

Summer 2019

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**CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Deeb N. Salem, MD  
Sheldon M. Wolff, Professor and Chairman, Physician-in-Chief

The past six months have gone very well for the Department of Medicine. Our Primary Care and medical specialty clinics continue to grow and we have had an excellent intern match which included a number of terrific TUSM grads. The arrival of Dr. Harrison (Hap) Farber has given rise to more than doubling the number of pulmonary hypertension patients that we care for. Through the help of Mr. Earl Shannon we received a very generous donation to the Department of Medicine Tupper Research Fund. We are proud to announce the Leapfrog Group awarded Tufts MC an "A" grade in its Spring 2019 Hospital Safety ratings, thus receiving the highest Leapfrog grade in back-to-back rating periods.

*Deeb*



**QUALITY UPDATE**

Karen Freund, MD, MPH  
Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs & Quality Improvement

**Disclosing Medical Errors and Adverse Events**

We are here to help – don't go it alone

Adverse events and outcomes, which may or may not be related to a medical error, occur in our inpatient and outpatient practice. Knowing how to speak to a patient and family and apologize in a sincere and transparent fashion is a moral imperative and a critical skill.

Disclosing to a patient and family is hard, and you should not go it alone.

When adverse events occur, we are here to help.

What should you do when you identify an adverse patient event?

- Contact risk management as soon as possible (there is someone on call 24/7)
- Contact one of the medicine faculty who have completed training in disclosure coaching as soon as possible. We are able to help coach you through a disclosure – how to report to the patient what we do and do not know at the incident, how to approach the family, what questions to anticipate.
  - One or more of us are always available
    - **Saul Weingart** – CMO
    - **Erik Garpestad** – Associate CMO and Director of the MICU
    - **Kari Roberts** – Designated Institutional Official for the GME programs, and Associate Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency
    - **Sucharita Kher** – Director of Inpatient Services, Department of Medicine
    - **Julie Tishler** – Director of Quality for General Medicine and Primary Care
    - **Karen Freund** – Vice Chair of Medicine

## PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Ahearn, Dineli (Primary Care)**- Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor – 6/2019

**Allison, Geneve (Infectious Disease)**- Promotion to Associate Professor Clinician Scholar – 6/2019

**Blanton, Robert (Cardiology)**- Promotion to Associate Professor Clinician Investigator – 6/2019

**Gordon, Craig (Nephrology)**- Appointment to Associate Professor Clinician Educator – 6/2019

**Chin, Michael (Cardiology)**- Appointment to Professor Clinician Investigator – 5/2019

## PRESENTATIONS

**In May, Dr. Tamara Vesel attended and presented two posters at a Palliative Care Conference in Berlin, Germany. She and her colleagues presented on “Pediatric Palliative Care Training in a Referral Hospital in Bhutan” and “Comparison of end of life care intensity between Chinese-American and Caucasian advanced cancer patients at an American tertiary medical center”. The Bhutanese educational study received an award as one of the top three posters in the education category. Congratulations, Dr. Vesel!**

## NEW FACULTY



**Raza Malik**  
**Gastroenterology**



**Welcome to the team!**

**Not pictured: Sameer Chinoy – Internal Medicine**

## RESEARCH UPDATE

PI Last	Division/Institute	Sponsor	Title
Homoud, M.	Card	Abbott	Abbott EP Fellowship Fund 2019-20
Madias, C.	Cardiology	NIH	Clinical, Electrocardiographic and CMRI Risk Factors Associated with Ventricular Tachyarrhythmias in Nonischemic
Wong, J.	CDM	NIH	Familial hypercholesterolemia screening in children: population impact of phenotype, genotype, and cascade approaches
Snydman, D.	GeoMed	Summit	Analysis of day 10 stool samples for drug resistant Gram negative organisms from patients enrolled in the phase 2 trial of
Wurcel, A.	GeoMed	NIH	Unlocking HCV Testing in the Jails: Stakeholders are the Key
Freund, K.	ICRHPS	NIH	CTSA Institutional Mentored Career Development Program (KL2)
Lerner, D.	ICRHPS	NIH	Educational Tools for Teaching Environmental Health Literacy to Nursing Students with a Focus on Tribal Health and Wellbeing
Neumann, P.	ICRHPS	Merck	The Social Value of Vaccines: A New Look
Parsons, S.	ICRHPS	Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	Enhancing Decision-Making in Newly Diagnosed Hodgkin Lymphoma
Rodday, A.	ICRHPS	NIH	Deciphering Treatment Patterns for Hodgkin Lymphoma among Older patients using SEER-Medicare
Sege, R.	ICRHPS	The Montana Institute	HOPE surveys and epidemiology
Blanton, R.	MCRI	NIH	Mechanisms of T cell activation in cardiac fibrosis and non-ischemic heart failure
Kasturi, S.	Rheum	NIH	Integrating PROMIS in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Clinical Care
McAlindon, T.	Rheum	NIH	A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of Hand Traction for Nodal Osteoarthritis

## Recognition for Dr. Maher Tabba

Our very own Dr. Maher Tabba (Pulmonary division) was named the "Physician Colleague of the Year" for 2019 at Melrose Wakefield Hospital (MWH). The recognition was given by the nurses of MWH for his efforts and leadership in taking over the Directorship of their ICU this past year. At the end of 2018 Maher began working closely with the ICU team at MWH to accommodate their expanded bed capacity and to begin putting in place a care team infrastructure that would enhance the quality and safety for the care provided. Congratulations to Maher on this terrific recognition.



## NEW BABIES!



**Dr. Aaron Dickstein welcomed Ana**

**Dr. Maureen Dziura welcomed Benjamin**



## INPATIENT UPDATE

Sucharita Kher, MD,  
Director, Inpatient Services, DOM

There's so much happening on the inpatient side!

The hyperglycemia service pilot under the leadership of Drs. Vercollone and Koshy on north 7 has been well received both by residents and nurses. I'd like to share some of feedback:

- 92% respondents noted that the hyperglycemia service makes it easier to recognize diabetes discharge needs.
- 78% respondents noted that the hyperglycemia service has made them aware of the safety issues around management of inpatient diabetes.
- 65% respondents noted that the hyperglycemia service helped them change their practice to improve blood glucose management.
- 95% respondents reported overall satisfaction with the hyperglycemia service on N7.

As next steps, the service will plan a step-wise roll out to other inpatient areas in the DOM and work on developing a policy. Stay tuned!

Kudos to the housestaff and attendings on the medicine services for being so engaged in our Night CAPP (communication and patient planning) rounds. These are 5-7 min brief mid-afternoon rounds on N7 and Proger 7 with a goal to identify potential patients who can get an electronic discharge order entered by 11am the following day. It is also an opportunity to review and manage any barriers for discharge ahead of time. About 27% (13-week rolling average) of our patients get a discharge order by 11 am. This is consistent and helps improve the throughput of patients. Given the success, N8 has also started implementing Night CAPP earlier this year. This pilot experiment that started in 2017 under the leadership of Mark Haas, Amy Lund and Dr. Karen Freund has produced tremendous results and is something that everyone on inpatient teams should be proud of.

Our inpatient services also face a few challenges: We have had a tremendous growth of inpatient admissions for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. This is really a good opportunity for our resident and students to learn about this rare disease that other residency programs may lack. Since FY2019 YTD Thru April, we have seen 44 unique patients with 56 admissions. These patients are quite ill and often require a longer length of stay. With every challenge comes an opportunity! We have recognized many opportunities to build robust systems that will allow us to further improve the quality of care we provide for these patients with unique needs. A Pulmonary Hypertension

Improvement Task Force with multidisciplinary representation is starting to meet to work through these challenges. I want to extend a very special thank you to the nursing, case management, pharmacy and PT/OT teams on North 7 and MICU who provide excellent care for these patients every day.

### NOW YOU KNOW...

Q) What was the first community health center in the nation and its connection to Tufts?

A) Physician-activists H. Jack Geiger and Count D. Gibson Jr., along with Tufts University School of Medicine faculty members helped launch the American community health center Movement 50 years ago with their founding of the first health center in America, the Columbia Point Health Center in Dorchester, MA.



**Now you know!**

### CHIEF RESIDENT'S CORNER

Traditionally, senior medical residents have presented morbidity & mortality cases during resident morning report in order to identify systems issues and brainstorm potential solutions. During the 2019-2020 academic year, we are expanding to intradepartmental morbidity and mortality conferences in an effort to involve more faculty from the department of medicine.

Our conferences will be held in the Stearns or Wolff Auditorium, and everyone in the department of medicine is welcome. Our first conference is coming up on September 10th in Stearns Auditorium. Our schedule for the remainder of the year is:

- Wednesday, September 10th, 2019 - Stearns Auditorium
- Wednesday, October 8th, 2019 - Stearns Auditorium
- Monday, November 18th 2019 - Stearns Auditorium
- Wednesday, December 11th, 2019 - Wolff Auditorium
- Wednesday, January 8th, 2020 - Wolff Auditorium
- Wednesday, February 12th, 2020 - Stearns Auditorium
- Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 - Stearns Auditorium

- Wednesday, April 8th, 2020 - Stearns Auditorium
- Wednesday, June 10th, 2020 - Stearns Auditorium

We look forward to having you there! –Anu Kumar, Sharanya Mohanty and Michael Davis

## RECENT DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE PUBLICATIONS (selected from many)

**1. Personalized Decision Making in Early Stage Breast Cancer: Applying Clinical Prediction Models for Anthracycline Cardiotoxicity and Breast Cancer Mortality Demonstrates Substantial Heterogeneity of Benefit-Harm Trade-off.**

Upshaw JN, Ruthazer R, Miller KD, Parsons SK, Erban JK, O'Neill AM, Demissei B, Sledge G, Wagner L, Ky B, Kent DM.

Clin Breast Cancer. 2019 May 2. pii: S1526-8209(18)30571-8. doi: 10.1016/j.clbc.2019.04.012. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 31175052 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

**2. Acute kidney injury is associated with higher mortality and healthcare costs in hospitalized patients with cirrhosis.**

Karagozian R, Bhardwaj G, Wakefield DB, Verna EC.

Ann Hepatol. 2019 May 23. pii: S1665-2681(19)30347-3. doi: 10.1016/j.aohp.2019.03.011. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 31175020 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher] **Free Article**

**3. Gun Violence and Cardiovascular Health.**

Konstam MA, Konstam AD.

Circulation. 2019 May 28;139(22):2499-2501. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.118.039504. Epub 2019 May 28. No abstract available.

PMID: 31136223 [PubMed - in process]

**4. First-in-human experience with occlusion of the superior vena cava to reduce cardiac filling pressures in congestive heart failure.**

Kapur NK, Karas RH, Newman S, Jorde L, Chabrashvili T, Annamalai S, Esposito M, Kimmelstiel CD, Lenihan T, Burkhoff D.

Catheter Cardiovasc Interv. 2019 Jun 1;93(7):1205-1210. doi: 10.1002/ccd.28326. Epub 2019 May 21.

PMID: 31112633 [PubMed - in process]

**5. Noninvasive Ventilatory Support for Acute Hypercapnic Respiratory Failure.**

Hill NS, Spoletini G, Schumaker G, Garpestad E.

Respir Care. 2019 Jun;64(6):647-657. doi: 10.4187/respcare.06931.

PMID: 31110034 [PubMed - in process]

**6. US-based National Surveillance for Fidaxomicin Susceptibility of Clostridioides difficile (formerly Clostridium) Associated Diarrheal Isolates from 2013-2016.**

**Thorpe CM**, McDermott LA, Tran MK, Chang J, Jenkins SG, Goldstein EJC, Patel R, Forbes BA, Johnson S, Gerding DN, **Snydman DR**.

Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2019 May 13. pii: AAC.00391-19. doi: 10.1128/AAC.00391-19. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 31085514 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

**7. T Cell recruitment to the heart: friendly guests or unwelcome visitors?**

**Blanton RM Jr**, Carrillo-Salinas FJ, Alcaide P.

Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol. 2019 May 10. doi: 10.1152/ajpheart.00028.2019. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 31074651 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

**8. Provider and Staff Feedback on Screening for Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health for Pediatric Patients.**

**Byhoff E**, Garg A, Pellicer M, Diaz Y, **Yoon GH**, Charns MP, Drainoni ML.

J Am Board Fam Med. 2019 May-Jun;32(3):297-306. doi: 10.3122/jabfm.2019.03.180276.

PMID: 31068394 [PubMed - in process] **Free Article**

**9. Blood Pressure and Cognitive Decline in Prevalent Hemodialysis Patients.**

**Drew DA**, **Tighiouart H**, Duncan S, Rollins J, Gupta A, Scott T, **Weiner DE**, **Sarnak MJ**.

Am J Nephrol. 2019;49(6):460-469. doi: 10.1159/000500041. Epub 2019 May 2.

PMID: 31048586 [PubMed - in process]

**10. Qualitative and quantitative variations in liver function thresholds among clinical trials in cancer: a need for harmonization.**

Wang E, Song F, **Paulus JK**, Hackenyos D, **Mathew P**.

Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2019 Jul;84(1):213-216. doi: 10.1007/s00280-019-03821-6. Epub 2019 Apr 22.

PMID: 31011815 [PubMed - in process]

**11. Improving glomerular filtration rate estimation.**

**Levey AS**, **Inker LA**.

Kidney Int. 2019 May;95(5):1017-1019. doi: 10.1016/j.kint.2019.01.016.

PMID: 31010474 [PubMed - in process]

**12. Current Treatment Options for Acute Skin and Skin-structure Infections.**

**Golan Y**.

Clin Infect Dis. 2019 Apr 8;68(Supplement\_3):S206-S212. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciz004.



PMID: 30957166 [PubMed - in process] **Free PMC Article**

**13. Coughing Up a Lung: A Curious Case of Pertussis.**

Madi MY, Shahwan MY, Nayar C, **Kher S.**

Cureus. 2019 Jan 23;11(1):e3941. doi: 10.7759/cureus.3941.

PMID: 30937239 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**

**14. Teamwork Among Medicine House Staff During Work Rounds: Development of a Direct Observation Tool.**

**Weingart SN, Coakley M, Yaghi O, Shayani A, Sweeney M.**

J Patient Saf. 2019 Mar 26. doi: 10.1097/PTS.0000000000000597. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 30920432 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

**15. Relation between therapy-induced changes in natriuretic peptide levels and long-term therapeutic effects on mortality in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction.**

**Wessler BS, McCauley M, Morine K, Konstam MA, Udelson JE.**

Eur J Heart Fail. 2019 May;21(5):613-620. doi: 10.1002/ejhf.1411. Epub 2019 Mar 27.

PMID: 30919541 [PubMed - in process]

**16. Successful Management of Cryptococcal Meningitis and Bone Marrow Infiltration in a Young HIV/AIDS Patient: A Case Report and Review of the Literature.**

Patel S, Jalbut M, **Esham KS, Stone D.**

Case Rep Infect Dis. 2019 Feb 19;2019:1613072. doi: 10.1155/2019/1613072. eCollection 2019.

PMID: 30915244 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**

**17. Family and Caregiver Spillover Effects in Cost-Utility Analyses of Alzheimer's Disease Interventions.**

**Lin PJ, D'Cruz B, Leech AA, Neumann PJ, Sanon Aigbogun M, Oberdhan D, Lavelle TA.**

Pharmacoeconomics. 2019 Apr;37(4):597-608. doi: 10.1007/s40273-019-00788-3.

PMID: 30903567 [PubMed - in process]

**18. Parent Preferences for Health Outcomes Associated with Autism Spectrum Disorders.**

**Lavelle TA, Weinstein MC, Newhouse JP, Munir K, Kuhlthau KA, Prosser LA.**

Pharmacoeconomics. 2019 Apr;37(4):541-551. doi: 10.1007/s40273-019-00783-8.

PMID: 30895565 [PubMed - in process] **Free PMC Article**

**19. Nutrition, Obesity, and Cachexia in Patients With Heart Failure: A Consensus Statement from the Heart Failure Society of America Scientific Statements**

**Committee.**

**Vest AR**, Chan M, Deswal A, Givertz MM, Lekavich C, Lennie T, Litwin SE, Parsly L, Rodgers JE, Rich MW, Schulze PC, Slader A, Desai A.

J Card Fail. 2019 May;25(5):380-400. doi: 10.1016/j.cardfail.2019.03.007. Epub 2019 Mar 13.

PMID: 30877038 [PubMed - in process]

**20. Enhanced potency of prasugrel on protease-activated receptors following bivalirudin treatment for PCI as compared to clopidogrel.**

**Kimmelstiel C**, Stevenson R, **Nguyen N**, Van Doren L, Zhang P, Perkins J, **Kapur NK**, **Weintraub A**, **Castaneda V**, **Kuliopulos A**, **Covic L**.

Thromb Res. 2019 May;177:59-69. doi: 10.1016/j.thromres.2019.01.017. Epub 2019 Feb 13.

PMID: 30851630 [PubMed - in process]

**21. Racial Differences in Insurance Stability After Health Insurance Reform.**

**Freund KM**, **LeClair A**, Terrin N, Hanchate AD, **Price LL**, Moreno-Koehler A, **Suzukida J**, **Kher S**, **Byhoff E**, Kressin NR.

Med Care. 2019 Apr;57(4):256-261. doi: 10.1097/MLR.0000000000001078.

PMID: 30807452 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

**22. Sex differences in mechanisms of arterial stiffness.**

**DuPont JJ**, **Kenney RM**, **Patel AR**, **Jaffe IZ**.

Br J Pharmacol. 2019 Feb 14. doi: 10.1111/bph.14624. [Epub ahead of print] Review.

PMID: 30767200 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

**23. Blood pressure targets and kidney and cardiovascular disease: same data but discordant guidelines.**

**Roehm B**, **Weiner DE**.

Curr Opin Nephrol Hypertens. 2019 May;28(3):245-250. doi: 10.1097/MNH.0000000000000492.

PMID: 30762614 [PubMed - in process]