DIVISION OF
GENERAL INTERNAL
MEDICINE AND
CLINICAL INNOVATION
RESEARCH 2016
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much appreciation to all our NYU School of Medicine medical students, residents, patients, standardized patients, faculty and research staff who have made this important work happen. Our work is also made possible by NYU SOM’s ever expanding clinical system and clinical affiliates including Tisch Hospital, Faculty Group Practices, Bellevue Hospital Center, Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Healthcare System, Gouverneur Health, and Lutheran Medical Center. A special shout out to Lauren Soneira, Stephanie Mejia, Deborah Cooke, Judith Weissman, and Mara McCrickard who keep our division moving every day.
I am delighted to celebrate the 2016 Division of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation’s research accomplishments. This work is made possible by the passion and grit of engaged faculty, residents, medical students, the dedication of our staff, partnership with our patients, and the commitment of our healthcare system. Our research has grown this year. We have had successes in the core areas of obesity, transformation of care, medical education and new collaborations across the medical center. This work benefits our patients, institution and trainees. Our future research relies heavily on foundations and philanthropy pilot work that will enable us to apply for large federally funded grants. DGIMCI is committed to expanding our research infrastructure so that our general internal medicine faculty can continue to take the lead and innovate to the benefit of the clinicians we train and the patients and communities we serve.

Sondra Zabar, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Division of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation
NYU School of Medicine
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T: 212.263.1138 | F: 212.263.8788

SELECTED DGIMCI RESEARCHERS

OBESITY

Jeanette Beasley, PhD, MPH, RD
Assistant Professor
Dr. Beasley has a background in both nutrition and epidemiology, with specific training and expertise in developing and applying novel dietary assessment approaches. Working as a nutrition researcher for the research firm PICS, she developed and conducted randomized, controlled trials to evaluate a Palm-based food record, showing comparable validity and reliability to a paper-based food record. During this two-year period, she also developed a web-based food portion tutorial program and a pictorial food frequency questionnaire to assist with food portion estimation. The web-based food frequency questionnaire also demonstrated similar validity and reproducibility to paper-based approaches. As a postdoctoral fellow, she carried out secondary data analysis showing an inverse association between dietary protein and frailty that was more evident after accounting for measurement error using biomarker calibration of energy and protein intake. She has worked with several cohort studies (Nurses’ Health Study, Women’s Health Initiative, Cardiovascular Health Study, and the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos) to examine the relationship between dietary intake and health outcomes, particularly focusing on associations between protein intake with renal function and aging indicators (physical function, frailty).

Melanie Jay, MD
Assistant Professor
Dr. Jay is Co-Director of the NYU Langone Comprehensive Program on obesity and serves as Director of Research Collaboration and Mentoring for the Division of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation within the Department of Medicine. She has clinical and research appointments at the New York Harbor Veterans Affairs, and she previously directed weight management programs in two public outpatient settings. Her research focuses on improving the treatment and prevention of obesity, particularly in primary care settings. She has received funding from Veterans Affairs, the National Institutes of Health and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Initiative, among others. Dr. Jay and her team are working on conducting a cluster-randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of a technology-assisted health coaching intervention to improve weight management counseling in patient-centered medical homes at the Veterans Affairs and Montefiore medical center. She is also implementing a similar study at the VA using peer health coaches. Additionally, she is collaborating with a team from UCLA to test different models of financial incentives for weight management in low income populations.

TRANSFORMATION OF CARE

Richard Greene, MD
Assistant Professor
Dr. Richard Greene is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Associate Program Director of the Primary Care Residency Program at NYU School of Medicine and an Attending Physician and Medical Director of the Adult Primary Care Clinic at Bellevue Hospital. In 2009, Dr. Greene founded the Gouverneur LGBT Clinic, the first LGBT clinic within the New York City Public Hospital System (Health and Hospitals Corporation), which he ran for 2 years. He also serves as the Director of Gender and Health Education at NYU School of Medicine through the Office of Diversity Affairs, and in this role oversees the inclusion of Diversity and LGBT content into the culture and curriculum of NYU’s medical center and educational programs. Dr. Greene is the Medical Director at the Center for Health, Identity, Behavior and Prevention Studies (CHIBPS) at NYU’s Global Institute for Public Health, where he does research on men who have sex with men across the age spectrum. He also serves as a Board Member and Vice President of Membership and Development on the board of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality. An active and passionate medical educator, Dr. Greene has presented extensively on many Primary Care topics including the musculoskeletal physical exam, foundations of primary care medicine and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender healthcare disparities. Dr. Greene also lectures on topics of LGBT Health Care Disparities at various institutions around the country.
As a clinician, Dr. Levy’s focus has always been on improving health outcomes for the underserved. She serves as the Director of the Diabetes Program at Bellevue Hospital’s Adult Primary Care Clinic (APCC). She co-founded and directs both the High HbA1c Diabetes Referral Clinic for uncontrolled diabetics and the weekly Diabetic Group Visits. Through this work, her analysis indicates that the program brought the median A1c down from 10.6% at time zero to 8.4% at 12 months. Improvements were seen across all A1c ranges, including those with the very highest A1cs. Dr. Levy has worked at the HHC system level by serving as the Bellevue Physician Learner to the HHC Chronic Disease Collaborative on Diabetes for over seven years, and sat on the Diabetic Leadership Taskforce, which wrote HHC’s Clinical Practice Guidelines for Care of Adults with Type 2 Diabetes. Additionally, she founded and directs the Diabetes Recall Program at Bellevue, in which physicians and the medical team actively reach out to patients that have not been engaged in their treatment for a few months to scheduled visits. Dr. Levy’s current work builds on the Bellevue Hospital Center’s Mobile In-sulin Titration Initiative conducted in 2015. The purpose of this project is to conduct an implementation study of a text-messaging based intervention at Bellevue Hospital Center and Gouverneur Health Care Services, to titrate basal insulin in low-income, minority patients with type 2 diabetes and poor glycemic control. By using nurse monitored text messages to follow blood sugar levels, this approach offers consistent health care without the need for office visits and with anticipated significant reduction in cost to both the patient and the healthcare system, while activating and engaging them in their own care.

**Medical Education**

Jennifer Adams, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Dr. Adams is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Co-Director of the NYU SOM Primary Care Residency Program. She is also a Preceptor and Attending Physician at Gouverneur Diagnostic and Treatment Center. She is directly responsible for the incorporation of the NYU Macy 3T web-based, interactive curriculum and a longitudinal IPE experience for the primary care residents. She is a lead on the HRSA funded program through the College of Nursing that seeks to prepare Adult Nurse Practitioners to become certified in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care. This program puts a special focus on inter-professional primary care for older adults with multiple chronic conditions and features an innovative shared-learning summer intensive between NYU NP students and NYU School of Medicine’s primary care residents. She also works with the NYU HRSA Primary Care Training and Enhancement program where she collaborates on its aims to enhance patient outcomes by improving team collaborations.

Lisa Altschuler, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Dr. Altschuler is the Associate Director of Evaluation & Assessment in the Program for Medical Education Innovations and Research (PMEIR). She is the Director of the Patient Empowerment Program, which aims to develop effective and feasible approaches to empower patients with chronic health conditions, enhance their activation to manage their health needs and improve their ability to be partners in patient-centered care. Through PMEIR, Dr. Altschuler focuses on the development, organization and management of data and data collections including the Database for Research on Education in Academic Medicine (DREAM). She collaborates with medical, nursing and other health professional educators to develop best practices for team communication and collaboration models that promote safety and improved patient outcomes.

**Sundar Natarajan, MD, MSc**  
**Associate Professor**  
Dr. Natarajan is a physician-investigator with formal research training in molecular biology, epidemiology and clinical research. Dr. Natarajan’s career is focused on finding approaches to prevent cardiovascular disease (CVD). Toward that end, he has used observational epidemiological methods and randomized clinical trials to understand risks for CVD, improve management of CVD risk factors (with a particular focus on diabetes, considered a CVD equivalent) and optimize treatment for CVD and heart failure. Dr. Natarajan has analyzed large population-based databases to improve CVD risk assessment and management using the National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (NHANES), the behavioral risk factor surveillance system, the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, the NHANES Epidemiologic Follow-up Study and the Framingham Heart Study. Through Randomized Clinical Trial methodology, he evaluated the association of transcatheter/stenting procedures with glycemic control and blood pressure control in low-income patients with CVD risk factors, and used behavioral theory-based interventions in other studies targeting chronic medical conditions such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, stroke and heart failure. Currently he is conducting separate primary and secondary prevention intervention trials to reduce foot complications in Veterans with diabetes.

**Adina Kalet, MD, MPH**  
**Professor**  
Dr. Kalet has devoted her career to ensuring that public investment in health professionals training leads to improved health outcomes in those they serve, in particular in the domain of health behavior change and for underserved communities. Dr. Kalet leads the Research on Medical Education Outcomes (ROMEO) group, an interdisciplinary collaboration focused on linking medical education directly to patient outcomes. This rich collaboration between medical specialists (medicine, pediatrics, obstetrical and gynecology), and nursing clinicians and researchers, health researchers, education professionals, psychologists, and others has resulted in the development of the Educationally Sensitive Patient Outcome theory model to identify important health outcomes that are tied to trainee experience and skill. This framework has become a model for medical education researchers nationally and internationally.

**Kathleen Hanley, MD**  
**Associate Professor**  
Dr. Hanley is Associate Director of the NYU School of Medicine Primary Care Residency Training Program and an attending physician at Gouverneur Diagnostic and Treatment Center. There, she delivers care to a diverse, largely immigrant patient population and is the Site Director for the Unannounced Standardized Patient (USP) research project. The project allows investigators to evaluate health care providers from the patient’s perspective using highly trained actors who are trained in standardized clinical scenarios in actual practice, incognito, otherwise known as secret shoppers. It is currently focused on investigating how primary care clinics identify and address social determinants of health and developing intervention utilizing USP information to improve the team’s ability to recognize and respond to such issues. She works with the research team to develop USP cases and assists in coordinating site visits. Dr. Hanley also serves as the Curriculum Director for the Substance Abuse Research and Training (SARET) Program, which is an interdisciplinary project aimed at increasing substance abuse research among physicians, dentists, nurses and social workers.

**Lisa Altschuler, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**  
Dr. Altschuler is the Associate Director of Evaluation & Assessment in the Program for Medical Education Innovations and Research (PMEIR). She is the Director of the Patient Empowerment Program, which aims to develop effective and feasible approaches to empower patients with chronic health conditions, enhance their activation to manage their health needs and improve their ability to be partners in patient-centered care. Through PMEIR, Dr. Altschuler focuses on the development, organization and management of data and data collections including the Database for Research on Education in Academic Medicine (DREAM). She collaborates with medical, nursing and other health professional educators to develop best practices for team communication and collaboration models that promote safety and improved patient outcomes.

**Sondra Zabar, MD**  
**Professor**  
Dr. Zabar is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation (DGIMCI). She is the Director of the Standardized Patient Program at NYUSOM and is Director of the Program for Medical Education Innovations and Research (PMEIR), established in 2006. The focus of this education and research program is advancing medical education scholarship at NYU and instituting best practices for patient-centered, evidence-based medical education through research, faculty grants, and consultations. She has focused her research efforts on the use of performance-based assessments using standardized patients and initiated the use of unannounced standardized patients as an innovative performance-based assessment method. Dr. Zabar works with teams at Bellevue and Gouverneur to assess the transfer of skills and quality of patient education by NYU residents and the clinical micro-system. Her research is also currently focused on investigating how primary care clinics identify and address social determinants of health and developing interventions utilizing USP information to improve the team’s ability to recognize and respond to such issues. Currently Dr. Zabar is working on the CTSI Strategic Teamwork for Effective Practice Men- tor Development Program with Christine Denicola, PMEIR Program Manager, to train research staff.
2016 GRANT REVENUE

ACTIVE: $12,528,388

- Obesity: $7,042,175
- Transformation of Care: $2,647,232
- Medical Education: $2,073,360
- Patient Safety: $748,621
- Humanities: $17,000

PENDING: $5,106,137

- Obesity: $1,100,000
- Transformation of Care: $1,945,585
- Medical Education: $2,000,552
- Humanities: $60,000

TOTAL FUNDING: 2016 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

ACTIVE: $12,528,388

- Obesity: 56%
- Transformation of Care: 21%
- Medical Education: 17%
- Patient Safety: 6%
- Humanities: 1%

PENDING: $5,106,137

- Obesity: 22%
- Transformation of Care: 38%
- Medical Education: 39%
- Humanities: 1%

43% VA

30% VA

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- Transformation of Care ..................................... Page 12
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- Transformation of Care ..................................... Page 15
- Medical Education .......................................... Page 19
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50+ Peer Reviewed Publications

100+ Abstracts and Presentations
## RESEARCH GRANTS 2016

### OBESITY

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<td>Beasley, Jeannette</td>
<td>Feldstein Medical Foundation</td>
<td>The Relationship between Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and Enterolignans (Enterolactone and Enterodiol)</td>
<td>5/01/2014 – 3/28/2017</td>
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<td>Beasley, Jeannette</td>
<td>NIH R21 (subcontract with University of Utah)</td>
<td>Untangling Sodium, Energy, and Blood Pressure in Whites and African American Adults</td>
<td>2/01/2016 – 6/30/2017</td>
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<td>Jay, Melanie</td>
<td>NIH R21 (subcontract with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute-PCORnet)</td>
<td>Obesity Observation Study: Short and Long Term Effects of Antibiotics on Childhood Growth</td>
<td>2/01/2016 – 1/31/2018</td>
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<td>Jay, Melanie</td>
<td>NYU-CTSI</td>
<td>Tailoring a Technology-Assisted Health Coaching Intervention to Improve Weight Management for Latino Patients in Primary Care</td>
<td>6/01/2016 – 5/31/2017</td>
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<td>Jay, Melanie</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Development (VA)</td>
<td>Improving Weight Management at VA: Enhancing the MOVE!23 for Primary Care</td>
<td>10/1/2012 – 10/1/2017</td>
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<td>Jay, Melanie</td>
<td>NIH R01 (Pop Health-Multipi PI. Subcontract with UCLA)</td>
<td>Financial Incentive Strategies or Weight Loss in Obese Patients Living in Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Neighborhoods</td>
<td>9/27/2016 – 6/30/2021</td>
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<td>Jay, Melanie</td>
<td>NIH R01</td>
<td>The Impact of a Technology Assisted Intervention to Improve Weight Management for Obese Primary Care Patients within Patient Centered Medical Homes</td>
<td>9/20/2016-12/31/2021</td>
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<td>Altshuler, Lisa</td>
<td>NIH R41 (subcontract with Kognito)</td>
<td>Use of Virtual Patient-Provider Interaction to Empower Patients from Underserved Communities</td>
<td>12/01/2017-11/30/2018</td>
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<td>Beasley, Jeannette</td>
<td>NIH/NHLBI R01 (subcontract with San Diego State)</td>
<td>Partnership to Reduce Chronic Disease Disparities among Latinos in Primary Care</td>
<td>7/01/2017 – 6/30/2022</td>
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<td>Sundar, Natarajan</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Development Service (VA)</td>
<td>PIVOT to Achieve Broad Goals in Heart Failure Trial</td>
<td>7/1/2017 – 6/30/2021</td>
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<td>Weissman, Judith</td>
<td>NIMH R03</td>
<td>The Increase in Suicide Rates in Middle-Aged White Men as it Relates to Economic Distress</td>
<td>10/1/2017 – 10/1/2019</td>
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<td>Weissman, Judith</td>
<td>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention</td>
<td>Examination of Risk Factors in the Suicide Epidemic</td>
<td>10/1/2017 – 10/1/2018</td>
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### TRANSFORMATION OF CARE

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<td>NYU-DOM Collaborative NIH pilot project</td>
<td>Protein Supplementation Feasibility Study to Improve Physical Function and Muscle Quality Among Older Adults Within the Cardiovascular Health and Built Environment Study</td>
<td>5/1/2016 – 6/1/2017</td>
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<td>Preventing Amputations by Tailored Risk-Based Intervention to Optimize Therapy (PATRIOT)</td>
<td>4/1/2015 – 3/30/2019</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (VA)</td>
<td>STEP UP to Avert Amputation in Diabetes</td>
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### MEDICAL EDUCATION

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<td>Health Resources and Services Administration (subcontract with NYU College of Nursing)</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Education Program</td>
<td>7/01/2013 – 6/30/2017</td>
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<td>Kalet, Adina</td>
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<td>Accelerating Knowledge Discovery in Medical Education</td>
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<td>Strategic Teamwork for Effective Practice Mentor Development Program (STEP-MDP)</td>
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<td>Zabar, Sondra</td>
<td>The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation</td>
<td>The Murray J. Berenson, MD. Grants Program in Physician-Patient Communication</td>
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<td>Zabar, Sondra</td>
<td>Health Resources and Services Administration</td>
<td>Primary Care Training and Enhancement: Transforming Health Care Systems Through Interprofessional Training and Health Professional Team Development in Primary Care in Urban Underserved Settings</td>
<td>7/01/2015 – 6/30/2020</td>
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<td>Kalet, Adina</td>
<td>AAMC Group on Educational Affairs</td>
<td>Exploring the Validity of the Professional Identity Essay as a Measurement of Professional Identity Formation in Medical School: Establishing a three medical school PIF research collaborative</td>
<td>07/01/2017-06/30/2018</td>
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<td>Kalet, Adina</td>
<td>AHRQ R18</td>
<td>Promoting a Culture of Safety: Using Immersive Simulation to Assess and Address the Transitioning Gap in Undergraduate Health Professionals</td>
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### PATIENT SAFETY

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<td>AHRQ R18</td>
<td>Using Simulation (Unannounced Standardized Patients) to Assess Team Performance in Responding to Behavioral and Social Determinants of Health</td>
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### PROGRAM IN MEDICAL EDUCATION INNOVATIONS AND RESEARCH (PRMEIR) AWARDED

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<td>Blitz, Jeanna</td>
<td>Preparing Resident Physicians to Choose Wisely: Development of a Value-Based Perioperative Medicine Curriculum</td>
<td>1/1/2015 – 12/31/2016</td>
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<td>Bradshaw, Chanda</td>
<td>Using Family Centered Rounds as a Means of Improving Medical Student Communication with Patients, Families, and the Healthcare Team: Implementation of a 360 Degree Evaluation Program on the Pediatric Inpatient Unit</td>
<td>1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016</td>
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<td>Kaufman, Brian</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Efficacy of Simulation-Based Versus Clinician-Led Focused, Transthoracic Echocardiographic (FTTE) Training on Medical Residents’ Ability to Accurately Diagnose Cardiac Disease in Patients: A Pilot Study</td>
<td>1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016</td>
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<td>Yin, Shonna H.</td>
<td>Transforming Pediatric Resident Education in Inpatient Discharge Practices Through a Health Literacy-Informed Redesigned Curriculum and Discharge Plan Template</td>
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### HUMANITIES

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<td>Bellevue Literary Review</td>
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<td>New York State Council for the Arts</td>
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OBESITY


Sengupta V, Fuchs B, Gupta M. An unexpected persistent left superior vena cava in a hypoxic patient. Presented at the Meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, March 6-9, 2016, San Diego, CA.

Sengupta V, Jacobs R, Mednick A, Cavolo L, Johnson J. The spectrum of clinical presentations in SLE. Presented at the Meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, March 6-9, 2016, San Diego, CA.

Shoucri S. An unfortunate trip to Barbados: alcaligenes xylosoxidans induced pacemaker endocarditis. Presented at the NYU Department of Medical Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.


Sigmund A, Horwitz L, Groenigen NV. Towards accurate value-based care metrics: findings of medicare reporting. Presented at the Meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, March 6-9, 2016, San Diego, CA.

Sonne C, Maalouf M, Wartitter K. Renal infarct in a young man: a rare presentation of fibromuscular dysplasia. Presented at the Meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, March 6-9, 2016, San Diego, CA.

Stream S, Constable C, Linked DNR and DNI orders and factors associated with intubation: a retrospective chart review at an urban tertiary care center. Presented at the Meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, March 6-9, 2016, San Diego, CA.


Yokose C. An infiltrating cause of syncope. Presented at the NYU Department of Medical Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.

MEDICAL EDUCATION


Adams J, Hanley K, Gillespie C, Augustine MR, Ross JA, Zabar S. Please open your mouth: what do we need to teach residents to help address health disparity in oral health? Presented at the Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine, May 11-14, 2016, Hollywood, FL.

Bhagat R. Interventions to promote resident wellness: a national survey of residency program directors. Presented at the NYU Department of Medicine Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.

Chen A. The contribution of physician skills in patient activation: which skills matter? Presented at the NYU Department of Medicine Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.


Mueller K. Predicting adults likely to develop heart failure: the NHANES I Epidemiologic Follow-up Study (NHEFS). Presented at the NYU Department of Medicine Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.


Schaye V, Dembitzer A. Back to the bedside: a faculty development program on teaching physical exam. Presented at the Meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, March 6-9, 2016, San Diego, CA and at the NYU Department of Medicine Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.


Zabar S. Please open your mouth: what do we need to teach residents to help address health disparity in oral health? Presented at the Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine, May 11-14, 2016, Hollywood, FL.

Bhagat R. Interventions to promote resident wellness: a national survey of residency program directors. Presented at the NYU Department of Medicine Annual Research Day, May 26, 2016, New York, NY.


PATIENT SAFETY

