

In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all the faculty who worked closely with our residents and medical students for the ACP Virginia abstract submissions. As you'll see below, we had an impressive number of abstracts accepted for poster presentations—a testament to the dedication and mentorship within our department.

A big thank you as well to everyone who participated in Bootcamp 2024. The event was a tremendous success, with great presentations and a strong turnout that stayed engaged until the very end. Your involvement made all the difference. We are currently gathering feedback to ensure that next year's Bootcamp is even more tailored to your needs.

I'm also thrilled to announce that Dr. Hamid Okhravi has secured a \$2.5 million, 2-year SBIR grant from the NIH, with Dr. Bahar Niknijaad serving as co-investigator. This important study will explore the impact of smart faucets on elderly patients and their caregivers. Congratulations to both Dr. Okhravi and Dr. Niknijaad on this significant achievement!

I am excited to welcome several new faculty members to our Department. Dr. Alastair Thomson has joined the Division of Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders, Dr. Iuliia Kovalenko and Dr. Matthew Slief have joined the Division of Hospital Medicine, and in the coming days, Dr. Mariam Agladze will join the Division of Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Sarah Al Allawi will join the Division of General Internal Medicine. Please join me in welcoming them warmly when you see them around.

Finally, I want to extend my gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued efforts in raising the academic stature of our department. Your commitment to excellence is what drives our success.

Peer Reviewed Publications

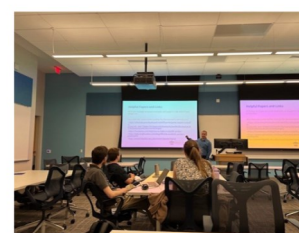
- 1) Sadr N, Avila CJ, Chung H, Siddiqui S, **Basith A, Kassabo W, Qayyum R**. Serum α -Klotho with all-cause and cause-specific mortality. *Br J Clin Pharmacol*. 2024. doi: 10.1111/bcp.16217. EPUB ahead of print. PMID: 39165068.
- 2) Simmons GL, Sabo R, **Qayyum R**, Aziz M, Martin E, Bernard RJ, Sriparna M, McIntire C, Krieger E, Brophy DF, ..., Toor A. Feasibility of intravenous vitamin C supplementation in allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant recipients. 31 July 2024, *eJHaem*. [EPUB ahead of Print]
- 3) **Yoo BS, Robinson BL, Viela A, Elmahdi A, Houston K, Johnson DA**. Gut Microbiome and Immune Responses in Gastrointestinal Diseases. 28 Aug 2024, *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 28 Aug 2024. [EPUB ahead of Print]
- 4) **Hanrahan JA & Schoulten N** Invasion of Superbugs: Cockroach-Driven Outbreak of Multidrug-Resistant Enterobacter in an ICU. Accepted in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology*.

Abstracts, Posters, & Presentations

- Weiss K, **Lieb D, Parson H**, McMillan A. *The Impact of Healthcare Access on Rural Patients with Diabetes in Virginia*. Poster presentation at the 32nd Annual Summer Scholar's Program at the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University. Aug 2024.
- **Cochrane F, Sill JD, Pettaway J, Patel J, Parson H, Tahhan S**. *Innovation or Replication? Learning From the Prior Experiences of Trial Recruitment*. Poster presentation at the 32nd Annual Summer Scholar's Program at the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University. Aug 2024.
- **Ejiofor AC, Patel J, Pettaway J, Parson H, Siraj E, Stephens E, Stephens A, Bartholmae M**. *The Impact of a Culturally, Tailored, Mobile Health Based Lifestyle Intervention in Improving Metabolic Outcomes of Obese & Prediabetic African Americans in Underserved Communities of Southeastern Virginia*. Poster presentation at the 32nd Annual Summer Scholar's Program at the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University. Aug 2024.
- **Vettichira J & Okigbo C**. *Trends and Concerns of Virginian Residents with Type 2 Diabetes*. Poster presentation at the 32nd Annual Summer Scholar's Program at the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University. Aug 2024.
- **Okhravi HA, Thomson K, Pokhriyal M, Khanna A, Pillay T, Schreiter BR, Dunstan M, & Aravich PF** shared information about the Glennan Center for Geriatrics & Gerontology and the Lawrence Goldrich Institute for Integrated NeuroHealth clinical, educational, & research initiatives at the Senior Advocate Network Group (SANG) event on 13 Aug 2024.



MACON & JOAN BROCK VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES
EVMS MEDICAL GROUP
AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY



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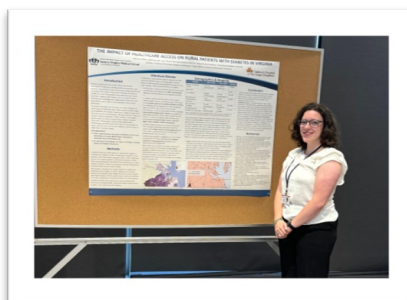
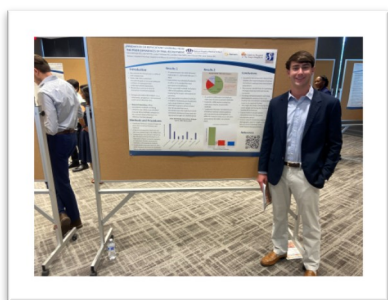
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Awards and Media Highlights

- **Okhravi HR & Niknejad B** received a NIH grant of \$2.5 million for a SBIR project. The investigation is in collaboration with the Nasoni Company and will include their Active H2O initiative. Congratulations on this huge accomplishment. We can't wait to see the exponential impact that this will have in Hampton Roads.
- **Kannarkat MJ** was selected as the 2024 Virginia ACP Chapter, Inpatient Subspecialty Teaching Award winner.
- **Niknejad B** was selected as the 2024 Virginia ACP Chapter, Paul Florentino Volunteer Award winner.
- **Okhravi HR** was featured in a wavy.com clip on 28 July 2024. *Blood tests for Alzheimer's may be coming to your doctor's office. Here's what to know.* Watch the wavy.com clip [here](#).
- **Vashisht R** contributed to a recently published eBook/print book for Springer titled, *Critical Care Echocardiography*.
- **Okhravi HR** was featured in the Virginian-Pilot on 05 Aug 2024. *EVMS seeks participants to study whether diabetes drug can prevent Alzheimer's dementia.* Read the article [here](#).
- **Parson H & Lieb D** were the mentors for Weiss K, who won the best Educational Research poster presentation at the 32nd Annual Summer Scholar's Program at the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University on 01 Aug 2024.
- **Johnson DA** had a Medscape media publication commentary on 15 August 2024. *From the Mouth to the Gut: The Oral Microbiome's Role in Promoting GI Disease.* Watch the clip [here](#).



Scholarship Opportunities

- 1) Eastern Virginia Medical School Research Day (Norfolk, VA): Due 9/3
- 2) The Liver Meeting – AASLD (San Diego, CA): Due 9/30
- 3) Conference on Retroviruses & Opportunistic Infections-CROI (San Francisco, CA): - Submissions Due 10/1
- 4) American College of Rheumatology (San Francisco, CA): - Submissions (*open 9/5*) - Due 10/3

Updates on Ongoing Departmental Research

- 1) **Lieb DC, Okigbo C** & team are studying the topic of Medication Adherence and Diabetes Distress. This prospective cohort study is recruiting patients from the Strelitz Diabetes Clinic to participate via a self-reported questionnaire in conjunction with a chart review. If you know of any patients that would fit this description, let them know.
- 2) **Lieb DC, Attar T** & team are completing a retrospective cohort investigation on the topic of transgender adults who have sought gender-affirming hormone therapy. Team is currently collecting data via chart review.
- 3) **Okigbo C** & team are studying the topic of Diabetes Distress and its impact on patient health. Another project is designed to understand the role of polycystic ovarian syndrome on metabolism.
- 4) **Qayyum R** is collaborating with colleagues at VCUHS to examine the effect of discharge before noon mandate on 30-day readmissions

September Reminders:

Medicine Grand Rounds:

Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m.

9/4 - Dr. Debiase, Macon & Joan Brock VHS at ODU

9/11- Dr. Santos, Washington University School of Medicine

9/18 - Dr. Nkemeh, Macon & Joan Brock VHS at ODU

9/25- Dr. Zoobia Chaudhary, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Research Events:

9/10 - Research Workshop

9/24 - Research Workshop

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.

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

