11888974.

#### Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

**Shaukat A**, Burke CA, Chan AT, Grady WM, Gupta S, Katona BW, Ladabaum U, **Liang PS**, Liu JJ, Putcha G, Robertson DJ, Schoen RE, Meng Z, Piscitello A, Sun CK, Xu C, Lin CJ, Lee LC, Baldo L, Levin TR; PREEMPT CRC Investigators. Clinical validation of a circulating tumor DNA-based blood test to screen for colorectal cancer. *JAMA*. 2025 Jun 2:e257515. doi: 10.1001/jama.2025.7515. Online ahead of print. PMID: 40455622.

Ahsan M, Udaikumar J, Hong S, Faye AS, Katz S, Delau O, Axelrad J. The impact of concomitant hypothyroid disease on the course of inflammatory bowel disease. *Dig Dis Sci.* 2025 May;70(5):1854-1863. doi: 10.1007/s10620-025-08956-6.

Carlson DA, Pandolfino JE, Yadlapati R, Vela MF, Spechler SJ, Schnoll-Sussman FH, Lynch K, Lazarescu A, **Khan A**, Katz P, Jain AS, Gyawali CP, Gupta M, Garza JM, Fass R, Clarke JO, Chokshi RV, Chen J, Ravi K, Chan WW, Sultan S, Konda VJA. A standardized approach to performing and interpreting functional lumen imaging probe panometry for esophageal motility disorders: The Dallas Consensus. *Gastroenterology*. 2025 Jun;168(6):1114-1127.e5. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2025.01.234.

#### Division of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation

**Schaye V**, **DiTullio D**, Guzman BV, Vennemeyer S, Shih H, Reinstein I, Weber DE, Goodman A, Wu DTY, **Sartori DJ**, Santen SA, Gruppen L, Aphinyanaphongs Y, **Burk-Rafel J**. Large language model-based assessment of clinical reasoning documentation in the electronic health record across two institutions: development and validation study. *J Med Internet Res.* 2025 Mar 21;27:e67967. doi: 10.2196/67967. PMID: 40117575; PMCID: PMC11971582.

Osmundson J, Watkins JL, Vasan A, Hawke C, Baran A, Zucker JR, Murphy K, **Wallach A**, Long T. Mobile mpox vaccination in new york city provided flexible community-responsive vaccine access during the 2022 global mpox emergency. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2025 Mar 31;12(4):ofaf053. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofaf053. PMID: 40166647; PMCID: PMC11949096.

#### Division of Geriatric Medicine and Palliative Care

Murali KP, Lassell RKF, **Brody AA**, Schulman-Green D, David D. "There should be a nurse on call": complex care needs of low-income older adults in medicaid-supported assisted living. *J Palliat Med*. 2025 Apr 10. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2024.0445. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40208828.

Ma C, Wu B, **Brody AA**. Racial and ethnic disparities in accessing high-quality home health care among older adults with and without dementia. *J Am Med Dir Assoc.* 2025 Mar 21;26(5):105539. doi: 10.1016/j.jamda.2025.105539. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40058763.

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#### **Division of Hospital Medicine**

Rabinowitz R, Drake CB, Talan JW, Nair SS, Hafiz A, Andriotis A, Kogan R, Du X, Li J, Hua W, Lin M, Kaufman BS. Just-in-time simulation training to augment overnight ICU resident education. *J Grad Med Educ*. 2024 Dec;16(6):713-722. doi: 10.4300/JGME-D-24-00268.1. Epub 2024 Dec 13. PMID: 39677310; PMCID: PMC11641875.

**Wang E**, Samaroo A, **Weisstuch J**, Rudy B. The use of a single risk assessment tool for mortality and numerous hospital-acquired conditions. *J Healthc Qual*. 2024 Nov-Dec 01;46(6):370-379. doi: 10.1097/JHQ.000000000000456. Epub 2024 Oct 15. PMID: 39405523.

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#### Division of Infectious Diseases and Immunology

Oot A, Kapadia F, Moore B, **Greene RE**, **Katz M**, Denny C, **Pitts R**. A mixed-methods evaluation of an HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis educational intervention for healthcare providers in a NYC safety-net hospital-based obstetrics and gynecology clinic. *AIDS Care*. 2024 Oct;36(10):1537-1544. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2024.23642. Epub 2024 Jun 29. PMID: 38943674.

#### Division of Nephrology

**Jaber K**, **Zaidan N**, Pierce K, Kim S, **Xiong X**, **Ruggles K**, Clish C, Li H, **Nazzal L**. Comparison of plasma oxalate measurement methods in patients with end-stage kidney disease. *Science Direct*. 2025 March 25. doi.org/10.1016/j.ekir.2025.03.053. Epub ahead of print.

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Wollin DA, Fattah H, Asplin JR, **Goldfarb DS**. Effect of chlorthalidone and hydrochlorothiazide on twelve-hour versus twenty-four hour urinary calcium excretion. *J Urol.* 2025 Apr 7. doi: 10.1097/JU.0000000000004562. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40194294.

#### **Division of Precision Medicine**

Gambi G, Boccalatte F, Rodriguez Hernaez J, **Lin Z**, **Nadorp B**, Polyzos A, Tan J, Avrampou K, Inghirami G, Kentsis A, Apostolou E, Aifantis I, **Tsirigos A**. 3D chromatin hubs as regulatory units of identity and survival in human acute leukemia. *Mol Cell*. 2025 Jan 2;85(1):42-60.e7. doi: 10.1016/j.molcel.2024.11.040. Epub 2024 Dec 23. PMID: 39719705.

**Mehta SS**, **Surapaneni AL**, **Pandit K**, Xu Y, **Horwitz L**, **Blecker S**, Blum MF, Chang AR, Shin JI, **Grams ME**. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist and sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor prescriptions in type 2 diabetes by kidney and cardiovascular disease. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2024 Nov 27. doi: 10.1681/ASN.0000000585. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39688374.

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#### Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

**Talan J**, **Forster M**, **Joseph L**, **Pradhan D**. Exploring the role of immersive virtual reality simulation in health professions education: thematic analysis. *JMIR Med Educ*. 2025 Mar 12;11:e62803. <u>doi: 10.2196/62803</u>. PMID: 40073417; PMCID: PMC11922489.

Deshwal H, Elkhapery A, Ramanathan R, Nair D, Singh I, Sinha A, Vashisht R, **Mukherjee V**. Patient-self inflicted lung injury (p-sili): an insight into the pathophysiology of lung injury and management. *J Clin Med*. 2025 Feb 27;14(5):1632. doi: 10.3390/jcm14051632. PMID: 40095610; PMCID: PMC11900086.

Checinski PJ, Meldrum C, Labaki WW, **Choi PJ**. A pragmatic screening tool for identification of chronic hypercapnia in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Respir Med*. 2025 Jan; 236:107888. <u>doi: 10.1016/j.rmed.2024.107888</u>. Epub 2024 Nov 28. PMID: 39615803.

#### Division of Rheumatology

Buyon JP, Carlucci PM, Cuneo BF, Masson M, Izmirly P, Sachan N, Brandt JS, Mehta-Lee S, Halushka M, Thomas K, Fox M, Phoon CK, Ludomirsky A, Srinivasan R, Lam G, Wainwright BJ, Fraser N, Clancy R. Substantiation of trophoblast transport of maternal anti-SSA/Ro autoantibodies in fetuses with rapidly

progressive cardiac injury: implications for neonatal Fc receptor blockade. *Lancet Rheumatol*. 2025 Jan;7(1):e6-e9. doi: 10.1016/S2665-9913(24)00331-X. Epub 2024 Nov 15. PMID: 39557050.

Ciccia F, Gandolfo S, Caporali R, **Scher JU**. Understanding the spectrum from preclinical psoriatic arthritis to early diagnosis of the disease. *Lancet Rheumatol*. 2024 Nov 20:S2665-9913(24)00268-6. doi: 10.1016/S2665-9913(24)00268-6. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39579780.

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