

# In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

## Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues, as we embark on another exciting academic year, I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy 4th of July! Enjoy the festivities and take a well-deserved break with your family and friends.

- On July 1st, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Old Dominion University will officially merge, opening up a host of new opportunities to expand our research capabilities and foster innovative collaborations. I am confident that this union will propel us toward new heights of academic & clinical excellence.
- The merger creates The Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University which encompasses five colleges and schools. The new entity includes: Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), EVMS School of Health Professions, Ellmer College of Health Sciences, Ellmer School of Nursing, Joint School of Public Health initiative in partnership with Norfolk State University
- A warm welcome to our new interns and fellows who are starting their academic journeys. We are thrilled and look forward to your contributions to our mission of advancing medical knowledge and patient care.
- I am excited to share that our Department of Medicine Research Bootcamp will take place in late August. Dr. Julie Sill is putting the finishing touches on what promises to be a fantastic program. Stay tuned for details!
- Our Wellness Committee is organizing a summer get-together to help us unwind and connect outside of our professional responsibilities, foster camaraderie, and strengthen our community bonds.
- EVMS Research has announced Round 1 funding for the Supporting Partnerships in Academic Research and Knowledge (SPARK) program, which will be accepting proposals until September 20. This initiative requires one EVMS employee fulfilling the qualifications of Principal Investigator (PI) and one Sentara employee as Co-PI or Co-Investigator. I encourage you to consider this unique opportunity to enhance research efforts.
- Lastly, I am delighted to congratulate Dr. Hanrahan on receiving the Professional Enrichment & Growth (PEG) grant.

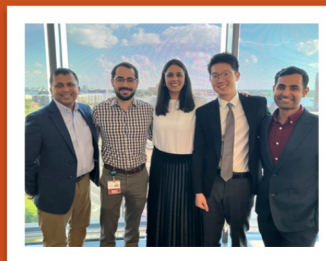
Thank you all for your continued dedication and hard work. Let's look forward to a productive and enriching month ahead.

## Peer Reviewed Publications

- 1) **Tahhan S, Avila C, Carr C, Qayyum R.** Medicaid expansion and 30-day hospital readmissions: A nationwide study. *J Hosp Med.* 2024 Jun 18. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38890541.
- 2) Herrmann HC, Mehran R, Blackman DJ, Bailey S, Möllmann H, Abdel-Wahab M, Ben Ali W, **Mahoney PD**, et al. Self-Expanding or Balloon-Expandable TAVR in Patients with a Small Aortic Annulus. *N Engl J Med.* 2024 Jun 6;390(21):1959-1971. Epub 2024 Apr 7. PMID: 38587261.
- 3) **Fleming MT**, Hermesen R, Purysko AS, et al. True-Positive <sup>18</sup>F-Flutafolastat Lesions in Patients with Prostate Cancer Recurrence with Baseline-Negative Conventional Imaging: Results from the Prospective, Phase 3, Multicenter SPOTLIGHT Study. *J Nucl Med.* 2024 May 23;jnumed.123.267271. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38782456.
- 4) Easter M, Hirsch MJ, Harris E, Howze Iv PH, Matthews EL, Jones LJ, Bollenbecker S, Vang S, Tyrrell DJ, **Sanders YY**, Birket SE, Barnes JW, Krick S. Fibroblast growth factor receptors mediate cellular senescence in the cystic fibrosis airway epithelium. *JCI Insight.* 2024 Jun 25:e174888. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38916962.
- 5) Beran A, Mohamed MFH, **Vargas A**, Aboursheid T, Aziz M, Hernaez R, Patidar KR, Nephew LD, Orman E, Chalasani N, Ghabril MS. Early Diagnostic Paracentesis Improves Outcomes of Hospitalized Patients with Cirrhosis and Ascites: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2024 Jun 25. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38916217.

## Scholarship Opportunities

- 1) Gerontological Society of America, GSA 2024 - Late-Breaking Abstracts (Seattle, WA): Due 8/29
- 2) American Thyroid Association – Late Breaking Abstracts (Chicago, IL): Due 7/28
- 3) ID Week 2024 - Late Breaking Abstracts (Los Angeles, CA): Due 8/14
- 4) American College of Gastroenterology – Late Breaking Abstracts: Due 8/27
- 5) Eastern Virginia Medical School Research Day (Norfolk, VA): Due 8/30
- 6) The Liver Meeting – AASLD (San Diego, CA): Due 9/30



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## Abstracts, Posters, & Presentations

**Hanrahan J** presented on the topic of Change Management at the IDSA Community of Leaders Workshop in Arlington, Virginia on 02 June 2024.

**Okhravi HR** presented, Reviewing DMTs (Disease modifying therapies) and the Potential Challenges of Implementation at the Dementia Friendly Healthcare and Community virtual symposium, at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences Department of Geriatrics on 05 June 2024.

Sop DM, Guy M, **Qayyum R**, Zhang Y, Smith WR, Validity of Functional Status and Pain Assessment Scale in Hospitalized Adult SCD Patients. (Poster Presented at the 18th Annual Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research Symposium 2024).

### Recently Accepted Abstracts

**CHEST**—Boston, MA

- Ahn J (4)
- Kassabo W, Serji S, Minju K, Brown S
- Sitt Naing A, Nadeem I, Admire K, Seemueller RT

**Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD-24)**—Madrid, Spain

- Okhravi HR

*"There are those that say we cannot afford to invest in science, that support for research is somehow a luxury at moments defined by necessities. I fundamentally disagree. Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before."* - Barak Obama

## Awards and Media Highlights

**Flenner R** was recognized at the annual Health Care Heroes awards ceremony for Academic Leadership.

**Johnson DA** was featured on a Medscape on 05 June 2024. Video: *In Treating IBD, Consider Diet and (Perhaps Surprisingly) Dentistry*. Watch the clip [here](#).

Medicine Residents/Chief Resident, **Bahniwal, R, McAullife J, Sitt Naing A** graduated from the EVMS Improvement Science Fellowship at EVMS on 07 June 2024.

**Johnson DA** was featured on WTKR channel 3 on 12 June 2024. What is gut health and why is it important? A local gastroenterologist explains. Watch the clip [here](#).

**Johnson DA** was featured on a Medscape on 14 June 2024. Video: How to Better Diagnose and Manage Rumination Syndrome. Watch the clip [here](#).

**Parson H** was featured in the Withings Health Solutions article on 17 June 2024 for her current research project, Culturally-Sensitive Nutrition Education Studied for Pre-Diabetic African American Patients. Read article [here](#).

Glennan Center Team members, **Galicia-Castillo M, Schreiter B, & Aravich P**, promoted research on brain health at a recent AARP community event in Virginia Beach, VA.

Medicine Residents received the following awards on Research and Discovery (RAD) 2024 Day, 1st place - **Bahniwal R**, 2nd place - **Vargas A**, & 3rd place - **Sitt Naing A & FNU Ayesha**; Mentors: **Qayyum R**, Machado J, **Derber C**, & **Casellini C**.

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine Fellows, **Abouleish Y, Bishop J, Heyder A, & Khreis M**, graduated from fellowship training on 23 June 2024 in Norfolk, Virginia.

### Reminders:

#### Grand Rounds:

Thank you to Dr. Mussarat & Leah Truelove for recruiting & coordinating such excellent speakers for this year's Grand Rounds lecture series. We will see you again in September after a short break.

#### Research Events:

**Research Office Hours**  
Fridays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The agenda will be sent out by Wednesday afternoons; don't forget to look & see if your project is listed.

(All faculty & trainees may attend for learning purposes.)

#### Save the Date:

**Research Boot Camp**  
Saturday, August 24  
8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Please send scholarly updates, photos, & requests for weekly office hour appointments to : [SillJD@evms.edu](mailto:SillJD@evms.edu)  
[SillJD@odu.edu](mailto:SillJD@odu.edu)

