

Yale Department of Internal Medicine

YEAR-IN-REVIEW 2025



Department of Internal Medicine faculty, staff, and trainees participate in a variety of programs, clinics, and centers throughout Yale University, Yale School of Medicine, Yale Medicine, and Yale New Haven Health.

The Department of Internal Medicine's 2023–2024 Annual Report is published by DIM Communications.

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2025 Year-in-Review Report
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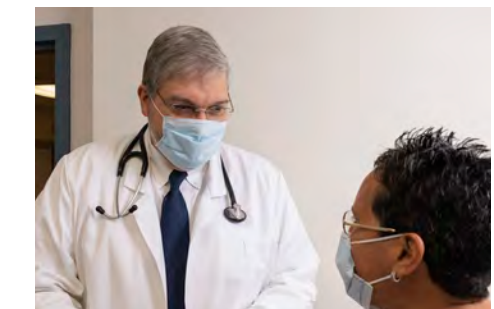
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Message From the Chair

The Department of Internal Medicine has a rich history dating back to 1813 when Nathan Smith, MD, was recruited to Yale. Smith gave the first lectures on the theory and practice of “physic,” surgery, and obstetrics and was considered the “father of Internal Medicine” here at Yale.

Fast forward 200 years, to when I had the privilege and honor of stepping into the role of interim department chair in 2013 and officially as department chair in 2016.

The department has come a long way from its modest beginnings two centuries ago and has grown remarkably under the stewardship of its leadership, along with its clinicians, researchers, educators, trainees, and staff.

As my tenure ends and this chapter closes, I reflect on the department’s history and future, growth and success, and all that we have accomplished together. I’ve said this many times—thank you for all you’ve done and continue to do! I’m filled with gratitude and pride as we welcome the next leader of Internal Medicine.

Sincerely,



Gary V. Désir, MD
Paul B. Beeson Professor of Medicine
Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity
Affiliated Faculty, Yale Institute for Global Health
Chair, Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine
Chief, Internal Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital



Clinical Affairs

Lynn Tanoue, MD, MBA, Vice Chair, Clinical Affairs
Lydia Aoun-Barakat, MD, Associate Chair, Ambulatory Clinical Affairs



Clinical Affairs team

Clinical Affairs provides collegial support to the growing community of clinically active faculty and advanced practice providers in the Department of Internal Medicine, with the goals of improving work experience, efficiency, and well-being.

Clinical Growth

The Department of Internal Medicine's clinical growth continues to be very robust. In particular, ambulatory medicine is witnessing unprecedented growth, and inpatient volume remains high as Yale New Haven Hospital continues to run at near capacity despite the waning of the pandemic. Procedural volume also continues to increase, driven by the intensity of both ambulatory and inpatient services, as well as the availability of novel interventional approaches in multiple specialties. In fall 2024, Lydia Aoun-Barakat, MD, was named associate chair for ambulatory clinical affairs. The position was created to address the department's significant ambulatory growth.

The Clinical Affairs support team provides practical interventions to facilitate reliable assessment of clinical work effort, training in compliant billing, timely credentialing, and clinician-friendly education to optimize the use of electronic health records to achieve effective communication while easing the burden of documentation. There have been significant improvements in practice efficiency over the past five years as a result of training and education provided by the Clinical Affairs team, as well as development of more robust structures for monitoring clinical metrics. This outcome speaks to the

dedicated commitment of clinical faculty and advanced practice providers to the care of patients, and to the work of the Clinical Affairs team in supporting their efforts.

Faculty Development

The department remains firmly committed to faculty development. The Resilience, Innovation, and Sustainable Excellence (RISE at Yale) program is in its seventh year of welcoming new faculty to the Department of Internal Medicine. The program offers skills-building workshops focusing on self-awareness, emotional intelligence, intentional communication, responsibilities and boundaries, disclosures, and critical conversations. These workshops reflect the department's prioritization of intentional faculty development and consistently received positive feedback from the newest faculty members.

Personalized Physician Education

Over the past year, Clinical Affairs has introduced personalized resources, providing one-on-one training and feedback for existing and new faculty that integrates training in both electronic health record utilization and compliant billing:

- **Chart Review Program:** Clinical Affairs compliance and billing-focused team members review individual clinicians' documentation, providing real-time feedback on the accuracy of billing and compliance documentation. Team members identify opportunities to streamline documentation with the Clinical Affairs Epic experts available to help clinicians capture those opportunities to decrease documentation time.
- **Epic one-on-one training:** New clinicians receive individual electronic health record training when they start at Yale. The training is tailored to their inpatient, ambulatory, and/or procedural profiles. Follow-up training is done after six months to enhance utilization based on their initial clinical experience.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Benjamin Mba, MBBS, Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Manisha Juthani, MD

The Department of Internal Medicine recognizes that talent is universal. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Medicine (ODEIM) strives for excellence driven by different perspectives, interests, philosophies, backgrounds, and lived experiences. Individuals, teams, departments, and organizations that integrate inclusive excellence perform at higher levels across leadership, research, education, innovation, community and societal engagement, and clinical care delivery domains. Inclusive excellence creates a sum greater than its components. The department fosters a learning and collaborative environment wherein everyone is respected, belongs, and can attain their highest potential.

Climate Survey

An anonymous survey was administered to all department staff and faculty in January 2024 to identify and address areas of concern relevant to inclusion and belonging. The survey had a 40 percent response rate, and results were shared with the department in July 2024. A post-survey climate action plan was developed for each section to address section-specific issues with leadership.

Inclusion Activity Scale

ODEIM has created an Inclusion Activity Scale, a tool that helps capture faculty activities geared toward fostering inclusive excellence. This tool can be used by faculty for professional development. ODEIM used the tool as part of a nationwide study from November 2023 to April 2025.

The initiative was presented internally to Yale's Office of Academic and Professional Development (OAPD) in the spring of 2024 and nationally at the March 2024 national meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Diversity and Inclusion (GDI). It was also presented at a national webinar of the AAMC Group on Faculty Affairs in October 2024 and at the National Webinar of the Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education Medical Professions Group in December 2024.

Equity Begins with Everyone (EBE) Gatherings

The EBE monthly discussions, presented by one faculty member and one staff person, are an eclectic mix of personal experiences, interactive training, and research and policy discussions. All are invited.

Mentorship

ODEIM worked with the YSM Minority Organization for Retention and Expansion (MORE) to provide mentoring and professional development support to faculty, including faculty from groups historically underrepresented in medicine and science. Residents were invited to the annual MORE reception event in September 2024 to promote mentorship and collaboration opportunities for house staff.

Outreach and Recruitment

Outreach and recruitment continued throughout the end of 2023 and 2024 to showcase many of YSM's residency training opportunities and inclusive culture. Events and fairs attended included the Student National Medical Association (SNMA)'s Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) in New Orleans; the Latino Medical Student Association National (LMSA) National Conference in Los Angeles; the Meharry Medical College Recruitment Day in Nashville; and a career-in-medicine event at Howard University College in Washington, D.C.

In addition to showcasing trainee opportunities, a group of 10 faculty members attended the National Medical Association (NMA) conference to promote 70+ open faculty positions across several clinical departments at Yale.

YSM also held several virtual recruitment events, including the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fair, the Yale Virtual URiM Fellowship Recruitment Fair for candidates interested in Medicine and Pediatric fellowships, and the first-ever virtual tristate recruitment event in partnership with YSM and YNH.

The department awarded five visiting student elective scholarships to final-year medical students from Wayne State University, Oklahoma State University, Brown University, Rowan University, and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Across all residency programs within the Department of Medicine, the 2024 intern class comprised at least 31 percent who identify as groups historically underrepresented in medicine and science, a 35 percent increase from last year's intern class.



Darin Latimore, MD



YSM and YNH's Diversifying the Healthcare Workforce Dinner



Benjamin Mba, MBBS

Retreats and Workshops

ODEIM hosted several retreats and workshops.

In June 2024, the Mentorship and Sponsorship retreat for senior faculty and section chiefs aimed to help enhance and standardize the mentorship experience, incorporate the Faculty Development Annual Questionnaire (FDAQ) process and cultivate a culture of career sponsorship within the department.

Aba Black, MD, MHS, led ODEIM's retreat at the Blake Hotel, which provided department sections with strategies for developing and sustaining curricula that promote an inclusive learning and work climate.

Department of Medicine Nationwide Health Equity Summit

In September 2024, the Department of Internal Medicine hosted the "Advancing Health Equity: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond" summit. Over 70 panelists, facilitators, and participants from across the country convened in New Haven to discuss strategies for advancing health equity nationwide.

The event consisted of three panel discussions and Q&A sessions with health care leaders from different institutions and medical centers. The panel topics included health equity models for health systems and academic medical centers, safety net health care system models to advance health equity, and the COVID-19 response model at Yale. Each panel presented tangible strategies and innovative ideas to increase health care access and quality, reduce health disparities, and develop communities. Read more on page 10.

The department plans to host further health equity events with new and emerging themes.

Education & Academic Affairs

Vincent Quagliarello, MD, Vice Chair, Education & Academic Affairs
 Dana Dunne, MD, MHS, Associate Chair, Education & Academic Affairs
 Donna Windish, MD, MPH, Associate Chair, Educational Scholarship



- The Internal Medicine Traditional Residency Program ended overnight call for residents effective June 21, 2024. The program directors anticipate this change will improve education, as residents will be better rested and able to learn.
- In response to requests for more robust clinical skills training, all residency programs now have access to the Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) program, led by Joseph Donroe, MD, MPH.
- Residents in the Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency Program collaborated with New Haven's Ely Center of Contemporary Art to create a work of art exploring their role as healers.

New Leadership

Sarita Soares, MD, is the new program director of the Yale Internal Medicine Primary Care Residency Program. Brad Richards, MD, MBA, serves as executive director of the residency.

Sharon Ostfeld-Johns, MD, IBCLC, was named the first quality and safety firm chief for the Traditional Residency Program.

Residency Program Updates

The Department of Internal Medicine's training programs are recognized regionally and nationally.

Nearly 300 residents participate in Internal Medicine's affiliated residency programs across seven community hospitals throughout southern Connecticut. The consortium aims to improve the level of medical education and, as a result, the quality of care at affiliated hospitals. Affiliated residents receive on-site lectures at affiliates and elective rotations at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Program Innovations

The Department of Internal Medicine continues to innovate and update its programs to respond to resident feedback and the changing landscape of medicine:

Faculty Development

The department is dedicated to the ongoing improvement of its educator development and scholarship programs to provide top-quality medical education. Several of the department's programs have received recognition at the school level and nationwide, resulting in their expansion and relocation to the Yale School of Medicine (YSM):

- The Internal Medicine's Advancement of Clinical-Educator Scholarship (ACES), a yearlong faculty development program focused on education, has been renamed the Education Scholar Fellowship (ESF) and expanded to be available to all YSM faculty. The first ESF cohort began in July 2024.

- The Yale Medical Educator Series (YES!) has been expanded, and all sessions have been aligned and mapped to the ACGME Clinician Educator Milestones. This change allows faculty and trainees to relate each session to their individualized learning plan toward mastery of medical education.
- Five Internal Medicine faculty members have been selected for the second cohort of the Longitudinal Coaching Program, which supports student professional development.
- The Fellows as Medical Educators (FAME) certificate course enrolled 20 fellows, including seven from Internal Medicine, for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Internal Medicine orientation bootcamp: Yale researchers found that a student-led Internal Medicine clerkship orientation boot camp and survival guide boosted students' understanding of clinical presentation and expectations for their contributions.

Honors and Awards

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), an accrediting body for medical education programs, named Yale's Internal Medicine a top-ranked clerkship based on independent student analysis and site visits.

In June 2024, the department celebrated graduating residents and presented teaching awards to residents, trainees, and faculty members. (Scan codes to read more.)



Voluntary Faculty Awards

The 2024 voluntary faculty award winners were:

William Cushing, PA-C: Distinction in Leadership Award

Anisha Advani, MD: Inpatient Medicine Teaching Award

Eric Fan, MD: General Medicine/Primary Care Teaching Award

Paul Feuerstadt, MD: Voluntary Faculty Research Award

Julia Shi, MD: Voluntary Faculty Specialist Teaching Award



Vincent Quagliarello, MD; Dana Dunne, MD, MHS; and Donna Windish, MD, MPH

Faculty Affairs

Lawrence Young, MD, Vice Chair, Faculty Affairs
Adam Mayerson, MD, Associate Chair, Community & Voluntary Faculty



John K. Forrest, MD

Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH

Veda Giri, MD

Internal Medicine includes 878 faculty members across 10 subspecialties, including 647 ladder track faculty, 162 research track faculty, and 69 in other instructional ranks. In addition, the department also includes 444 voluntary faculty members.

Faculty Development

Internal Medicine instituted a faculty mentorship program 10 years ago, under the leadership of Lawrence Young, MD, and Gary V. Désir, MD. The department then incorporated the new Yale School of Medicine (YSM) Faculty Development Annual Questionnaire (FDAQ) into the mentorship program in December 2022. The FDAQ is now used as the repository for career information and the foundation of discussions between faculty and their mentors and section chiefs or their designees. Across its two years of use, the FDAQ structure has been well-received; it has served to facilitate discussions between faculty members, their mentors, and section leadership.

This year, the FDAQ and mentorship program were made available to the faculty in the research scientist track. These faculty members meet with their laboratory directors and section chiefs or designees to review their progress and plans.

Track Growth

Over the past year, the Internal Medicine faculty has continued to grow, especially in the academic clinician track and clinician educator scholar tracks with the addition of

22 and 16 new faculty members. Some faculty members have changed tracks for better alignment with their interests, effort, and contributions.

Faculty Appointments/Promotions

The following faculty members were promoted to or appointed as professor of medicine:

- Hilary Cain, MD, Academic Clinician Track (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)
- Dana Dunne, MD, MHS, Academic Clinician Track (Infectious Diseases)
- Peter Ellis, MD, Academic Clinician Track (General Medicine)
- Veda Giri, MD, Clinician Scientist Track (Medical Oncology)
- John K. Forrest, MD, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- Janet Henrich, MD, Academic Clinician Track (General Medicine)
- Richard Kibbey, MD, PhD, Traditional Track (Endocrinology and Metabolism)
- Pamela Kunz, MD, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Medical Oncology)
- Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Medical Oncology)
- Benjamin Mba, MBBS, Academic Clinician Track (General Medicine)

- Carlos Mena-Hurtado, MD, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- Edward Miller, MD, PhD, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- John Moriarty, MD, Academic Clinician Track (General Medicine)
- Yibing Qyang, PhD, Investigator Track (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- Lisa Sanders, MD, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (General Medicine)
- Kim Smolderen, PhD, Investigator (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- Jeffrey Testani, MD, Clinician Scientist Track (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- Aseem Vashist, MD, Academic Clinician (Cardiovascular Medicine)
- Mercedes Villanueva, MD, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Infectious Diseases)
- Amer Zeidan, MBBS, Clinician Educator Scholar Track (Hematology)

In addition, 23 faculty members were promoted to or appointed associate professor; 51 to assistant professor; and 22 to instructor.

On the research tracks, the following faculty members were promoted to the rank of senior research scientist:

- Daniela Tirziu, PhD, senior research scientist (cardiovascular medicine)
- Gang-Qing Yao, PhD, senior research scientist (endocrinology and metabolism)

Four faculty members were promoted to the rank of research scientist, and 30 were appointed associate research scientists.

On the voluntary faculty, Jason Fish, MD, was appointed as clinical professor and five voluntary faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate clinical professor.

Appointments & Promotions Committee

Members of the Internal Medicine Appointments and Promotions Committee during FY24 included: Peter Aronson, MD; Gary V. Désir, MD; David Fiellin, MD; Terri Fried, MD; Stephanie Halene, MD, Dr Med; John Hwa, MD, PhD; Margaret Pisani, MD, MPH; Deborah Proctor, MD; Michal Rose, MD; Albert Shaw, MD, PhD; Donna Windish, MD, MPH; Barry Wu, MD; and Lawrence Young, MD. The committee was chaired by Lawrence Young, MD.

Health Equity Summit Celebrates Achievements, Plans Future Solutions

By Jenny Blair, MD

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, racial outcome disparities emerged. In the first year, for example, Black and Hispanic patients were far likelier to die than white patients were.

Yet a bright spot occurred at Yale. Not only was the mortality rate throughout Yale New Haven Health in the pandemic's first two years lower than the national average, but also no race-based survival differences occurred among discharged patients.

That was unusual, since health inequities in the United States have been documented across a vast range of diseases and outcomes. In fact, disparities in both health and health care "have existed for as long as we have had any system of health care delivery," said Benjamin Mba, MBBS, professor of medicine (general medicine) and vice chair of diversity, equity, and inclusion for Yale School of Medicine's Department of Internal Medicine, during the department's September 2024 summit, "Advancing Health Equity: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond."

Hosted by Gary Désir, MD, department chair and Yale University's vice provost for faculty development and diversity, the summit convened professionals from health systems around the East and Midwest. During panels, Q&A sessions, and a working lunch, they shared concrete lessons on what academic medical centers and health systems, including safety-net systems, can do to advance health equity.

Some takeaways: Health systems must broaden and reframe their responsibilities and pursue health equity, not just high-quality health care, as a strategic goal. Leaders must gather representative data and then set and pursue measurable community health goals. This can involve a range of tactics, including educating employees, building trust via community partnerships and direct investment, improving access by meeting people where they are, and engaging with law and policy. The pandemic demonstrated that with intentional strategies, health and health care disparities can be mitigated and health equity fostered.

Encouragingly, the participants concluded that such efforts are underway nationwide, and they can work.

Charged with achieving vaccination parity, for example, the Presidential COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force did so by prioritizing access, addressing structural barriers, and building trust, said Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, associate dean for Health Equity Research and C.N.H Long Professor of Medicine, Public Health, and Management.

"In September of 2021, I briefed the president and the vice president on that historic achievement," said Nunez-Smith, who is also founding director of the Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) in the Office for Health Equity Research at Yale School of Medicine. "The early racial [and] ethnic gaps in COVID-19 vaccination rates closed, and we observed subsequent narrowing and even some reversals in COVID-19 mortality disparities."

Health systems must broaden and reframe their responsibilities and pursue health equity, not just high-quality health care, as a strategic goal.



Two ICUs, one standard: A success story

As Yale New Haven Health began to plan for the pandemic, leaders aimed to ensure equal treatment for inpatients. After calculating a need for 150 intensive-care beds at the system's flagship location, Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH), they set out to standardize structures and processes across the health system, said Jonathan M. Siner, MD, associate professor at Yale School of Medicine, who chairs YNHH's Intensive Care Unit Committee.

To create capacity, they canceled elective surgeries, repurposed negative-pressure rooms on cancer wards, instituted tele-ICU, and expanded ICU staffing.

Then, to reduce cognitive load and risks of bias, they assembled a team that created a COVID care

pathway—a standardized treatment protocol that was evidence-based, frequently updated, and integrated into the electronic health record, so it was available to all hospitals and clinics.

The health system had already partly laid the foundation of pro-equity structural change. After Yale New Haven Hospital acquired the Hospital of Saint Raphael, a nearby community hospital, in 2012, Siner decided both campuses' ICUs would come under the same banner. That meant making the same equipment and advanced techniques such as ECMO available at both units, as well as the same doctors and nurses.

"Everybody is treated the same," Siner said.

The practice was well established by the time the hospitals began to fill with COVID patients. Had Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael Campus become overloaded, or if patients at that ICU had lacked access to advanced treatments and done poorly, the YNHH York Street Campus would have had to absorb them.



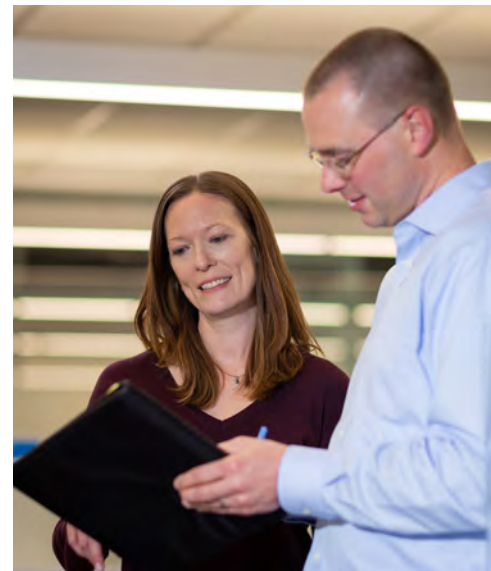
Read full article.

Finance & Administration

Mark A. Holter, CMPE, CPA, Vice Chair, Finance & Administration



Jiaqi Chen and Meiling Zhu with Handsome Dan



Kerry Fleischer and Keith McGibbon

Finance

The Department of Internal Medicine continues to demonstrate impressive growth across its mission. The operating budget increases by nearly 10% each year, hitting over \$466M for FY24. Clinical volume, as measured by work relative value units (wRVUs), reached 1.4M+ units during FY24.

The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR) ranked Internal Medicine as ninth in its 2023 rankings of support from the National Institutes of Health.

Administration

The department employs 460 staff members in a variety of roles within the areas of administration, clinical practice, education, and research.

In the centralized business office, two new operations managers joined or took new roles within the department over the past year:

- Kerry Fleischer
- Michael Yonkers, MBA

In addition, Adam M. Dworkin, JD, MBA, joined the department in October 2023 as director of finance and administration for Cardiovascular Medicine.

Staff Recognition & Appreciation

The Department of Internal Medicine Service Excellence Award is presented each year during the spring staff town hall to honor outstanding staff members whose work and behaviors support and promote the department's goals, values, and mission. Amy Anderson, communications officer, and Renee Capasso, research assistant, were honored with the award in 2024.

To further celebrate staff contributions, the department hosts an annual all-staff picnic. The Administration Workplace Survey Committee organized the July 2024 Amistad Park event which welcomed special guests: Handsome Dan, the Yale bulldog mascot; Heidi, the Yale Public Safety service dog; and the ITS Safety Bee.



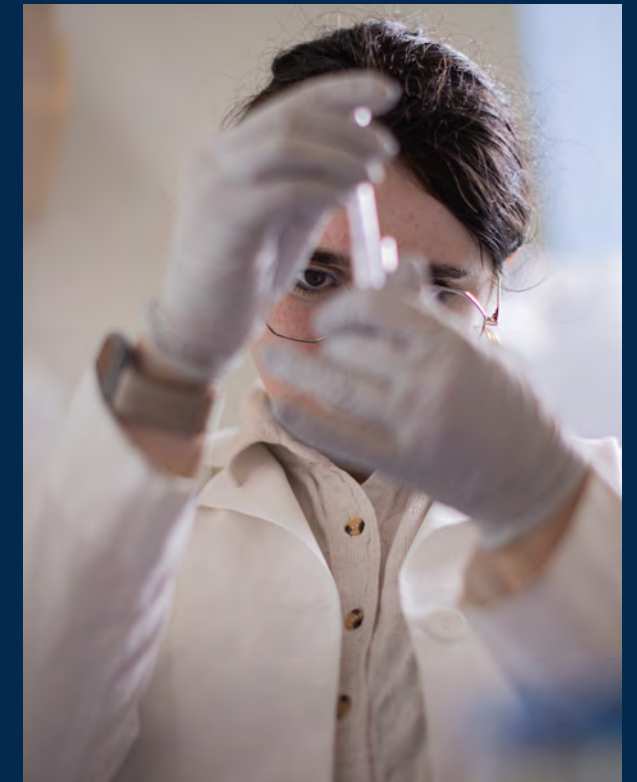
Renee Capasso



Amy Anderson

The Kidney Biobank

Established by the Section of Nephrology in 2020, the Kidney Biobank supports translational research focused on understanding the pathophysiology of and treatments for kidney diseases.



Kyra Shelton

The facility is a sample and tissue bank that enrolls prospective participants, collecting samples at the time of their kidney biopsy. Investigators can apply for access to clinical data and samples, including kidney tissue, DNA, plasma, urine, histological information including whole slide scans, and longitudinal clinical data. Proposals are rapidly reviewed by a steering committee consisting of faculty members within nephrology and renal pathology.

Since its inception, the biobank has enrolled over 1,500 participants and provided samples and data that have led to important discoveries in acute kidney injury, acute interstitial nephritis, glomerular diseases, and lupus nephritis. These studies have resulted in thirteen publications in journals such as the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Nature Communications*, and the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. During 2023-24, the biobank provided nine letters supporting federal and foundation grant applications by Yale School of Medicine faculty and trainees.

The Kidney Biobank is directed by Dennis Moledina, MD, PhD. Its project manager is Melissa Shaw. Steering committee members include Lloyd Cantley, MD; Gilbert Moeckel, MD, PhD; Jeffrey Turner, MD; and F. Perry Wilson, MD.



Dennis Moledina, MD, PhD, and Melissa Shaw



Quality & Safety

Aldo Peixoto, MD, Vice Chair, Quality & Safety

Quality and safety are top priorities in the Department of Internal Medicine and across Yale New Haven Hospital.

Signature Care Pathways

The signature pathways continue to grow in number. Multidisciplinary teams of experts determine processes and roadmaps—also known as pathways—for multiple inpatient and outpatient settings to standardize practices in care provision. As of September 2024, over 650 pathways have been launched at Yale New Haven Hospital. The department led the creation of the pathways that were used most often in each setting for 2024. For adult ambulatory, the most used was COVID-19 Oral and IV Treatment: Adult Ambulatory. For adult emergency medicine, the most frequently used pathway was Chest Pain Evaluation: Adult ED. In the adult ICU, Pulmonary Embolism (PE) Risk Stratification: Adult Inpatient and ICU was the most often used. Lastly, Diarrhea Evaluation: Adult Inpatient was the most frequently used pathway.

Partners in Care

The Partners in Care program was created in 2021 to improve the culture and collaboration between physicians, nurses, and staff through positive interactions and employee recognition. The program is overseen by Laurie Gattinella and has been established in 15 of 24 units across the hospital as of September 2024.

Improving Discharge Process

A new initiative focused on lowering the number of 30-day readmissions for patients discharged from the teaching firms is underway. Led by Sharon Ostfeld-Johns, MD, the initiative includes new note templates for the discharge progress, partnership with health care coordinators to ensure medication availability at discharge, and increasing resident education for medication reconciliation processes. Further plans will include discharge time-outs and formalization of transitional care round conversations.

Discharge Time-Out Pilot Project

In conjunction with the discharge process initiative, a new project titled Discharge Time-Out is being piloted. A patient's care team—including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and case managers—will be present when a patient is being discharged to answer any questions. The project is being managed by Chief Resident Soumya Banna, MD. She and leadership will determine the criteria for measuring its success.

Consultation Optimization

L. Scott Sussman, MD, led an effort to create an electronic dashboard monitored by clinical leadership to optimize the consultation process. Its aim is to increase communication amongst providers and improve quality of consultations for patients by streamlining the process of ordering and documenting consults.



Soumya Banna, MD



Internal Medicine Traditional Residency Program's Noon Report

Documentation and Communication

A team studied documentation and communication for patient progress notes to identify themes and analyze how they affect quality of care. Spearheaded by Paul Bernstein, MD, the effort will improve interprofessional communication and mitigate risks.

Multidimensional Patient Safety Curriculum at VACHS

Since 2022, the department has expanded its patient safety curriculum for trainees in the Traditional Internal Medicine Residency Program during their VACHS rotations. The curriculum includes morbidity and mortality conferences, clinical scenario simulation, logistics of how to report patient safety events, and weekly workroom rounds to discuss patient safety concerns. The rounds are led by the VA Chief Resident on Quality and Patient Safety (CRQS) and Site Director Naseema Merchant, MBBS. Surveys show an overall improvement in residents' perception of error reports and handling, and of the VA's general safety culture.

Department of Internal Medicine's Consortium Builds Robust Educational Opportunities Across Connecticut



Silvio Inzucchi, MD, and Courtney Annunziata

The program's overarching goal is to improve the quality of medical education across the state.

For more than 40 years, the Yale Department of Internal Medicine's Affiliated Hospitals Program has provided robust educational opportunities for community hospitals in southern Connecticut.

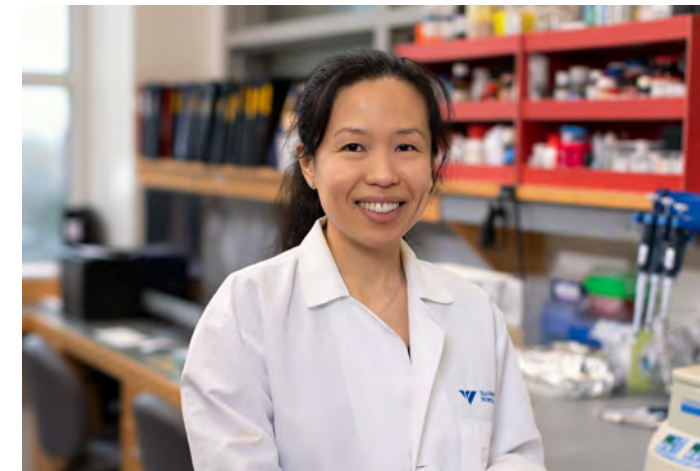
The consortium thrives on three components: on-site lectures at the affiliates, elective rotations for the affiliated residents at Yale New Haven Hospital, and faculty interactions at regular dinner meetings, an annual retreat, and faculty development sessions. Faculty members also build relationships among all the participating educators across these programs through periodic meetings and retreats.

Consortium members include the internal medicine residency training programs of seven hospitals: Bridgeport, Greenwich, Norwalk, Waterbury, St. Mary's, Danbury, and Griffin. Lawrence & Memorial Hospital also participates as an affiliate but does not have a residency program.

Silvio Inzucchi, MD, professor of medicine (endocrinology), is the director of the Affiliated Hospitals Program, and Courtney Annunziata is the program coordinator.

Research

Barbara Kazmierczak, MD, PhD, Vice Chair, Basic Research
Harriet Kluger, MD, Vice Chair, Collaborative Research
Robert Soufer, MD, Vice Chair, Clinical Research



Elise Liu, MD, PhD



Choukri Ben Mamoun, PhD

Research leaders across the department continue to build on the scientific focus areas defined during a 2022 research retreat. The respective teams met in March 2024 in a series of sessions on Yale's West Campus to further refine their ideas and strategies.

Scientific Priorities

The Translational Geroscience initiative, officially launched in 2023, has tremendous momentum. After its first guest lecturer Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, visited in September 2023, the team launched a pilot grant program to provide additional funding for geroscience researchers.

The Yale Fibrosis Program was restarted in October 2023. Led by Erica Herzog, MD, PhD, and Wajahat Mehal, MD, the program provides a common forum for Yale researchers to identify interests and resources in order to develop cross-discipline collaborations.

The metabolism group has a defined protocol and has developed innovative ways to generate ideas and socialization by inviting people in focused teams.

Choukri Ben Mamoun, PhD, and Priti Kumar, PhD, lead the emerging pathogens initiative. The project focuses on developing new drug therapies. Their work may be of interest to other researchers who study disease pathways that are shared targets for a cancer or a virus.

David Fiellin, MD, is leading the establishment of a substance use disorder program in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry.

Research Grand Rounds

To build camaraderie, promote interdisciplinary research, and spark new collaborations amongst faculty members, the department launched a monthly Research Grand Rounds in September 2024. The hour-long sessions are divided between two speakers, with a post-event lunch that allows researchers to discuss their investigations and interests.

Janeway Society

The Janeway Society was developed to create infrastructure and oversight for career development and to shorten the time to independence at Yale. The department has 53 members of the Janeway Society, with the newest members listed below:

- Bubu Banini, MD, PhD
- Ami Belmont, MD
- Eric Elliott, MD, PhD
- Genta Ishikawa, MD, MPH
- Elise Liu, MD, PhD

In the Absence of Cures, Adler Center Guides Patients

By Serena Crawford



Richard Marottoli, MD, MPH

A center helps older adults who struggle to take care of themselves

One in five Americans will be 65 or older in 2030, and by 2034, older adults will outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. With innovations in health that allow people to live longer, this fast-growing age group presents unique health challenges.

“There is a rising number of people living with chronic diseases of aging who would benefit by receiving care from a geriatrician,” said Terri Fried, MD, Humana Foundation Professor of Medicine (Geriatrics) and section chief of Geriatric Medicine at Yale School of Medicine. “As we get older, we can’t compartmentalize or treat these diseases and put them away somewhere; they become part of life.”

That’s where the Dorothy Adler Geriatric Assessment Center comes in. Since 1981, the center has been providing patients and their families with a comprehensive plan to optimize function, independence, and quality of life.

“Older adults tend to vary a lot given the same set of conditions,” Fried said. “They’re going to have different priorities in terms of what matters to them and what they want to achieve.”

“Patients travel to the Adler Center from as far as Rhode Island and New York, which speaks not only to the quality of care provided but also to the rarity of geriatrics specialty care,” Fried said.

Disease as a part of life

Geriatric care is fundamentally different from other types of care patients receive, Fried said, noting the focus on issues such as mobility and medication. Clinicians at the Adler Center understand how a combination of diseases impacts a patient’s life and the nonmedical resources that are available. The Adler Center focuses on helping patients achieve their functional goals and do the things that are meaningful to them.

“In geriatric medicine, we focus on quality of life and what’s important to the patient because aging is often marked by an accumulation of diseases that can’t be cured,” Fried said.

People often find their way to the Adler Center because of concerns about memory loss or cognition.

“Even after having seen another physician and being given a diagnosis of dementia and getting the appropriate workup, they come to us because patients and families have a lot of questions about how dementia is going to impact their and their caregivers’ lives,” Fried said.

Often, a caregiver has questions about how to make appropriate plans or handle a patient’s behavioral disturbances. “A big part of our geriatric assessment is understanding how we can help the caregiver, who is also our patient in a way,” Fried said. “We consider the sum total of diseases and attempt to allow people—both patients and caregivers—live as full a life as they can.”

How the stories play out

For more than 40 years, the Adler Center has been working with patients and families to assess individuals’ capabilities and limitations, balancing safety and autonomy, helping them determine the amount and type of assistance needed to optimize function in their current living environment, and guiding them in determining when a transition to a different living situation may be appropriate, said Richard Marottoli, MD, MPH, professor of medicine (geriatrics) and medical director of the Adler Center.

Initially a clinic in the corner of Yale New Haven’s Primary Care Center, the center moved to a freestanding building across the street from the hospital in 2009. The center conducts medical exams, risk evaluation for falls, and cognitive and depression screening, and reviews patients’ priorities and goals of care, among other services. At each visit, physicians and case managers meet with the family and caregivers, as well as the patient, if appropriate. The center also coordinates with the patient’s other clinicians.

Most importantly, Fried adds, the Adler Center provides anticipatory guidance to patients and caregivers.

“A big part of our expertise is having seen enough stories to know how they play out,” Fried said. “We know that when people prepare in the right ways, their lives are better.”

Many families come to the Adler Center with the goal of having a patient live independently at home for as long as possible. The center helps these patients and families find services such as home health care agencies and volunteer support groups.

“We have worked closely with community agencies over the years to connect individuals with these organizations and the services they provide,” Marottoli said.

A critical part of taking care of older people is having access to services, Fried stressed.

There is a growing need for home-based primary care services when people can no longer leave their house, Fried noted. “To give people the choice of staying at home, we have to bring medical care to them,” she said.

Without direction, people wouldn’t know how to find services or support, Fried continued. “We can give people a direct phone number, cut through all the layers of the phone trees to ensure that people can speak to somebody to get educated about what services are available and how to get them,” she said.

A fork in the road

When the Adler Center started, physicians worked alongside case managers who acted as a point of continuity for family members. These case managers were jacks of all trades, acting as nurses and social workers, Fried recalls. No other clinic had that kind of model or setting, with both a patient room and a family room, so a family member could meet privately with the case manager and physician to raise concerns about a patient.

“We were at the forefront of using a case management model to assist and communicate with patients and families,” Marottoli said.

The challenge was keeping the center afloat. “Geriatrics is not a money-making proposition because we spend time with patients and we don’t do procedures,” Fried said. “It’s one of those cognitive-heavy specialties that tend to be money-losing.”

Today, Fried is proud of the collaboration between Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital leadership to enhance the center’s efficiency by optimizing schedule, structure, and flow. The center now has advanced practice providers five days a week to support case managers, provide continuity, and handle urgent patient issues that arise. Procedures and documentation have been streamlined. In the last year alone, the center has increased its capacity by 18% and reduced wait times from three or four months to three or four weeks.

The center has also adapted to the changing health care landscape, notes Marottoli. “We incorporated technology along the way,” he said. “One example is the availability of video follow-up visits, which can make life much easier for patients and families as mobility becomes increasingly challenged, for people in remote parts of the state, or in inclement weather situations.”



Read full article.



Terri Fried, MD

Veterans Affairs

Daniel Federman, MD, Vice Chair, Veterans Affairs



Samit Shah, MD, PhD

Many faculty members in the Department of Internal Medicine care for patients in clinics, lead educational programs, and perform research as part of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System (VACHS).

Allergy and Immunology Christina Price, MD

The VA Section of Allergy and Immunology cares for veterans with immune deficiencies, immune dysregulation, and drug allergies. Christina Price, MD, the section chief, also helps increase patient access to care through e-consults, telehealth, as well as in-person consultations. The section's faculty also conducts clinical research in adults with immune deficiency.

Cardiovascular Medicine Steven Pfau, MD

The VA Section of Cardiology has 33 full-time and part-time providers who deliver health care at three campuses across the state.

Programmatic Achievements

This year, VA Connecticut delivered on its goal to open a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) program on the West Haven campus, making VACHS the only VA in the country to be approved for a cardiac catheterization lab-based TAVR program. Samit Shah, MD, PhD, led a large, multidisciplinary team through an extensive application process. The first two procedures were successfully performed by Michael Cleman, MD, John K. Forrest, MD, and Roland Assi, MD. The program will provide advanced cardiac care for VA patients, reduce costs, and enhance the training experience of VA-based cardiology and cardiac surgery trainees.

The VA cardiology section continues to expand its remote and virtual care capabilities, giving access to patients who would otherwise have to travel long distances to see specialists or get specialized testing, while lowering the VA's costs and enhancing the teaching program experience for cardiology trainees. Veterans in parts of

New York and most of New England have access to virtual telehealth appointments and electronic chart review consultations from the VACHS.

Under the leadership of Farid Jadbabaie, MD, the VA cardiology section expanded its echocardiography program and now interprets echo studies from three remote locations. Aseem Vashist, MD, spearheaded efforts to connect the VACHS's nuclear cardiology lab to the VA Medical Center in Togus, Maine, enabling VACHS cardiologists to read stress tests and report the results the same day to the Togus lab four days a week.

Faculty Achievements

Marilyn Varghese, MD, medical director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation and Primary Prevention Program, received a two-year Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 1 Career Development Award to explore sex-based differences in cardiac rehabilitation among veterans.

Brian Malm, MD, was appointed associate section chief of cardiology, where he will assist in the day-to-day administration of patient care across three physical campuses and virtual programs.

The section also welcomed Filipe Moura, MD, PhD, as the director of nuclear cardiology at VACHS.

Endocrinology Varman Samuel, MD, PhD

The VA Section of Endocrinology provides endocrine care to veterans at West Haven and Newington outpatient clinics, where they see patients for diabetes, metabolic disorders, and other thyroid and endocrine conditions. Clinical faculty members bring expertise in endocrine subspecialties, including obesity medicine and bone and thyroid diseases, to deliver excellent clinical care to veterans. Section faculty members also provide a comprehensive educational experience to endocrine fellows and supervise them in their longitudinal clinic.



Basile Njei, MD, PhD

Gastroenterology/Liver Tamar Taddei, MD

The VA Section of Digestive Diseases continues to win national recognition driving best practices and health care policy through the National Gastroenterology and Hepatology Program Office Field Advisory subcommittees. The section was accepted into the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy's (ASGE) Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program (EURP), making it the only unit in the VA's New England Network to obtain this award of excellence.

Amy Ogurick, MD, continues to lead quality improvement initiatives in education and practice, including harmonizing the VA ambulatory gastrointestinal (GI) and liver practices (in collaboration with Simona Jakab, MD) while improving GI program education on a national level through the General Internal Medicine Medical Education Fellowship Program.

In addition to expanding access while providing outstanding patient care, the section continues its track record of groundbreaking research. VA section members published over 146 papers from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. Other research highlights include the following:

- Basile Njei, MD, PhD, Anahita Rabiee, MD, MHS, and Louise Wang, MD, MSCE, are funded young investigators working in the areas of lean metabolic-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), cirrhosis and portal hypertension, and pancreatic cancer, respectively.

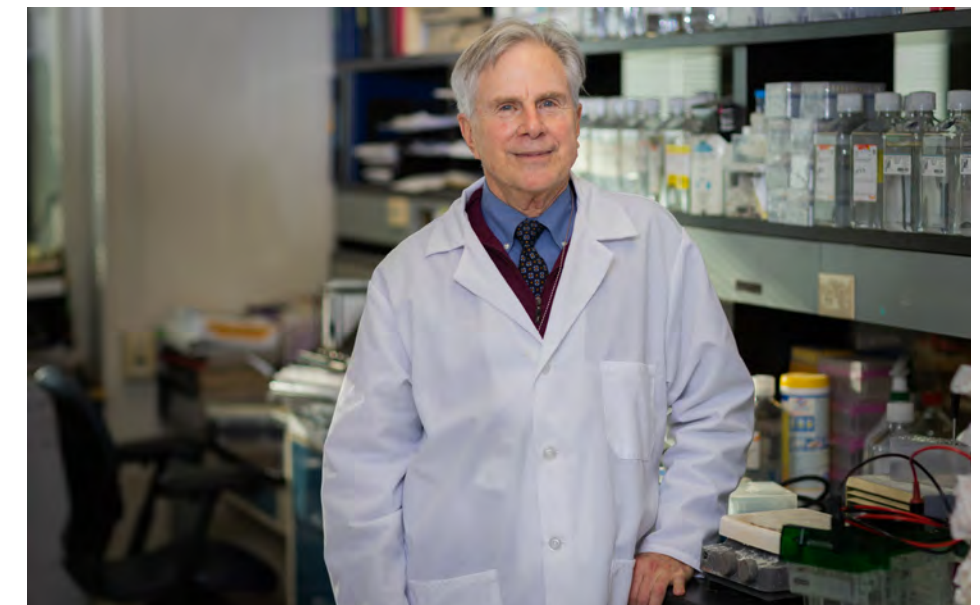
- Senior faculty investigators, including Clara Abraham, MD; Fred Gorelick, MD; Loren Laine, MD; and Wajahat Mehal, MD, are funded by the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the VA Office of Research & Development (ORD) in the areas of mucosal immunity, pancreatic inflammation, fecal microbiota transplantation, and sterile inflammation, respectively. In recognition of Mehal's outstanding research, he was notified of four additional years of MERIT Award funding.
- In addition to leading colorectal cancer screening initiatives for the section,

Petr Protiva, MD, MPH, serves as the local site PI for two VA national colorectal cancer screening trials.

- Jakab is a local site PI for two VA national cirrhosis and liver cancer screening trials. Taddei is the national PI.
- Abraham, Mehal, Gorelick, Wang, and Jonathan Dranoff, MD, continue to lead and serve NIH and VA study sections.
- Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD, continues to study and lecture globally on portal hypertension and cirrhosis, writing national and international guidelines that lead the field.

Other accomplishments include the following:

- Loren Laine, MD, chief of Yale Section of Digestive Diseases, serves as chair of Digestive Disease Week (DDW), the world's premier digestive diseases meeting.
- Taddei completes a three-year term as governing board member and treasurer of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) in December 2025.
- Rabiee serves as the educational lead of the Portal Hypertension and Cirrhosis Special Interest Group (SIG); Susan Zapatka, APRN, is the associate lead of the AASLD Clinical Practice SIG; and Neeraja Kannan, DNP, is the associate lead of the AASLD Liver Cancer SIG.
- Gyanprakash Ketwaroo, MD, led a rollout of new endoscopy software and published a book on ergonomics in endoscopy.



Fred Gorelick, MD



Jeffrey Kravetz, MD

General Medicine

Jeffrey Kravetz, MD

The section of General Internal Medicine at VACHS has four faculty members who are primarily clinical researchers, and 25 primary care physicians (PCPs) who collectively treat approximately 16,500 outpatients per year and attend on the inpatient wards. They provide direct patient care and serve as teaching attendings in both the outpatient and inpatient settings.

Faculty members from the section have significant leadership roles in Yale School of Medicine's clinical training. Jenna Klimovich, MD, and Delly Alcantara-Cadillo, MD, serve as primary care clerkship co-site directors. Cynthia McNamara, MD, is the associate program director of the Traditional Internal Medicine Residency Program and leader of the innovative Mentor, Advisor, Coach (MAC) program. Matthew Zegarek, MD, leads the Clinician Educator distinction pathway for internal medicine residents interested in further training in graduate medical education.

The section is also a national VA leader in interprofessional health education and training. The Health Professions Education, Evaluation, and Research (HPEER) fellowship is in its third year and is co-directed by Rebecca Brienza, MD, MPH. Mukta Dhond, MD, and McNamara represent the VA in the Women and Gender Health Education Program. GIM faculty are members of three VA National Clinical Practice Guideline workgroups: Jenna Klimovich, MD (obesity); Amy Schwartz, MD (chronic kidney disease); and Donald Curran, MD (asthma).

From September 2023 to September 2024, the section produced 36 publications on

various topics that include pain management, uptake of evidence-based addiction treatment, informatics, HIV infection, pre-operative blood pressure monitoring, and colorectal cancer screening. Other research highlights include:

- Andrew Cox, MD, is the PHASER site champion and site PI of IMPACT.
- Alcantara-Cadillo is the site PI of a project funded by the National Kidney Foundation. Caroline Falker, MD, is a co-investigator for the Hemodialysis Pain Reduction Effort (HOPE). William Becker, MD, is the PI.
- Amy Justice, MD, PhD, continues to lead the internationally renowned Veterans Aging Cohort Study.



Cynthia McNamara, MD

- Cynthia Brandt, MD, MPH, co-leads the Pain Management Collaboratory Coordinating Center, among other high-impact research projects
- William Becker's Pain and Opioid Consortium of Research (co-led with Alicia Heapy, PhD, of the Department of Psychiatry) was renewed an additional five years.

Hematology/Medical Oncology

Michal Rose, MD

Eight faculty members care for patients with cancer and hematologic disorders at VACHS. The section has a robust clinical trials program. Under the leadership of Herta Chao, MD, PhD, the section continues to be very active within the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) National Cancer Clinical Trials Network (NCTN). It continues to be one of the top enrolling sites for NCTN studies across the Department of Veterans Affairs and nationally. Michal Rose, MD, is also the lead oncologist to the VISN1 clinical trials network and SWOG Storefront. SWOG, originally the Southwest Oncology Group, is one of five network groups that comprise the NCTN.

VACHS continues to be a hub site of the Lung Precision Oncology Program (LPOP), a partnership between the VA National Oncology Program office and the Office of Research and Development to optimize lung cancer care. The primary co-investigators are Hilary Cain, MD, and Rose. Through this grant, VACHS has expanded its lung cancer clinical trials portfolio and mentored other New England VAs to build their own clinical trials programs.



Amy Justice, MD, PhD

In July 2024, the Medical Oncology Sections of VACHS, PI Rose, and VA Boston were awarded a grant of more than \$4.8 million to expand veterans' enrollment in clinical trials and improve clinical care within the regional VAs, with a focus on genito-urinary malignancies. This program, called GU-PROVEN (Genito-Urinary Precision Oncology VISN1 Engagement Network), will help support a community of care modeled upon VACHS' success in the lung cancer screening and treatment space.

Chao is the PI on an NCI R01 and R01 supplement, as well as a VA Merit review grant that studies the cognitive effects of androgen deprivation therapy. She chairs an NCI Cancer-Related Cognitive Impairment workgroup focusing on the cognitive assessment of cancer patients undergoing treatment. Chao leads the VA Connecticut Cancer Clinical Trial Program and chaired the 2024 selection committee for the Yale Second Century of Women at Yale: Emerging Leaders in Internal Medicine award.

The hematology/medical oncology sections continues to be a popular rotation for fellows and residents. Rose was awarded the David S. Fischer, MD Annual Teaching Award for Medical Oncology at the VA in 2024. In addition, Edward B. Perry, Jr., MD, MHS, completed a two-year Yale Master of Health Science degree focusing on medical education. He was appointed site director for the Yale Medical Oncology-Hematology Fellowship Program at VACHS.

Hospital Medicine

Elizabeth Marhoffer, MD

The Section of Hospital Medicine at VACHS includes 10 full-time and three part-time faculty members.

Among them, John Chang, MD; Craig Gunderson, MD; Shaili Gupta, MBBS; Jürgen Holleck, MD; Elizabeth Marhoffer, MD; Naseema Merchant, MBBS; and Benjamin Rodwin, MD, contributed to 30 regional and national talks, and published 17 peer-reviewed papers between September 2023 and September 2024. Merchant wrote a book chapter on patient safety education and the establishment of a just culture in a high-reliability organization. She now

sits on the national American College of Physicians (ACP) scientific meeting planning committee for 2025 and the American College of Radiology Appropriateness Criteria Team. Rodwin started the multidisciplinary VACT Distinction in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety for trainees across VACHS. Andrea Roberts, MD, contributed to a mentorship panel for medical students at the state ACP conference, representing hospital medicine.

Gupta received the Yale Education Grant and a YUAG-Poorvu STEM Curriculum Development grant. She was nominated for the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award and launched a web application for estimating neutralizing antibody levels for COVID-19 immunity (COVID Immunity Test). Chang and Holleck were honored with a poem written by the internal medicine resident that was published in the Beeson Beat.

This past year, Michael Arcieri, MD, and Renee Zhang, MD, joined the group. Samer Ein Alshaeba, MD, the section's nocturnalist, was promoted to assistant professor, and Merchant was promoted to associate professor. Marhoffer transitioned from her role as acting section chief to section chief of Hospital Medicine.

Other faculty members earned education titles:

- Chang became a longitudinal coach at YSM.
- Benjamin Cherry, MD, began the Education Scholar Fellowship at Yale.
- Roberts assumed the role of VACHS Internal Medicine clerkship director, succeeding Merchant.



Elizabeth Marhoffer, MD

Infectious Diseases

Sheela Shenoi, MD, MPH

Sheela Shenoi, MD, MPH, took over as acting chief of Infectious Diseases on October 1, 2024. Richard Sutton, MD, PhD, who previously held the role, continues to attend on the internal medicine and infectious diseases services at VACHS and assumed the new position of chief of infectious diseases research at VACHS.

Rupak Datta, MD, PhD, continued his scholarly work to improve antimicrobial use and infection prevention across health care settings. Datta is currently a member of the hospital epidemiology and infection prevention program at VACHS.

Brinda Emu, MD, provides integrated care to patients with HIV and cancer in the Cancer-Infectious Diseases Clinic at Yale. The Emu lab also researches the intersection of immune dysfunction and chronic viral infection and cancer.

Duc Nguyen, MD, joined VA Infectious Diseases in 2024 and serves as an associate hospital epidemiologist. He works on antibiotic stewardship, the outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy program at the VA, and infection surveillance activities.

Shenoi has been awarded a new five-year R21/R33 grant from NIH Fogarty focusing on mobile health (mHealth) use among older adults with HIV in Ukraine. She recently completed an R01 grant in Malaysia focusing on tuberculosis screening and prevention in a Malaysian prison and is co-investigator on five other NIH grants. Shenoi also presented at the Malaysia Implementation Science Training Course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2024. She is vice chair of the



Richard Sutton, MD, PhD

HIV Section of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, and chair of the Grants for Emerging Researchers Committee of the Infectious Disease Society of America.

Sandra Springer, MD, received two new grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). She also continues to be co-chair of the VA BRAVE study (CSP 2014) with Ismene Petrakis, MD, at the West Haven VA in 20 national VA sites across the country. Springer's NIDA Avant-Garde Award that launched the first legalized mobile retail pharmacy clinic in the United States in the state of Connecticut. In addition, she continued her role as PI for three other ongoing NIDA-funded studies and completed

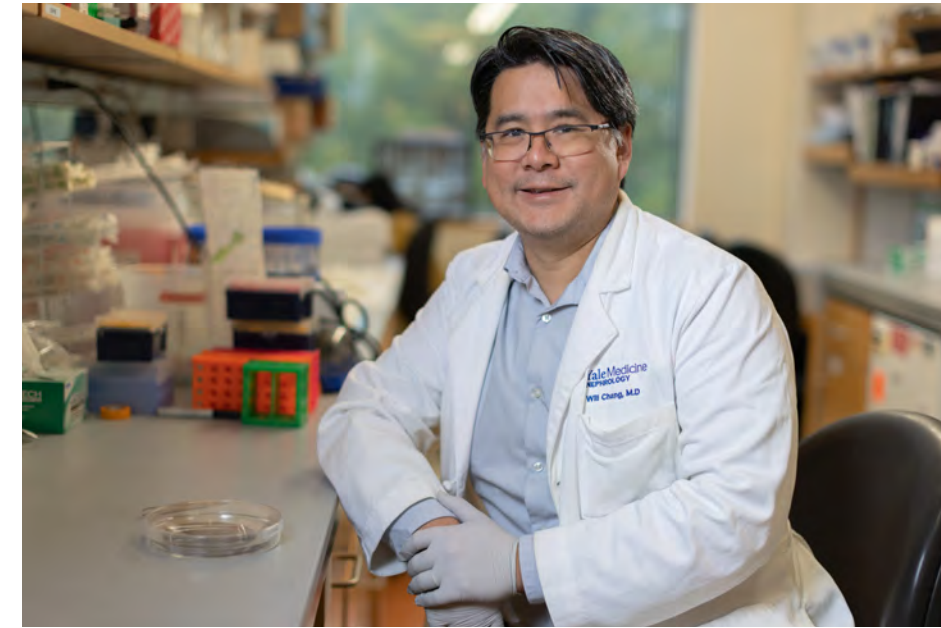
two NIH-funded trials. She also continued as an appointed committee member of the International AIDS Society (IAS)-USA antiretroviral guidelines committee, which published the latest Antiretroviral Drugs for Treatment and Prevention of HIV Infection in Adults 2024 Guidelines. Springer recently completed her term as an invited member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) Committee on the Chronic Conditions Among Women, whose final report was published in July 2024.

Sutton published a critical paper in *Science Advances* in March 2024, showing the importance of the JAK-STAT pathway in regulating CCR5 gene expression as part of his active R01 grant. Sutton continues to investigate post-transcriptional control of CCR5 and other CCR proteins, including CCR2, CCR1, and CCR4, several of which can function at low level as R5-tropic HIV co-receptors. He also secured R21 funding to perform a high throughput screen for an HIV Rev inhibitor, which would be a first-in-class treatment.

Joseph Vinetz, MD, contributes to clinical care in the VA internal medicine department by performing inpatient VACHS consults, attending with the internal medicine hospital team, mentoring in the outpatient HIV clinic, and consulting and precepting in outpatient travel medicine. He is an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) member. His research interest is in tropical infectious diseases.



Rupak Datta, MD, PhD



William Chang, MD, PhD

Kidney Medicine

Susan T. Crowley, MD, MBA

The VACHS Kidney Medicine Section is led by Susan T. Crowley, MD, MBA, who oversees 10 academic nephrology clinicians, educators, and scientists. The section's goal is consistent delivery of accessible, equitable, and high-value kidney health care to veterans with kidney disease and disorders in New England and underserved regions nationwide, guided by continuous learning principles of the VA health system.

Crowley also serves as the Veterans Health Administration national program executive director for kidney medicine, providing nephrologic guidance for the largest integrated health care system in the United States. In addition, Crowley serves on the American Society of Nephrology Joint Editorial Board. She is a steering committee member of the VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) Dialysis Platform (DiaP) Trial and its inaugural study, VA CSP # 2026, Beta-Blocker Dialyzability on Cardiovascular Outcomes (BRAVO).

David Geller, MD, PhD, is the medical director of dialysis at VACHS; the lead dialysis medical director for VA New England; the director of VACHS's Hypertension Clinic; and the co-director of YSM's core curriculum course on homeostasis. In addition to Geller's clinical and educational duties, he is the site PI of a multicenter national VA trial comparing the effects of conventional versus

graduated dialysis on patient outcomes for incident hemodialysis patients.

Namrata Krishnan, MBBS, is the site program director of the nephrology fellowship programs for Yale and the University of Connecticut. She is involved in medical education and curriculum development at the local and national levels in collaboration with the National Kidney Foundation. Krishnan is heavily engaged in clinical care, serving as the director of the post-transplant renal clinic and the renal clinic at VA Newington. She serves on various local VA committees, including the national VA Kidney-Palliative Care Committee.

William Chang, MD, PhD, is a VA clinical nephrology attending physician in the inpatient setting and the outpatient clinical resource hub teleneurology program. His research focuses on vascular and kidney tissue engineering to model kidney disease and develop new therapeutic approaches. He is the PI and project lead at Yale School of Medicine for research programs funded by the American Diabetes Association, Kidney X, and the Department of Defense.

John Chang, MD, provides clinical care in various settings, including hypertension clinics and a remote telehealth renal clinic. He is the site PI of the Empagliflozin for Worsening Heart Failure Study, a multicenter study investigating the acute effects of empagliflozin (Jardiance) as an adjuvant to loop diuretics on the parameters of diuretic efficacy.

Justin Belcher, MD, PhD, is the founding

director of teleneurology at VACHS and is the VA CT Director of its national teleneurology program, which provides care for multiple VA centers nationwide. He is the VACT site PI of the HOPE trial, a study of chronic pain management strategies for hemodialysis patients. Belcher is actively involved in education and sees patients in inpatient services, outpatient clinics, and via telemedicine at community-based outpatient clinics. He is actively engaged in research surrounding acute kidney injury in patients with cirrhosis via the HRS-Harmony consortium, which he co-founded.

Crystal Jobson, MD, is a clinical nephrology attending in the inpatient setting and outpatient national VA Clinical Resource Hub Teleneurology Program. She is involved in patient and medical education, focusing on patient safety initiatives; she is also a member of the VA Medication Management Committee.

Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Richard Smith, MD

Richard Smith, MD, MPH, assumed the role of acting chief of the VA Occupational Health Service in September, succeeding Efa James, MD, MPH. In addition to Smith's new role within Occupational Health, he has recently taken on the role of associate program director of the Yale Occupational and Environmental Medicine (YOEM) Fellowship. He also serves as the site director for two electives offered in VACT OEM. The section welcomed Queenie Abad, MD, MPH, who joined the team as a full-time VACT clinician. Abad is an instructor within the Yale Occupational Medicine Fellowship. She also serves as the VA VISN 1 Employee and Occupational Health lead physician and as a member of the VHA Employee Occupational Health Change Advisory Board.

As environmental health clinicians and toxic exposure navigators, Smith and Abad oversee a team of clinicians and administrative staff who provide consultations to veterans seeking additional evaluation for toxic exposures during military service.

The VA Occupational Health Service (OHS) introduced the Military Toxic Exposure elective for Traditional Internal Medicine residents at the VA in July 2023. This elective, which is popular with rotating residents, received the Innovations in



Joshua Bilsborrow, MD, MHS

Ambulatory Education award from the Yale Internal Medicine residency program.

Faculty and fellows continue to present findings from the Military Toxic Exposure elective, case presentations, and quality improvement projects based on VA clinical work at major conferences, including the annual conference of the New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (NECOEM).

Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Hilary Cain, MD

VACHS continues to be a leader in lung cancer screening, with more than 3,300 veterans enrolled in the screening program. Several members of the lung cancer screening team, including Hilary Cain, MD; Ethan Bernstein, MD; Brett Bade, MD; and Kathleen Akgün, MD, MS, led a session during the American Thoracic Society (ATS) annual meeting on implementing a centralized lung cancer screening.

Carolyn Rochester, MD, received the ATS's Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her lifetime contribution to the advancement of pulmonary rehabilitation. Rochester continues to serve as the medical director of the pulmonary rehabilitation program for VACHS.

Akgün continues to serve as co-director of the Network of Dedicated Enrollment Sites (NODES) at the West Haven VA, where she shares expertise with other VA systems to

support multi-site research. She also co-authored several publications, including a study in the *Journal of Cardiac Failure* about implementation strategies for ambulatory palliative care for people with heart failure.

Lauren Tobias, MD, the medical director of the Sleep Program for VACHS, received the Early Career Clinician Educator award from the American College of Chest Physicians. She was also appointed chair of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine "Choose Sleep" committee and named editor for the "Sleep Strategies" section of *CHEST Physician*.

Christine Won, MD, MSc, finished her term as president of the Society of Anesthesia and Sleep Medicine and co-authored clinical guidelines relating to screening, diagnosing, and treating obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in pregnancy.

Yvonne Chu, MD, is spearheading a program to expand the use of hypoglossal nerve stimulator therapy for OSA at VACHS.

Sleep medicine faculty published multiple articles this year in high-impact journals, including:

- Chu published a review in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine* on phenotyping in patients with OSA.
- Henry Klar Yaggi, MD, MPH, published an article in *Sleep Breath* on nicotine, alcohol, and caffeine use among people with untreated OSA.
- Brian Koo, MD, published a follow-up study on the prevalence of mild cognitive impairment in Gulf War veterans in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*.

Rheumatology

Evelyn Hsieh, MD, PhD

During 2024, Evelyn Hsieh, MD, PhD, and Joshua Bilsborrow, MD, MHS, helped to coordinate and teach internal medicine residents and medical students in Uganda as part of an International League of Associations for Rheumatology-funded project affiliated with Makerere University/Mulago National Referral Hospital and Uganda Martyrs University/Nsambya Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Hsieh and Bilsborrow worked on this project with Mark Kaddumukasa, MD, PhD; Lillian Tugume, MD, MPH; and Anthony Makhoba, MD, a local physician. A former Yale rheumatology fellow, Trina Pal, MD, MPH, and Abhijeet Danve, MBBS, MD, also gave lectures for this project.

David Podell, MD, PhD, is working closely with the Home-Based Primary Care team at the VA to establish the Rheumatology Home Visits program, which will expand access to rheumatology care for homebound veterans in Connecticut.

SECTION UPDATES

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

Eric J. Velazquez, MD, Section Chief
Daniel Price, MD, Clinical Chief (Ambulatory)
Nihar Desai, MD, MPH, Clinical Chief (Inpatient)



Hattie Chung, PhD

Clinical Care

Cardiovascular clinical volume grew nearly nine percent between fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, and the Section of Cardiovascular Medicine continues to expand and innovate to better meet patients' needs. Cardiovascular medicine faculty members now see patients across the region, from Greenwich, Connecticut, to Westerly, Rhode Island.

Yale New Haven Health recently opened a new Structural Heart hybrid catheterization lab in which some of the section's faculty members treat complex cardiac conditions through minimally invasive procedures. New clinical programs include a dedicated Heart Failure and Palliative Care program and the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Inherited Cardiovascular Disease program.

The section is also building momentum in women's cardiovascular health, including a new Cardiovascular Disease and Pregnancy program that provides comprehensive care for women with heart conditions before, during, and after pregnancy. In the fall of 2024, the section hosted "Heart of the Matter," a one-day symposium to share the latest advances in cardiovascular care for women.

Yale's cardiology programs continue to receive national recognition. The Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program recently received certification from the Adult Congenital Heart Association. As a result of stellar work from the section's faculty, Yale New Haven Hospital was the first and only hospital in Connecticut to receive Transcatheter Valve Certification through the American College of Cardiology.

Research

The section's research portfolio continues to grow, with more than \$224 million in total grant funding, including \$40 million in new funding during the past year.

To build its research portfolio, the Section of Cardiovascular Medicine continues to increase its investment in infrastructure critical to research, including the first next-generation hybrid SPECT/CT imaging system in North America and a sophisticated Dragonfly system tailored for advanced research across multiple imaging modalities. The section also recently established the Cardiovascular Medicine Analytics Center (CMAC) to provide advanced statistical support for researchers in the specialty.

Yale researchers presented their findings at major cardiology conferences and published work in top medical journals. Research highlights include the following:

Hattie Chung, PhD, is pioneering cutting-edge computational and experimental methods to investigate the molecular basis of cellular heterogeneity and tissue organization in health and disease.

Rohan Khera, MD, MS, received an R01 grant for his research examining potential approaches to extracting individualized information from randomized clinical trials. Khera also received a second R01 for his work using artificial intelligence-enhanced tools to improve detection, screening, and care of aortic stenosis. Khera and colleagues published research showing that a new AI-based video biomarker can identify patients who might develop and have rapidly worsening aortic stenosis.

Yuan Lu, ScD, received an R01 grant for her project to analyze real-world data to compare the effectiveness of second antihypertensive agents on major cardiovascular events and their comparative risk of potential drug-related adverse events.

Martin Schwartz, PhD, and **Hanqiang Deng, PhD**, published a paper in *Nature Cardiovascular Research* investigating the cellular remodeling of blood vessels that outward remodel and identifying a potential therapeutic approach to ischemic disease.

Rachel Lampert, MD, published several studies showing that many athletes with certain cardiac conditions, including cardiomyopathy and long QT syndrome, can return to playing sports without high risk. She also co-authored a new expert consensus statement from the Heart Rhythm Society to help guide decision-making on sports participation.

Yibing Qyang, PhD, received an R01 grant to support his research to create an artificial blood vessel in order to change the paradigm of clinical care for single-ventricle congenital heart defects.

Erica Spatz, MD, MHS, published a meta-analysis in *JAMA Network Open* that found clinically significant reductions in systolic blood pressure for individuals who received a digital health intervention.



Cesia Gallegos Kattan, MD, MHS, and Emmanuel Akintoye, MD, MPH

Yale researchers published results from a multicenter, single-arm study assessing the safety and efficacy of the Emboliner, a device designed to protect the brain from debris released during TAVR procedures.

Samit Shah, MD, PhD, and **Alexandra Lansky, MD**, published new studies on the DISCOVER INOCA Registry, a prospective, multicenter study of patients with ischemia in nonobstructive coronary arteries (INOCA). **Carlos Mena-Hurtado, MD**, and **Kim Smolderen, PhD, MSc**, are leading multiple initiatives, including a multicenter study called SCOPE-CLI, about the link between peripheral artery disease and mental health. They also hosted a symposium on new, integrated approaches to vascular care.

Allison Gaffey, PhD, published results of a study of one million young veterans that found patients with insomnia are more likely to develop atrial fibrillation.

Yale researchers found that newer second-line diabetes drugs reduce cardiovascular risk better than older ones.

Education

The section continues to train the next generation of leaders in academic cardiology; it was named one of the world's best universities for cardiac and cardiovascular systems by *U.S. News & World Report*. The section has nearly 60 fellows across a general cardiovascular medicine fellowship and nine advanced fellowship programs.

Faculty Support

As part of its commitment to faculty engagement and belonging, the section held its annual faculty retreat focused on five impact themes: 1) section growth and reputation; 2) financial performance and mission responsibility; 3) faculty alignment and engagement; 4) leadership development; and 5) research and clinical excellence integration.

The section's commitment to the faculty members' academic development remains strong. Four faculty were promoted to the rank of associate professor and five were promoted to professor during the period from September 2023 to September 2024.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Tariq Ali, MD, MBA, won the Fred S. Kantor, MD, Award for Teacher of the Year in the Yale New Haven Health System and was selected as a 2024–2025 Education Scholar Fellow.

Matthew Burg, PhD, was named President of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.

Antonio Giaimo, MD, was awarded the Edwin C. Cadman, MD, Teacher of the Year Award.

Cesia Gallegos Kattan, MD, MHS, and **Attila Feher, MD, PhD**, joined the Early Career Editorial Board of the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology*.

Kattan and Emmanuel Akintoye, MD, MPH, were named program director and associate program director of the Noninvasive Cardiac Imaging Fellowship.

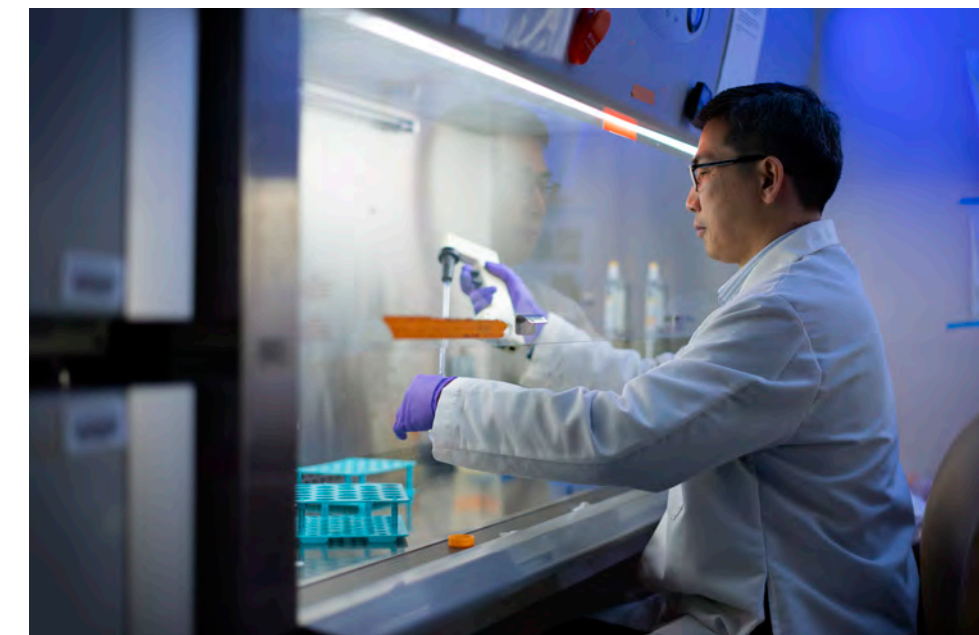
Harlan Krumholz, MD, SM, was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Several other Yale faculty members were named to its editorial board.

Bernardo Lombo, MD, won a Spark Award from the Yale Institute of Global Health for his work to find a better treatment for Chagas disease.

Phyllis Thangaraj, MD, PhD, received the Young Investigator Award from the European Society of Cardiology.

New Faculty

Yale Cardiovascular Medicine continues to grow to meet its tripartite mission, and the past year, it recruited 18 new faculty.



Yibing Qyang, PhD

DIGESTIVE DISEASES

Loren Laine, MD, Section Chief
Thiruvengadam Muniraj, MD, Clinical Chief (Endoscopy)
Hamita Sachar, MD, Clinical Chief (Gastroenterology)
Joseph Lim, MD, Clinical Chief (Hepatology)

Clinical Care

The Section of Digestive Diseases provides outstanding clinical care for patients with a variety of gastrointestinal (GI) and liver disorders. The section continues to improve access to care with new general GI clinics from Westchester, New York, to Westerly, Rhode Island, and across Connecticut.

Jill Gaidos, MD, director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) program, introduced point-of-care ultrasound for the management of IBD patients. Yale is one of a very few sites in the United States certified in point-of-care ultrasound for IBD. The technology allows providers to assess patients for active inflammation in the intestines while the patient is in the clinic instead of waiting for lab results, imaging, or a colonoscopy.

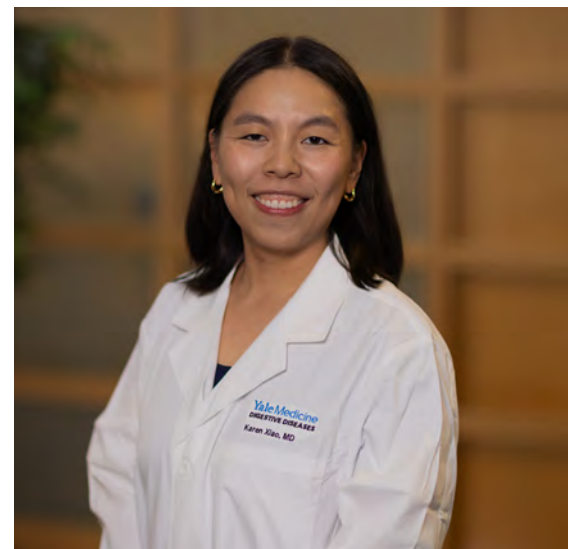
Anil Nagar, MD, is expanding the use of per-oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) across Yale. This revolutionary endoscopic therapy is used in treating patients with such disorders as achalasia, a condition that affects swallowing. This less-invasive approach has a 90 percent long-term success rate for achalasia, matching the efficacy of surgery.

The Irving and Alice Brown Teaching Kitchen at Yale New Haven Health's Digestive Health Center provides hands-on cooking classes to educate patients about healthy eating and cooking to enhance health and manage medical conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, and irritable bowel syndrome.

The Liver Home continues to thrive, providing outpatient, multidisciplinary outpatient care for individuals with advanced liver disease. To support patients' emotional and psychosocial needs, a new pilot program offers behavioral health care, including sobriety support, mental health, and other issues. The Liver Home also expanded its team to include a social worker to help patients with access to food, transportation, and necessities.



Bubu Banini, MD, PhD



Karen Xiao, MD

Research

The Yale Liver Center continues to be a premier research center for hepatology and is one of only three NIH-supported liver centers in the country. It serves as an important core facility for faculty in the Section of Digestive Diseases and throughout Yale School of Medicine.

The section is streamlining its research process to allow for an increase in new studies and improved recruitment, enrollment, and retention of study subjects. The Digestive Health Center in North Haven also makes it easier to conduct research by integrating research with clinical practice to create efficiencies.

Just four years out of fellowship, Bubu Banini, MD, PhD, was awarded a \$3.05 million R01 grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a five-year research project to investigate the feasibility of oral digoxin as a treatment for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH).

Dennis Shung, MD, PhD, led multiple studies investigating the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in digestive care. He led a team that developed the first electronic health record (EHR)-based machine learning model that provides clinical decision support for patients with GI bleeding.

Romina Fiorotto, PhD, and Mario Strazzabosco, MD, PhD, published a study in the *Journal of Hepatology* showing that harmful gut microbiota promoted cystic fibrosis-related liver disease. This study opens new potential avenues for prevention and treatment.

Michael Schilsky, MD, received an R01 grant from the NIH for his research to evaluate a potential biomarker in Wilson disease, an inherited disorder in which excess copper causes progressive injury to the liver, brain, and other organs.

Petr Protiva, MD, MPH, is the local site investigator for the CONFIRM study, the largest single VA clinical trial in history. The study aims to compare the outcomes of two colorectal cancer screening methods, colonoscopy and noninvasive fecal immunochemical test (FIT).

Tamar Taddei, MD, and research fellow Catherine Mezzacappa, MD, MPH, published a study in *JAMA Network Open* that found that continued liver cancer screening—which consists of ultrasound or other liver imaging done every 6 months—for patients who were cured of hepatitis C was associated with a survival benefit through five years after viral cure.

James Farrell, MD, published a review updating the field on the current state of clinical care and research for pancreatic cysts in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Yale researchers developed new testing criteria to help diagnose hereditary stomach cancer. Benjamin Lerner, MD, MHS, presented the work at the annual meeting of the Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer.

Education

The section is committed to excellence in fellowship training, with its large gastroenterology fellowship program as well as advanced fellowships in transplant hepatology, IBD, and advanced endoscopy. Vandana Khungar, MD, has taken over as program director of the transplant hepatology fellowship; Alexander Levy, MD, is now the program

director of the inflammatory bowel disease fellowship; and Matthew McConnell, MD, has recently become the associate program director for research.

The GI LEADER Program, led by Jill Gaidos, MD, aims to increase the number of women in leadership positions across the country by providing leadership training, mentorship, and other support.

The section hosted its inaugural Yale Inflammatory Bowel Disease Conference in April 2024 to provide up-to-date, evidence-based education in the diagnosis and management of inflammatory bowel disease.

New Faculty

Taneisha Grant, MD, assistant professor
Eric Jordan, MD, assistant professor
Fatima Khan, MD, assistant professor
Anamika Reed, MD, assistant professor
Simren Sangha, MD, assistant professor
Asim Ulcay, MD, associate research scientist
Karen Xiao, MD, assistant professor

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Priya Jamidar, MBChB, was selected for the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) Master Endoscopist Award.

Jill Gaidos, MD, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the American College of Gastroenterology.

Tamar Taddei, MD, is the treasurer of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).

Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD, received the 2023 International Mentor Award from the Asociación Latinoamericana para el Estudio del Hígado (ALEH), translated as the Latin American Association of the Study of the Liver; Garcia-Tsao is also a member of the Board of Trustees for AASLD.



Dennis Shung, MD, PhD

ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM

John Wysolmerski, MD, Section Chief
Silvio Inzucchi, MD, Clinical Chief



Sachin Majumdar Jr., MD

Research

Kevan Herold, MD, continues to lead research on teplizumab, the first drug approved to delay type 1 diabetes, revealing the drug's potential to provide umbrella protection from recurrent autoimmune diabetes in patients who receive beta cell transplants. Herold's investigations focus on the mechanisms of operational tolerance induced by teplizumab, which prevents the expansion of autoreactive immune cells that may kill beta cells in the pancreas. His group has also identified mechanisms that protect beta cells. A major effort is underway in his lab to develop inflammation-resistant beta cells that may be used for replacement under the cover of teplizumab in patients with type 1 diabetes. Under the guidance of Ana Luisa Perdigoto, MD, PhD, the Herold lab has also pursued studies of checkpoint-induced diabetes and endocrinopathies.

Ania Jastreboff, MD, PhD, is leading a national conversation about obesity as a disease and its treatment with new and effective weight loss drugs. She was first author on an important study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* documenting that treating obese patients with pre-diabetes with tirzepatide for three years led to a mean 20 percent reduction in body weight that was accompanied by near elimination of conversion to type 2 diabetes. In addition to her scholarly work, this past year, she participated in a special presentation on obesity and its treatment with Oprah Winfrey, helping to dispel myths about obesity, willpower, and weight loss medications.



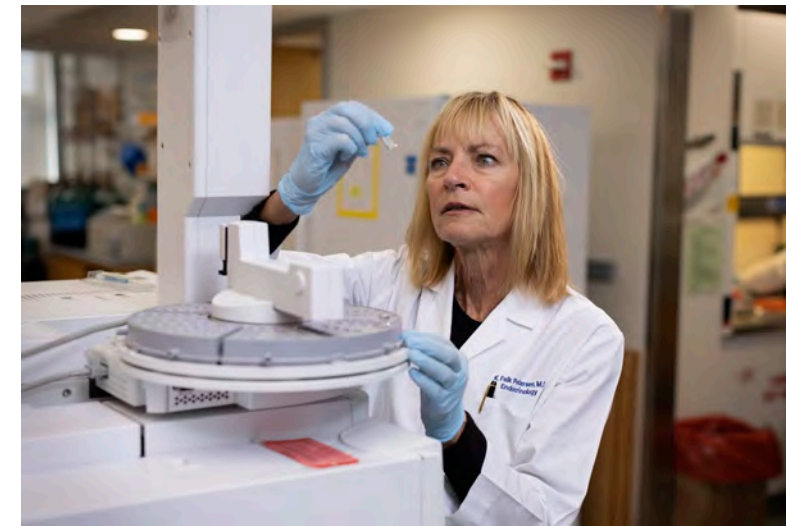
Ana Luisa Perdigoto, MD, PhD

A new study led by Kitt Falk Petersen, MD, and Gerald I. Shulman, MD, PhD, using a novel NMR isotopomer-based method they developed, found that individuals with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver (MASL) and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) burn fat in their livers at the same rate as people without the disease. The researchers also found that increasing blood levels of the glucose-related hormone glucagon stimulates liver fat oxidation in both healthy people and people with MASLD. Their findings suggest the benefit of developing therapies that boost the liver's mitochondrial fat oxidation to reverse MASLD.

Rachel Perry, PhD, conducted research to find out how altering exercise or other behaviors can improve the body's metabolic or nutritional response to cancer. One of her studies showed that the combination of the drug dichloroacetate, which activates glucose oxidation, and immunotherapy reduced cancer-related fatigue in mice. The findings pave the way for future cancer-related fatigue research that may lead to new patient therapies.

Addressing the Diabetes Crisis at a Senate Committee Hearing

Kasia Lipska, MD, MHS, was one of five experts invited to testify at the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing, "What is Fueling the Diabetes Epidemic?" At the hearing, Lipska shared stories and data from her experiences as a clinician to highlight the barriers her



Kitt Falk Petersen, MD

patients face in obtaining treatment. She provided recommendations for making new therapies affordable and spoke about some of the underlying factors that have contributed to the diabetes and obesity epidemics.

New Clinical Director of Yale Bone Center

Peter Tebben, MD, an adult and pediatric endocrinologist, joined Yale as the new clinical director of the Yale Bone Center. Tebben is responsible for the administrative oversight of the center. He also contributes to the clinical and research work of the Yale Center for X-Linked Hypophosphatemia, one of the world's leading programs in this rare disorder of phosphate and bone metabolism. The center's other areas of focus include osteoporosis management; rare bone diseases; and the education of fellows, residents, and medical students.

Adult Endocrinology Fellowship

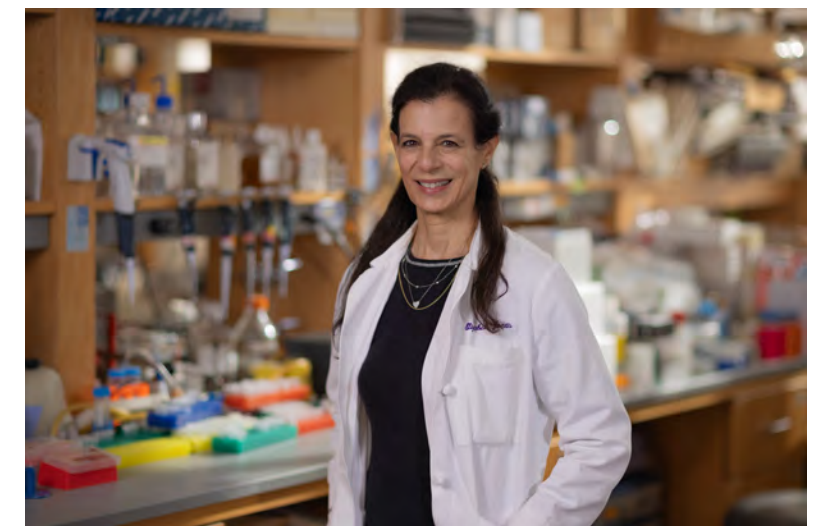
Led by course director Kavya Mekala, MBBS, the Smilow Endocrine Neoplasia Thyroid Biopsy Program trains fellows in ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration of thyroid nodule—an interventional procedural skill required by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The program performs more than one hundred biopsies annually; offers convenient same-day consultations and biopsies, and is highly rated by fellows for educational value and hands-on experience. At the end of fellowship training, all graduating fellows have demonstrated procedural competence, and feel confident in their abilities to perform thyroid biopsies independently, if they so choose in their future clinical practices.

Active Surveillance of Low-Risk Papillary Thyroid Cancers

Sachin Majumdar Jr., MD, created the Active Surveillance Program for Low-Risk Papillary Thyroid Cancers, now available to patients. He partners with Jennifer Ogilvie, MD, who sees patients for surgical consultation, and Margarita Revzin, MD, who created an ultrasound protocol and reads ultrasounds for the program.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Elizabeth Jonas, MD, was named the Harvey and Kate Cushing Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) and was honored with Biophysical Society's 2025 Award in the Biophysics of Health and Disease.
Richard Kibbey, MD, PhD, was named the Ralph H. Ensign Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism).
Gerald Shulman, MD, PhD, received the American Physiological Society's Bodil M. Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award.



Elizabeth Jonas, MD

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Patrick G. O'Connor, MD, MPH, Section Chief
Matthew Ellman, MD, Clinical Chief



Shaali Gupta, MBBS



Kristina Talbert-Slagle, PhD

General Internal Medicine (GIM) encompasses a wide array of experts in clinical care, research, and education. With over 185 faculty and nearly 70 staff, the section continues to grow and thrive.

Clinical Care

As national leaders in their fields, physicians in GIM provide dedicated comprehensive clinical care in both inpatient and outpatient settings in New Haven and across Connecticut, including at the following locations, clinics, and services:

- Yale Internal Medicine Associates (YIMA)
- New Haven Primary Care Consortium (NHPCC)
- The Primary Care Center located at the Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System (VACHS)
- The Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinic
- General Medicine Firms on both YNHH campuses (York Street and SRC)
- General Medicine Firms at VACHS
- Yale Addiction Medicine Consult Service (YAMCS) at YNHH

GIM faculty physicians treat patients with various conditions and medical problems while coordinating comprehensive care with specialists as needed. In addition, GIM focuses on vulnerable populations.

Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Teams (HPACT) of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System (VACHS) in West Haven was developed as a system for providing adequate care for veterans experiencing homelessness. Led by Caroline Falker, MD, the program has successfully extended the scope of VA care within the New Haven catchment area.

Education

The section aims to educate and inspire the next generation of leaders and clinicians in medicine, population health, and public health through education that fosters creativity and critical thought.

GIM holds two weekly faculty meetings, which include GIM grand rounds and a noon meeting with rotating themes. In addition, four full-day retreats are held annually, with one focused on education and the others on research, community engagement, and leadership training.

With a commitment to mentorship, GIM participates in an enhanced faculty mentorship program that provides additional guidance for the career development of junior ladder track faculty. The program is coordinated with the FDAQ program.

The section's four existing fellowship programs—National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP), Occupational Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and Medical Education—have continued to attract outstanding participants and have been supplemented by the creation of two new programs.

An addiction medicine fellowship program for advanced practice providers launched in 2023 and welcomed its first fellow in March 2024. Substance Use Skills Training to Advance INtegrated care (SUSTAIN) aims to strengthen and build upon interdisciplinary addiction medicine training initiatives offered through the Yale Program in Addiction Medicine. The program is led by Kenneth Morford, MD, and Jeanette Tetrault, MD.

In addition, the Adult Hospital Medicine Fellowship was introduced in July of 2024. The new program is designed to provide advanced academic skills for hospitalists. Christopher Sankey, MD, created the program and currently serves as its director.

The following faculty were promoted or appointed to the rank of professor:

Peter Ellis, MD
Jason Fish, MD (voluntary)
Janet Henrich, MD
Benjamin Mba, MBBS
John Moriarty, MD
Lisa Sanders, MD

Research

GIM has a broad portfolio of research programs ranging from chronic disease prevention and management, to clinical epidemiology, cancer outcomes, addiction medicine, pain, occupational and environmental health. Numerous research programs throughout the section have grant support from organizations such as the National



Homeless Patient-Aligned Care Teams (HPACT) van of the VACHS

Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Over the past five years, this group of remarkable investigators has received \$150m+ in grant support.

Research Highlights

A study led by Joseph Ross, MD, MHS, that was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* examined the strength of evidence for surrogate markers used in clinical trials for drugs that were approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The researchers found supporting evidence that these proxies coincide with better disease outcomes.

Two recent studies out of the Yale Collaboration for Regulatory Rigor, Integrity, and Transparency (CRRIT) examined the complicated FDA approval process for cancer drugs and its downstream impacts on patients and clinicians. These studies were led by Maryam Mooghali, MD, MSc, and Reshma Ramachandran, MD, MHS.

Shaali Gupta, MBBS, and Rebecca Slotkin, MD, created an easy-to-use app for broad use to help determine whether an individual should receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster. The tool shows the predicted value of neutralizing antibody in relation to the distance of time of others with similar clinical variables from their vaccine dose.

Kristina Talbert-Slagle, PhD, along with investigators from Yale School of Medicine and the University of Liberia's College of Health Services, sought to better characterize the experiences of collaborators involved in global health work in the setting of post-war, post-Ebola Liberia.

Over the course of the year, many projects were funded, including:
William Becker, MD; Anne Black, PhD; and Sara Edmond, PhD, received \$6 million from the NIH Helping to End Addiction Longterm (HEAL) Initiative to establish a Yale center to improve outcomes in opioid use disorder.
Emily Wang, MD, MAS, received support for a \$20 million initiative from the American Heart Association (AHA) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to engage underrepresented communities in research.

Joseph Ross, MD, MHS, received \$5 million from the FDA for Yale's Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation (CERSI).

E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS, received \$7 million from NIDA to study opioid use disorder (OUD) in women who experience intimate partner violence.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Sandra Alfano, PharmD, and **John Hughes, MD,** retired. **Nancy Angoff, MD, MPH, MEd,** received the Rosemarie L. Fisher, MD, Female Physician Leadership Award at the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) annual meeting.

E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS, was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI).

Benjamin Gallagher, MD, received the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM)'s Northeast Region's Award for Excellence in Clinician Education.

Janet Henrich, MD, was named the 2024 Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM)'s Distinguished Professor of Women & Medicine.

Stephen Huot, MD, PhD, was honored with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Award at the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) annual meeting.

Jeanette Tetrault, MD, was awarded the John P. McGovern Award for Excellence in Medical Education at the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) annual conference in November 2023.

Daniel G. Tobin, MD, FACP, was elected to serve as the next governor of the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP).

GERIATRICS

Terri Fried, MD, Section Chief



Terri Fried, MD

As medical advancements enable patients to live longer, providing patient-centered care for aging adults is a critical skill for the physician workforce.

Embedded within Yale Geriatrics is age-friendly education. The framework centers around the 4Ms: (What) Matters Most, Mentation, Medication, and Mobility. Mary Tinetti, MD, was one of the leaders who developed the 4Ms through an initiative of the John A. Hartford Foundation and Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

The Connecticut Older Adult Collaboration for Health (COACH) 4M project, led by Richard Marottoli, MD, MPH, was awarded a \$5 million grant renewal to educate and train health care and supportive care workers to care for older adults by collaborating with community partners. One of the key aims for the project is incorporating geriatric education at Chinle Health Center, an Indian Health Service facility, in Arizona. Along with providers at Chinle, COACH is working with the International Association for Indigenous Aging to design education that is culturally appropriate and incorporates the traditions and beliefs of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

COACH is building upon the work from the last award cycle, including piloting a service navigator program in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging. The program streamlines care for patients and families by giving them a

direct line to a professional who can connect them to services at various agencies. COACH is also striving to expand the nursing home workforce, which has had a longstanding challenge in training and retaining workers. This project works in collaboration with nursing homes, community agencies, and the Connecticut State Community College system.

Age-friendly education has been introduced to both medical student and resident curricula. Jennifer Ouellet, MD, is working with residents to adapt curriculum to provide age-friendly care, including deprescribing medications in-line with what matters most to patients.

Barry Wu, MD, has introduced geriatrics education centered around the 4Ms to first-year medical students. In the students' capstone course, they focus on understanding what matters most through Patient Priorities Care, an approach to care primarily designed for older adults with multiple chronic conditions.

Clinical Care

Open since 1981, the Dorothy Adler Geriatric Assessment Center is one of the oldest centers of its kind. It offers a valuable service: comprehensive geriatrics assessments, which address cognition, mobility, health priorities, and more.

To meet growing needs, leaders of Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Hospital collaborated to enhance the center's efficiency by optimizing schedule, structure, and flow. The center now has advanced practice providers five days a week to support case managers, provide continuity, and handle urgent patient issues. Procedures and documentation have been streamlined. In the last year alone, the center has increased its capacity by 18 percent and reduced wait times from three to four months to three to four weeks. Read more about the Adler Center on page 18.

Patient Priorities Care (PPC), an age-friendly approach to care for older adults with multiple chronic conditions led by Tinetti, has continued to gain attention. Starting with focusing decision-making on what matters most to older adults, PPC then addresses medication, mentation and mobility. Older adults first identify their health priorities using an open-access web tool, MyHealthPriorities.org. The site was originally developed in-house in 2016 but has recently been revamped through a collaboration with University of Texas Health Houston. After an older adult's health priorities are identified, they can share their health priorities summary with their health care team, who can align their care around those priorities.

PPC is spreading across the nation—over 300 facilities have health professionals trained in PPC, including nearly all Veterans Affairs sites and a growing presence with the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, a Medicare and Medicaid program.

Research

The 4M framework strongly informs the section's research, which seeks to improve the lives of older adults with studies designed to inform clinical care based on common issues.

Medication: Marcia Mecca, MD, is leading research in deprescribing, the systematic discontinuation of medications when the risks outweigh the benefits. By prioritizing patient



Richard Marottoli, MD, MPH

trust and personalizing treatment plans, the research team maintains that clinicians can manage polypharmacy in older adults more effectively, leading to better health outcomes and enhanced patient well-being. Mecca also directs the IMPROVE Polypharmacy Clinic as part of the Veteran Affairs (VA) Connecticut Healthcare System Center of Education for Interprofessional Primary Care.

Matters Most: Andrew Cohen, MD, is researching complex health care decision making for individuals with severe dementia who live in nursing homes and their caregivers. Cohen's study examined the receipt of high-intensity medical treatments among these individuals despite their limited benefits and distress. The team found that the complex

nature of these medical choices can be burdensome for surrogate decision-makers and that the systems-level challenges within general medical practice can move high-intensity forward.

Mobility: Thomas Gill, MD, is studying the effects of surgical intervention on mobility and functional outcomes through collaboration with the Department of Surgery.

Mentation: Brienne Miner, MD, MHS, is evaluating the effect of sleep impairments on functional outcomes of older adults.



Barry Wu, MD

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Erol Fikrig, MD, Section Chief
Vincent Quagliariello, MD, Clinical Chief



Onyema Ogbuagu, MBBCh

Malaria Drug Development

Choukri Ben Mamoun, PhD, and a team of researchers discovered a chemical compound, MED6-189, that is a strong inhibitor of parasites resistant to commonly used antimalarial drugs. To develop a new drug that is easy to produce, effective, and potent against both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant strains of the malaria parasite, researchers from academic labs at Yale School of Medicine, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of California, Riverside, used a multidisciplinary approach to understand how MED6-189 works. MED6-189 holds significant promise as an antimalarial because it targets multiple biological processes, thus lowering the probability that the parasite develops resistance against it.

HIV Prevention

Results of an interim analysis from a Phase III clinical trial led by Yale site principal investigator Onyema Ogbuagu, MBBCh, showed that lenacapavir, a twice-yearly injectable medication for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), is highly effective in preventing new HIV infections. Lenacapavir showed 96 percent prevention efficacy compared to background incidence rates and was 89 percent more effective than oral therapies for HIV prevention. 99.9 percent of participants taking the drug in the study did not acquire HIV infection. Lenacapavir has been widely heralded as a “game-changer” for the PrEP field because of its efficacy and infrequent dosing.

Understanding the Interaction Between Disease Vectors and Hosts

Erol Fikrig, MD, and researchers in the Fikrig Lab have shown that a mosquito salivary protein binds to an immune molecule in humans, facilitating infection in human skin by transmitted viruses. The discovery provides insights into how disease vectors—like mosquitoes—and hosts—like humans—interact. The findings could lead to the development of new therapies, including vaccines that prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

Long COVID Symptom: Brain Fog

Researchers tested a large cohort of people living with Long COVID for spinal fluid markers of brain inflammation and blood-brain-barrier dysfunction. Led by Shelli Farhadian, MD, PhD, the study found no evidence of overt cerebrospinal fluid inflammation or blood-brain barrier dysfunction among patients with Long COVID, suggesting that neuroinflammation is unlikely to be the cause of the neuropsychiatric symptoms (also known as “brain fog”) associated with Long COVID. The team plans to further examine the biological underpinnings of the neuropsychiatric symptoms of Long COVID.

Introducing the Nation’s First Mobile Retail Pharmacy and Clinic

With federal funding, Sandra Springer, MD, led the implementation of the nation’s first mobile retail pharmacy and clinic to bring health care to people where they live. InMOTION, which serves communities across Connecticut, provides the following mobile services:

- Filling medication prescriptions and administering vaccinations
- Clinical care via telehealth and in-person visits
- Phlebotomy (blood draw) services
- Primary care health services and care for such chronic diseases as diabetes and high blood pressure
- Specialty services for wound care and infectious diseases (e.g., HIV and hepatitis C testing)
- Addiction services, including treatment for opioid and alcohol use disorder and naloxone distribution for overdose reversal
- Mental health care
- Social service assistance for housing applications, and financial navigation



Erol Fikrig, MD, and Keith Calloway

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Infectious Diseases Community Dedicated to Equity and Excellence in Health for All (ID2EA) published a study led by Shana Gleeson, MD, in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, describing and evaluating a professional development curriculum on social and structural contributors to health disparities.



Shana Gleeson, MD

Addressing HIV Transmission in Ukraine

A collaboration between researchers at Yale and the Alliance for Public Health in Ukraine has found that organizations providing critical interventions against HIV transmission have been put under significant strain due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. They found that demand for syringe services programs has substantially increased due to pharmacy closures and increased illicit drug use amid the stresses of war. Frederick Altice, MD, and the study’s co-authors propose that collective strategizing and data sharing between organizations providing syringe services in Ukraine can lower the barriers to HIV prevention services.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Amit Achhra, MD, MPH, PhD, received the Stephen J. Huot, MD, PhD, Award for Dedication and Excellence.

Dana Dunne, MD, MHS, was honored with the American College of Physicians George F. Thornton Teaching Award.

Shelli Farhadian, MD, PhD, received the Dr. John N. Forrest, Jr., Mentorship Award.

Onyema Ogbuagu, MBBCh, was selected to be a scientific member of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents.

Joseph Vinetz, MD, was recognized with a Yale Faculty Innovation Award.

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGY

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, Section Chief

The sections of Medical Oncology and Hematology merged to become one section in early 2025. Stephanie Halene, MD, Dr Med, led the section of Hematology for over five years. The new structure, led by Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD, will enhance collaboration and maximize efficiency among faculty members focused on cancer.



Elizabeth Prsic, MD

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Clinical Care

This year, Medical Oncology faculty continued to expand the Cellular Therapies Program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. This program allows patients early access to novel cellular therapies, including CAR T cell and tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte therapies.

Harold Tara, Jr., MD, led a team that achieved a three-year full reaccreditation of the Smilow Cancer Hospital from the Commission on Cancer, a program of the American College of Surgeons. The Commission on Cancer recognized Smilow for applying a multidisciplinary approach to treating cancer, with patient access to clinical trials, screening and prevention expertise; palliative care, genetic counseling, rehabilitation, oncology nutrition, and survivorship services.

Research

Jill Lacy, MD, Michael Cecchini, MD, and colleagues published a study in *JAMA Oncology* showing that patients with pancreatic cancer who received chemotherapy both before and after surgery experienced longer survival rates than would be expected from surgery followed by chemotherapy.

Elizabeth Prsic, MD, and Jensa Morris, MD, jointly led a study finding that patients cared for by a hospitalist-led service were more likely to be discharged to an inpatient hospice, and spent significantly less time in the hospital before transitioning to hospice, promoting timelier patient-centered care.

Daniel Petrylak, MD, led a Phase I/II clinical trial that showed promising results for ARV-766 or Proteolysis-targeting chimera (PROTAC), a new therapy for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). Petrylak presented the findings at the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting.

Jeffrey Ishizuka, MD, is the senior author of a retrospective study of patients with metastatic melanoma who died after receiving immunotherapy. The study described factors associated with melanoma mortality, and demonstrated the need for improved treatments and early palliative care support for patients.

Eric Winer, MD, along with co-investigators Sanjay Aneja, MD; Ilana Richman, MD, MHS; Elizabeth Berger, MD, MS; Rachel Greenup, MD, MPH; and Lucila Ohno-Machado, MD, PhD, received a research grant from the American Cancer Society and Yosemite, an oncology-focused venture capital firm, to support research using artificial intelligence to reduce breast cancer overtreatment among older women.

David Rimm, MD, PhD, and colleagues developed a new sensitive test that suggests more than 60 percent of patients with lung cancer have adequate HER2 protein to benefit from trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd), a cancer drug that targets the biomarker.

A study co-authored by Rimm identified two ribosomal RNA genes that may be potential biomarkers of patient response to immunotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The study was published in the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer*.

A team of Yale researchers led by Lucia Jilaveanu, MD, PhD, published a study in *Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences* investigating vascular mimicry to better understand its role in the outgrowth of melanoma brain metastases and their poor response to current cancer treatments.

Herbst presented the results of a study that found patients with Stage III NSCLC who received an immunotherapy-based treatment combination had encouraging results in a Phase II clinical trial.



Eric Winer, MD

A study by a group of Yale researchers examined more than 1,000 human proteins to identify causes of T cell exclusion, and found that phospholipase A2 group X (coded by the PLA2G10 gene) is more prevalent in cancerous tissue compared with normal tissue, making it a potential target for further research. The study was published in *Science Immunology*.

Sarah Goldberg, MD, MPH, and Amin Nassar, MD, co-led a study that found patients with NSCLC and an epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) gene mutation had improved survival outcomes with EGFR receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors (EGFR TKIs) after being treated with chemoradiation, compared to durvalumab, which has been the standard of care.

Education

The Medical Oncology-Hematology Fellowship program continues to grow and attract excellent trainees who leave well-prepared for lifelong careers in academic medicine. This year, several of the program's fellows received awards from ASCO and American Society of Hematology (ASH) for their contributions to research and clinical care. In May 2024, the fellows presented their research at the annual Yale Medical Oncology-Hematology Fellowship Research Seminar.

Investigators lead three National Cancer Institute-funded Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) programs focused on head and neck cancer, skin cancer, and lung cancer. This past year, the Yale SPORE in Lung Cancer program celebrated the 20th anniversary of the discovery of EGFR mutations in lung cancer and looked to the future of treatment for patients with this disease. The Yale Head and Neck SPORE hosted a symposium to discuss recent advances in research on topics including such topics as novel targets, immunology, and racial disparities.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Patricia M. LoRusso, DO, PhD, was elected president of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for 2024–2025.

Vincent DeVita, Jr., MD, was named the Giants of Cancer Care® Michael J. Hennessy Visionary Award Winner for 2024.

Barbara Burtness, MD, Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH, and **Pamela Kunz, MD**, were named Fellows of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Ishizuka received a Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI).

Goldberg received a 2023 Class of '61 Cancer Research Award in recognition of significant accomplishments in cancer research at the Yale Cancer Center.

HEMATOLOGY

Clinical Care

Access to patient care for hematologic issues continues to improve and expand. New patient visits for both malignant and classical hematology have increased in number, while transplant cellular therapies and autologous, allogenic, and cell therapies are used more frequently.

This year, hematology faculty members began delivering the first-ever gene therapy for sickle cell disease approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Because the treatment requires advanced care, Smilow Cancer Hospital is one of only a few dozen medical centers authorized to deliver this groundbreaking—and potentially curative—treatment for sickle cell disease.

Hematology faculty members took on new leadership roles within the Yale Cancer Center. Amer Zeidan, MBBS, is the inaugural Chief of the Hematologic Malignancies Program; Alfred Lee, MD, PhD, is the Chief of the Classical Hematology Program; and Stephanie Halene, MD, Dr Med, is Chief of the Division of Translational Hematology.

Research

The Yale Hematology Tissue Bank continues to grow exponentially; it now has more than 9,000 tissue samples from more than 4,400 patients available for biomedical research. With so many samples available, faculty and staff are using artificial intelligence to better annotate tissue bank samples and provide more detailed information to researchers. This work has led to a 25 percent increase in researchers using the repository. The tissue bank is managed by Jennifer VanOudenhove, PhD, and Martin Matthews, and overseen by Halene.



Jennifer VanOudenhove, PhD

Under the leadership of Markus Müschen, MD, PhD, the Center for Molecular and Cellular Oncology continues to grow. External research funding doubled over the last year, and the Center now has six core members, along with many students, postdocs, and faculty mentees.

Halene and other Yale colleagues received an NIH U01 award to establish the Center for Human Lymphoma Spatiotemporal Atlas (HuLymSTA) to construct an atlas of human lymphomas in transforming indolent to aggressive cancer.

The Lancet published results of a Phase III, multinational study by Zeidan, which found that imetelstat, a first-in-class telomerase inhibitor, leads to durable independence of red blood cell transfusions and a significant improvement in anemia in patients with certain rare blood cancers. The FDA approved imetelstat in June 2024.

Anish Sharda, MD, MPH, presented new research at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) annual meeting on novel and innovative methods to treat von Willebrand disease, the most common bleeding disorder.

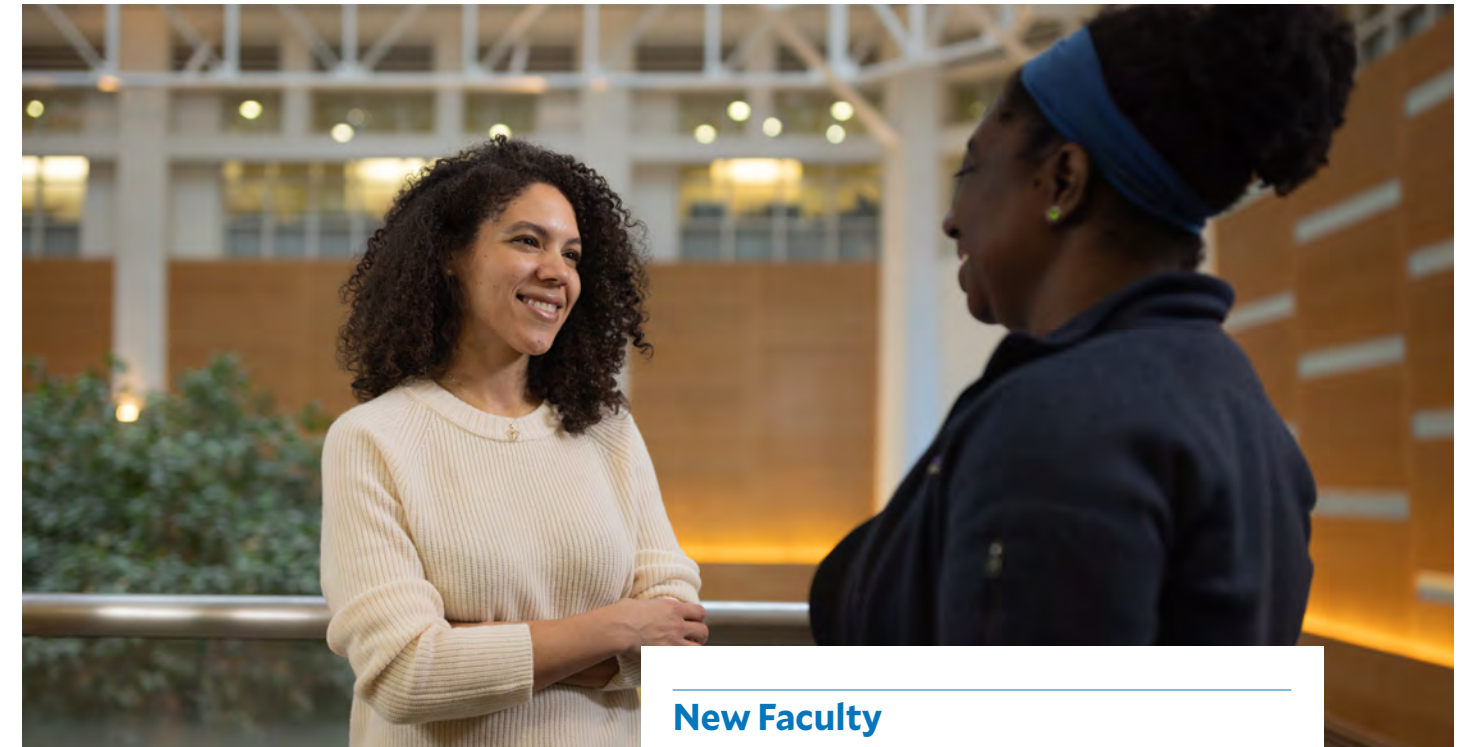
Ash Alpert, MD, MFA, published a study in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* showing that transgender people experienced high rates of violence and distress, both of which are associated with cancer risk factors and cancer. Alpert also published recommendations for clinicians and researchers to improve the safety, privacy, and accuracy of sexual orientation and gender identity data collection.

George Goshua, MD, MSc, and colleagues found that while new gene therapy for sickle cell disease does not meet traditional cost-effectiveness standards, it does satisfy distributional cost-effectiveness standards—an approach that takes health equity into quantitative consideration. The study was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Prajwal Boddu, MD, was awarded a K08 grant from NIH/NIDDK to support research on therapeutic targeting of transcription-driven epigenetic defects in SF3B1 mutant myelodysplastic syndromes.

Manyi Wei, PhD, was awarded a Special Fellow Award from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for his work investigating METTL3 inhibition in leukemia.

Three hematology faculty members received funding awards from the DeLuca Center for Innovation in Hematology Research: Sharda received funding to support research on gene therapy for von Willebrand disease; Layla Van Doren, MD, MBA, received funding to support research on unmet needs in pregnant persons with sickle cell disease; and Justine Ryu, MD, received a career development award for the use of large-scale genomic sequencing data to characterize high-impact hereditary thrombophilias.



Layla Van Doren, MD, MBA and Jennifer Afranie-Sakyi, MD

New Faculty

Jan Philipp Bewersdorf, MD, assistant professor, Leukemia Program
Gena Foster, MD, assistant professor, Classical Hematology Program
Coraline Mlynarczyk, PhD, assistant professor of medicine

Education

Yale is one of nine sites nationwide designated to receive the highly competitive ASH Hematology-Focused Fellowship Training Program (HFFTP) award. The HFFTP program is an innovative, \$19 million pilot program sponsored by ASH. It developed out of work led by physicians at Yale in collaboration with ASH, highlighting deficits in the hematology workforce, particularly in classical hematology. Fellows receive rigorous clinical and research training and dedicated mentorship from some of the world's leading specialists and investigators in classical hematology.

Robert Bona, MD, led a bidirectional educational exchange with hematologist Christine Sekaggya-Wiltshire, MBChB, PhD, who heads the hematology section at the Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

Shaping the Field of Hematology

Faculty members are consistently called on to offer their expertise to shape clinical guidelines and practice for hematologists across the United States:

Goshua is a member of the ASH Clinical Practice Guidelines on Iron Deficiency Anemia and the ASH Patient Decision Aid Steering Group.

Halene is an expert on the ASH Committee on Hematopoiesis. **Alexander Pine, MD, PhD**, is a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's clinical guidelines panel for Cancer-Associated Venous Thromboembolic Disease.

Ryu, and Lee are members of the Clinical Genome Hemostasis/Thrombosis Gene Curation Expert Panel.

Van Doren is an expert for the ASH Clinical Practice Guidelines on Iron Deficiency Anemia.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Tarun Tyagi, PhD, received the 2024 JH Milstone Award in Hematology, which supports early-stage investigators and innovative research that improves understanding of bleeding, thrombosis, or thrombolysis.

Jennifer Afranie-Sakyi, MD, was selected by ASH to participate as one of nine outstanding fellows in the 2024 ASH Minority Hematology Fellows Award.

Lee was named Vice Chair of the ASH Committee on Training.

Halene was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE).

Cece Calhoun, MD, MBA, was named co-director of the ASH Clinical Research Training Institute for Latin America.

Kelsey Martin, MD, was selected as an alternate delegate for ASH to the American Medical Association House of Delegates.

Van Doren was named a faculty member of the ASH Medical Educators Institute.

NEPHROLOGY

Shuta Ishibe, MD, Section Chief (Interim)
Jeffrey Turner, MD, Clinical Chief



Jeffrey Turner, MD

New Leadership

Stefan Somlo, MD, stepped down as section chief in September 2024 after 21 years in the role. Shuta Ishibe, MD, assumed the role of interim section chief while a nationwide search was conducted.

Aldo Peixoto, MD, stepped down as clinical chief in April 2025 to pursue another opportunity outside of Yale, and Jeffrey Turner, MD, was selected by a faculty committee as the new clinical chief for the section.

Research

Nephrology research activities cover a broad range of topics from acute kidney injury (AKI), polycystic kidney disease (PKD) mechanisms and repair, to clinical trials on hypertension and kidney transplantation outcomes.

Highlighted studies include:

Researchers identified an unsuspected gene, Glis2, as a target of PKD signaling in preclinical models; the gene may also be a new target for the treatment of the disease. Co-first authors were Michael Rehman, PhD; Xin Tian, MD; and Chao Zhang, PhD with Somlo as a corresponding author.

The Kidney Action Team (KAT) project is a multi-center, randomized, controlled trial that assessed the impact of automated AKI alerts coupled with personalized recommendations for hospitalized adults with AKI. F. Perry Wilson, MD, is the principal investigator (PI). The researchers found that recommendations from the KAT team did not prevent worse outcomes compared to usual care.

A study led by Wilson and Abinet Aklilu, MD, MPH, found that adults with COVID-19 who develop AKI have a lower risk of kidney disease progression and mortality over the longer term compared to those with AKI related to other causes.

The Kidney Biobank, a biorepository, was established in 2020 by Dennis Moledina, MD, PhD, to support translational research focused on understanding the pathophysiology of and therapies for kidney disease. As of September 2024, the repository has 40,000 aliquots of samples dating back to 2015, including plasma, urine supernatant, urine pellets, DNA, and kidney biopsy tissue. Learn more on page 13.

The Hepatorenal Syndrome Multi-Center Academic Collaborative, also known as HRS-HARMONY, is a research consortium co-founded by Justin Belcher, MD, PhD. A recent study from the consortium looked at the impact of AKI treatment response on survival and liver transplant rates in hospitalized patients with cirrhosis waitlisted for liver transplant (LT). Investigators found that response of AKI to therapy is associated with an improved 90-day survival rate, despite a reduced LT rate and longer time to transplantation.

A multi-center clinical trial titled, "Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy of AntiBKV as Treatment of BKV Infection in Kidney Transplant Recipients," is underway. Participants are given the antibody and monitored for assessment of efficacy. William Asch, MD, PhD, participated in the protocol design of this national trial and is the Yale PI for the study.

Asch and Richard Formica, MD, are sub-principal investigators for a clinical trial on the use of biomarkers in identifying transplant recipients at low-risk of rejection. Patients who meet the criteria of having low immunological risk will be randomized to continue on conventional therapy with tacrolimus or to switch to abatacept. Asch is also leading a substudy of the cognitive consequences in patients taking tacrolimus. Study participants will be given assessments before and after randomization on such reported cognitive symptoms, such as "brain fog," and undergo neurocognitive evaluations using the iPad-administered NIH Toolbox Cognitive Function Battery.

BaxHTN, a clinical trial led by Jeffrey Turner, MD, is enrolling patients with treatment-resistant hypertension to test baxdrostat, an investigational drug. Baxdrostat is part of a novel class of medications used to lower blood pressure called aldosterone synthase inhibitors (ASIs).

Selected projects:

Wilson received \$568k in funding from Amgen for "PRagmatic Trial Of Messaging to Providers about Treatment of HyperLIPIDemia: The PROMPT-Lipid Multicenter Registry Study."

Ishibe received \$258k in funding from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) for "Role of LRP1 in Podocyte Biology."

Whitney Besse, MD, received \$253k in funding from NIDDK for "Vivo Investigation of PKD1."



Abinet Aklilu, MD, MPH, and F. Perry Wilson, MD

Clinical Care

A new inpatient service opened on the Saint Raphael Campus, increasing the section's visibility across YNH. The section also expanded its footprint and increased access to renal care by opening a new office at Park Avenue in Trumbull. This is the second location in Fairfield County, after Long Ridge Medical Center in Stamford. Other Yale Nephrology sites are located in New Haven, North Haven, Old Saybrook, and New London.

The Yale Medicine Polycystic Kidney Disease Program expanded its care team to include other specialists across YSM to provide clinical expertise and comprehensive care in multiple disciplines.

Education

Yale Nephrology offers four tracks within the nephrology fellowship, along with an additional year of training in transplant nephrology.

The Nephrology Fellowship welcomed Arundati Rao, MBBS, as associate program director. The Onco-Nephrology pathway added new leaders: Anushree Shirali, MD; Deepa Jayaram, MBBS; and Teresa Joseph, DO.

In conjunction with the Office of Global Health, the nephrology global health rotation relaunched with partners in Kampala, Uganda. Second year fellows are eligible to participate in the six-week rotation in which they are both learners and colleagues caring for patients with kidney disease in under-served communities.

The Yale Summer Undergraduate Medical Research (SUMR) program, established and directed by Ishibe, offers intensive 10-week training program in modern methods of kidney, urology, and hematology research in order to encourage undergraduate students to pursue careers in biomedical research. In 2024, Ishibe and Somlo traveled to Charlottesville, Virginia with 14 students for an annual symposium at the University of Virginia. Students presented a poster of their research.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Peter S. Aronson, MD, gave the Lee E. Farr MD Endowed Lectureship at YSM's annual Student Research Day in May 2024.

Asch received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Kidney Foundation of Connecticut in March 2024.

Ursula Brewster, MD, was elected vice chair of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN)'s Workforce and Training Committee.

Susan T. Crowley, MD, MBA, received the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) Engagement and Advocacy Award in the Public Service.

Formica became president of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) in July 2024.

Ladan Golestaneh, MD, received the ASN's Distinguished Clinical Service Award.

Madhav Menon, MBBS, MD, and **Wilson** were elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI).

Mark Perazella, MD, retired in December of 2023 as professor emeritus of medicine.



Shuta Ishibe, MD

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE AND SLEEP MEDICINE

Naftali Kaminski, MD, Section Chief
Jonathan Siner, MD, Clinical Chief



Melissa Knauert, MD, PhD

Yale's Section of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine (Yale-PCCSM) continues to deliver exceptional patient care, perform cutting-edge research, and develop the careers of trainees and early-career faculty to advance pulmonary, critical care, sleep medicine, and science.

Research

This past year, Yale-PCCSM groups in pulmonary fibrosis, asthma, and critical care published several paradigm-shifting papers.

Using state-of-the-art single-cell profiling technology, researchers in the lab of Naftali Kaminski, MD, measured the gene expressions of individual peripheral blood mononuclear cells in patients with and without idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The team subsequently identified previously unreported populations of cytotoxic T cells in the blood of patients with fibrotic hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

In order to advance precision medicine in asthma management, Geoffrey Chupp, MD, and Gabriella Wilson, MD, discovered that while children treated with mepolizumab had lower overall levels of sputum eosinophils, those with elevated levels of two subtypes of sputum eosinophils experienced exacerbations.

Expanding a new area of critical care research, Melissa Knauert, MD, PhD, investigated circadian disruption among patients in the intensive care unit, to increase understanding of the impact of such environmental cues such as light exposure, mobility, and food intake on patient recovery.

For the last six years, the section has published more than 180 papers annually. To see all papers published by Yale-PCCSM members this year, scan the QR code.



New Program in Geriatric Critical Care

The Research to Improve ICU Outcomes Among Older Adults (RECOVER) Program aims to improve the care and outcomes of older adults in the intensive care units (ICUs). Led by Lauren Ferrante, MD, MHS, the program's work bridges the fields of critical care medicine and geriatrics to improve the understanding of patient-centered outcomes, and develop interventions for older adults in the ICU or who have survived critical illness or are given care in an ICU.

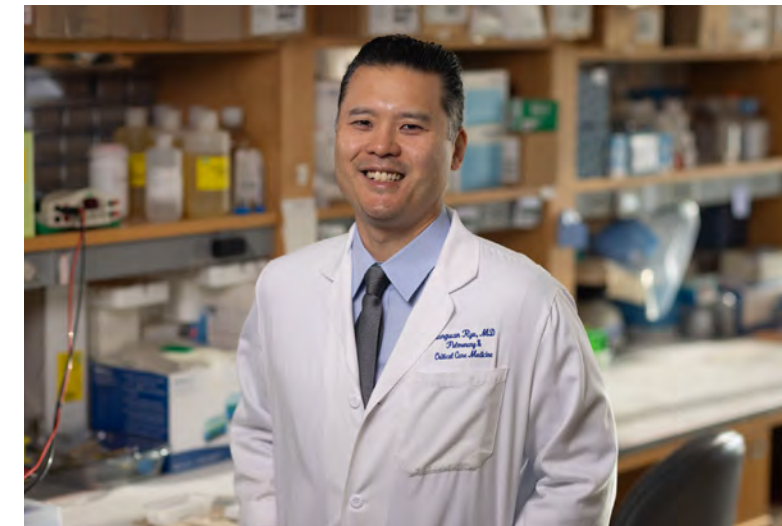
Fellowships and Training

Yale-PCCSM prepares physicians and non-MD researchers to be future leaders in academic pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. In 2024, the section had 30 fellows: 19 in pulmonary and critical care medicine; five in critical care medicine; four in sleep medicine; one in interventional pulmonary medicine; and one in pulmonary vascular disease. Clemente Britto-Leon, MD, was named program director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship.

Jean Paul Higuero-Sevilla, MD, and Lauren Tobias, MD, worked closely with pulmonologists from the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, in Uganda, who came to Yale for clinical observerships as part of the Makerere University/Yale University collaboration.



Sandra Zaeh, MD



Wonnie Ryu, MD, MPH

Yale Center for Asthma and Airway Disease Adds New Programs

Known for providing world-class medical treatment and conducting innovative research, the Yale Center for Asthma and Airway Disease, directed by Chupp, expanded its focus to include bronchiectasis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Ashley Losier, MD, directs the bronchiectasis program, and Sebastian Kurz, MD, PhD, directs the COPD clinic.

Faculty Promotions

The following faculty members were promoted during the period from September 2023 to September 2024:

PROFESSOR:
Hilary Cain, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR:
Kyle Bramley, MD; Clemente Britto-Leon, MD;
Astha Chichra, MBBS; Elaine Fajardo, MD;
Lauren Ferrante, MD, MHS; Aydin Pinar, MD;
Inderjit Singh, MBChB

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:
Giuliana Cerro Chiang, MD, MSc;
Jacqueline Geer, MD, MHS; Kathleen McAvoy, MD;
Christopher Morton, MD; Parvati Singh, MD;
Sandra Zaeh, MD, MS; Fatima Zeba, MD

New Faculty

Three new faculty members were recruited to advance the section's work in lung disease research, education, and patient care: **Alexander Ghincea, MD; Gabriella Wilson, MD; and Sebastian Kurz, MD, PhD.**

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Ferrante received a research project grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Higuero-Sevilla, MD, was selected as a Yale Center for Medical Education Education Scholar Fellow (ESF).

Snigdha Jain, MD, MHS, was chosen for the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research Emerging Career Award.

Kaminski received the Morgagni Award from the Morgagni Pulmonary Diseases Association, in Italy.

Melissa Knauert, MD, PhD, obtained the Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP) designation from CHEST.

Kurz was named a Distinguished CHEST Educator.

Losier was selected as a Yale Center for Medical Education Scholar Fellow (ESF).

Denyse Lutchmansingh, MBBS, obtained the FCCP designation from CHEST.

Margaret Pisani, MD, MPH, was named a Distinguished CHEST Educator.

Carolyn Rochester, MD, received the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Thomas L. Petty Distinguished Pulmonary Scholar Award and the ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation Lifetime Achievement Award.

Wonnie Ryu, MD, MPH, received the American Society for Clinical Investigation Council Young Physician-Scientist Award.

Tobias received a CHEST Early Career Clinician Educator Award and was named a Distinguished CHEST Educator.

Andrey Zinchuk, MD, MHS, received the ATS Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology James B. Skatrud New Investigator Award.



Snigdha Jain, MD, MHS

RHEUMATOLOGY, ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Richard Bucala, MD, PhD, Section Chief
Christina Price, MD, Clinical Chief (Allergy and Immunology)
Vaidehi Chowdhary, MBBS, MD, Clinical Chief (Rheumatology)



Insoo Kang, MD

of the body's immune system. The program focuses on evaluating, diagnosing, and managing patients with primary immunodeficiency or immunoregulation through in-depth genetic and immunological laboratory tests. In addition to patient care, the program seeks to advance the understanding of immunodeficiency through basic research.

New Faculty

The section welcomed four new members: Shane Murray, BMBS (MSK, ultrasound); Lais Osmani, MD (molecular informatics); Amaad Rana, MD (medical education) and Katelyn Wong, MD (food allergies).

Allergy and Immunology

Ami Belmont, MD, continues to research the epidemiology of drug allergies; she uses risk stratification tools to aid in drug allergy evaluations. She is performing a mixed methods study using implementation science to improve access to preferred antibiotic treatments in immunocompromised patients.

Elise Liu, MD, PhD, furthered her investigations into the ways in which a rare cell type called invariant natural killer T cells can lead to the production of antibodies against food in the context of food allergy.

The new Yale Primary Immunodeficiency Program, directed by Junghee (Jenny) Shin, MD, PhD, serves adult and pediatric patients with symptoms indicating a disruption

AI in Medicine

Eugenia Chock, MD, MPH, is developing AI to remove barriers to diagnosing and addressing autoimmune diseases in women. Her goal is to create an algorithm to help identify ANA-positive patients who are at higher risk of developing an autoimmune disorder. Chock's research focuses on maternal health and offspring outcomes among patients with rheumatic diseases.

Global Health

The Yale Rheumatology Program in Global and Community Health provides a network for faculty and trainees striving to better understand how different geographic conditions; health system disparities; and ethnic, genetic, and environmental variability uniquely influence the epidemiology and outcomes of rheumatologic and musculoskeletal diseases. Led by Evelyn Hsieh, MD, PhD, the program emphasizes equity, sustainability, and innovation across its various initiatives, which include education and international training exchanges.



Lisa Korn, MD, PhD

Community Outreach

Fotios Koumpouras, MD, co-founder of the combined rheumatology/dermatology clinic, is raising community awareness of treatment options and clinical trials for lupus through local fundraisers, educational forums, and a trials buddy program, among other outreach activities across Connecticut. One of the clinic's main goals is to overcome barriers to clinical trials, including distrust of the medical establishment in communities of color.

Developing National Guidelines

Lenore Buckley, MD, MPH, Vaidehi Chowdhary, MBBS, MD, and Monique Hinchcliff, MD, MS, participated in drafting the latest American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) Guideline for the Screening and Monitoring of Interstitial Lung Disease in People with Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases.

Chowdhary is part of the team that developed ACR clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of lupus nephritis.

New Rheumatology Endowment

The Endowed Catalyst Fund in Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology was created through the generosity of the family of one of Chowdhary's patients who received multidisciplinary specialty care for autoimmune rheumatic disease. As the gift grows over time to become an increasingly important source of support for the section, Richard Bucala, MD, PhD, and Chowdhary envision that it will inspire new donors to add to the endowment to promote innovation in research and clinical care.

Expanding Data Research

Lais Osmani, MD, analyzes high dimensional data (RNA, protein, lipids, and tissue biopsies) from patients with autoimmune and inflammatory diseases using computational methods to identify new biomarkers of disease and targets for therapy. He has been working to advance data-driven, precision medicine for these patient populations.

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

Belmont received a Yale Center for Clinical Investigation/ Yale Physician-Scientist Development Award.

Chock received funding from the Yale Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation-Food and Drug Administration Office of Women's Health.

Betty Hsiao, MD, became the new rheumatology fellowship program director.

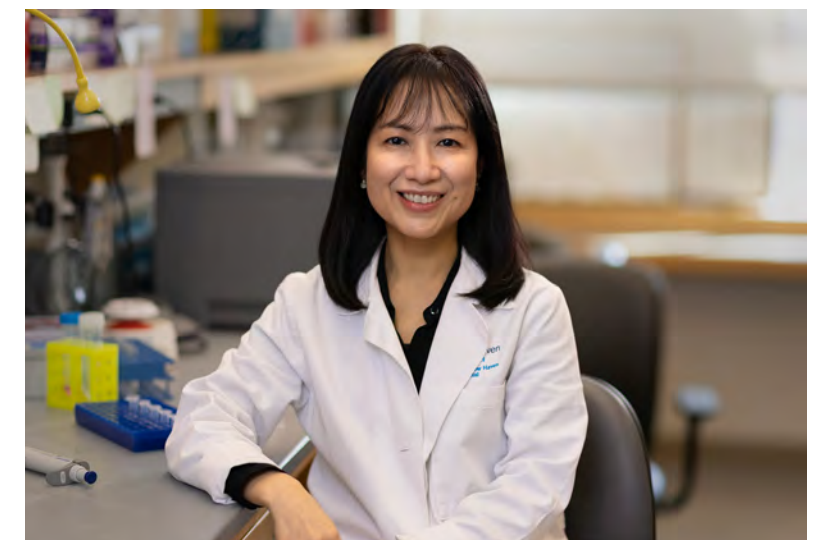
Insoo Kang, MD, received an R01 award from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging to study the role of NLRX1, a protein involved in immune aging, in collaboration with Min-Jong Kang, MD, PhD, in the section of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine.

Lisa Korn, MD, PhD, received the 2024 Iva Dostanic, MD, PhD, Physician-Scientist Trainee Award and an American Society for Clinical Investigation Emerging-Generation Award.

Liu was selected as a 2024 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) Foundation Faculty Development Award.

Shin was awarded a Specific Defect Research Grant from the Jeffrey Modell Foundation (JMF).

Andrew Wang, MD, PhD, received a pilot award from the Colton Center for Autoimmunity at Yale.



Junghee (Jenny) Shin, MD, PhD

CHAIR



Gary V. Désir, MD
Chair, Internal Medicine

VICE CHAIRS



Barbara Kazmierczak, MD, PhD
Vice Chair, Basic Research



Lynn Tanoue, MD, MBA
Vice Chair, Clinical Affairs



Robert Soufer, MD
Vice Chair, Clinical Research



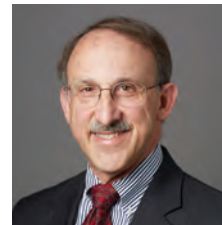
Harriet Kluger, MD
Vice Chair, Collaborative Research



Benjamin Mba, MBBS
Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Vincent Quagliarello, MD
Vice Chair, Education and Academic Affairs



Lawrence Young, MD
Vice Chair, Faculty Affairs



Mark Holter, CMPE, CPA
Vice Chair, Finance and Administration



Aldo Peixoto, MD
Vice Chair, Quality & Safety



Daniel Federman, MD
Vice Chair, Veterans Affairs

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Associate Chair, Ambulatory Clinical Affairs



Adam Mayerson, MD
Associate Chief, Community and Voluntary Faculty



Dana Dunne, MD, MHS
Associate Chair, Education and Academic Affairs



Donna Windish, MD, MPH
Associate Chair, Educational Scholarship

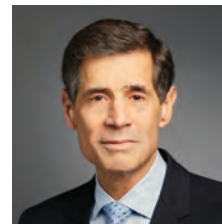


Thomas Donohue, MD, MHS
Chief of Medicine Services, Saint Raphael Campus

SECTION CHIEFS



Eric J. Velazquez, MD
Cardiovascular Medicine



Loren Laine, MD
Digestive Diseases



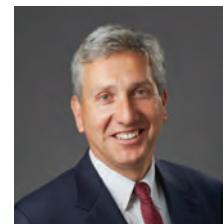
John Wysolmerski, MD
Endocrinology and Metabolism



Patrick O'Connor, MD, MPH
General Medicine



Terri Fried, MD
Geriatrics



Erol Fikrig, MD
Infectious Diseases



Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD
Medical Oncology and Hematology



Shuta Ishibe, MD
Nephrology (Interim)



Naftali Kaminski, MD
Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine



Richard Bucala, MD, PhD
Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology

CLINICAL CHIEFS



Christina Price, MD
Allergy and Immunology



Daniel Price, MD
Cardiovascular Medicine (Ambulatory)



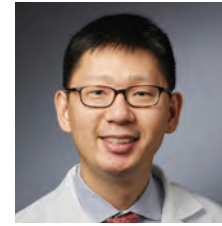
Nihar Desai, MD, MPH
Cardiovascular Medicine (Inpatient)



Thiruvengadam Muniraj, MD
Digestive Diseases (Endoscopy)



Hamita Sachar, MD
Digestive Diseases (Gastroenterology)



Joseph Lim, MD
Digestive Diseases (Liver)



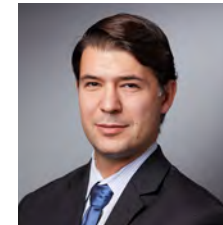
Silvio Inzucchi, MD
Endocrinology and Metabolism



Matthew Ellman, MD
General Medicine



Vincent Quagliarello, MD
Infectious Diseases



Jeffrey Turner, MD
Nephrology



Jonathan Siner, MD
Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine



Vaidehi Chowdhary, MBBS, MD
Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology

VICE CHIEFS

Lauren A. Baldassarre, MD
Vice Chief, DEI and Faculty Life (Cardiovascular Medicine)

Jeffrey Bender, MD
Senior Vice Chief, Academic Development (Cardiovascular Medicine)

Edward J. Miller, MD, PhD
Vice Chief, Education (Cardiovascular Medicine)

Jill Gaidos, MD
Vice Chief, Clinical Research (Digestive Diseases)

Vandana Khungar, MD, MSc
Vice Chief, DEI (Digestive Diseases)

Wajahat Mehal, MD, DPhil
Vice Chief, Research (Digestive Diseases)

Tamar Taddei, MD
Vice Chief, Development (Digestive Diseases)

Jonathan Bogan, MD
Co-Vice Chief, Research (Endocrinology and Metabolism)

Barbara Gulanski, MD, MPH
Vice Chief, Education (Endocrinology and Metabolism)

Richard Kibbey, MD, PhD
Co-Vice Chief, Research (Endocrinology and Metabolism)

Kasia Lipska, MD, MHS
Vice Chief, DEI (Endocrinology and Metabolism)

Varman Samuel, MD, PhD
Vice Chief, VA (Endocrinology and Metabolism)

Lori Bastian, MD, MPH
Vice Chief, VA (General Medicine)

William Becker, MD
Vice Chief, VA (General Medicine)

Aba Black, MD, MHS
Vice Chief, DEI (General Medicine)

Karen Brown, MD
Vice Chief, Community Affairs (General Medicine)

David Fiellin, MD
Vice Chief, Faculty Affairs (General Medicine)

Cary Gross, MD
Vice Chief, Research (General Medicine)

Jeanette Tetrault, MD
Vice Chief, Education (General Medicine)

Joseph Velasco, MBA
Vice Chief, Finance and Administration (General Medicine)

Brienne Miner, MD, MHS
Vice Chief, DEI (Geriatrics)

Iris Isufi, MD
Vice Chief, DEI (Hematology)

Mahalia S. Desruisseaux, MD
Vice Chief, DEI (Infectious Diseases)

Matthew Grant, MD, FIDSA
Vice Chief, Education (Infectious Diseases)

Vivian Asare, MD
Vice Chief, DEI (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)

Hilary Cain, MD
Vice Chief, VA (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)

Margaret Pisani, MD, MPH
Vice Chief, Faculty Development and Mentoring (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)

Henry Yaggi, MD, MPH
Vice Chief, Research: Translational and Clinical (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine)

Lisa Gale Suter, MD
Vice Chief, DEI (Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology)



STAFF LEADERSHIP



Sarah Hagans
Associate Director,
Administration



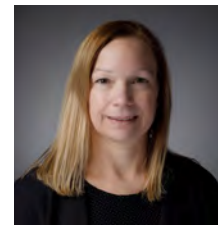
Julie Jennings
Director, Research
Administration



Nancy Kravitz
Manager, Office of the Chair



Jennifer Lacerda
Associate Director,
Clinical Affairs



Serena Crawford
Associate Director,
Communications



Christine Centola
Associate Director, Academic &
Administrative Affairs



Joseph Velasco
Director, Finance



Adam M. Dworkin, JD, MBA
Director, Finance and
Administration
(Cardiovascular Medicine)

POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS

Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program



**Benjamin Doolittle, MD,
MA, MDiv**
Program Director



Jaideep Talwalkar, MD
Associate Program Director



MarySarah Thanas, MPH
Program Coordinator



Joanna Whitehead
Project Manager, Internal
Medicine Education

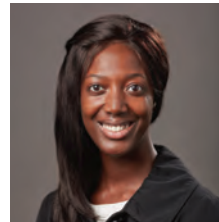
Primary Care Residency Program



Sarita Soares, MD
Program Director



Bradley Richards, MD, MBA
Executive Director



Aba Black, MD, MHS
Associate Program Director



Stephen Holt, MD, MS
Associate Program Director,
Ambulatory



Tracy Rabin, MD, SM
Associate Program Director



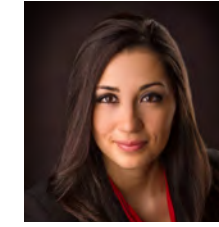
Denise Brennan
Program Coordinator

POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS

Traditional Residency Program



Mark Siegel, MD
Program Director



Isabel Bazan, MD
Associate Program Director



Matthew Grant, MD
Associate Program Director



Shaili Gupta, MBBS
Associate Program Director



Ruth Weissberger, MD
Program Director

Yale-Waterbury Residency Program



Cynthia Frary McNamara, MD
Associate Program Director



Benjamin Rodwin, MD
Associate Program Director



Jacqueline Savage, MD
Associate Program Director



Brett Marks
Program Coordinator



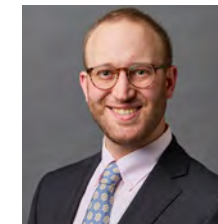
Silvio Inzucchi, MD
Program Director



Courtney Annunziata
Program Coordinator

Yale Affiliated Hospitals Program

INTERNAL MEDICINE CHIEF RESIDENTS 2023-2024



Evan Angelus, MD
VACHS



Koeun Choi, MD
NHPCC



Katherine Copeland, MD
YNHH



Carolyn Gonzalez, MD
YNHH



Necia Hunter, MD
YNHH



Dhruv Kansal, MD
Waterbury



Ramya Kaushik, MD, BA
YNHH



Emily Moss, MD
YNHH



Tinatin Muradashvili, MD
Waterbury



Maisie Orsillo, DO
YNHH



Sebastian Placide, MD, BA
VACHS



Tijana Samardzic, MD
Waterbury



Alexandra Schwann, MD
YNHH



Kevin Wheelock, MD
YNHH

DEPARTMENT VITAL STATS

#12

2024 NIH Funding in Internal Medicine
(per the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research)

\$142M+
2024 NIH Funding
(per the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research)

\$466M+
Total Operating Budget
(FY24)

1.4M+
Clinical WRVUs
(FY24)

74
Faculty Perform Patient Care at VACHS

247
Hospital Residents

168
Postdoctoral Associates/Fellows

206
Clinical Fellows

115
Postgraduate Associates/Fellows

460
Staff
Medical Oncology, Hematology, and PA Program staff not included

647
Ladder Track Faculty

162
Research Faculty
Includes Associate Research Scientists, Research Scientists, and Senior Research Scientists

50
Instructors

19
Lecturers

444
Voluntary

115
Adjunct

33
Emeritus

7
Visiting

*As of September 2024.

Honoring Those We Lost This Year



DAVID S. FISHER, MD

JOHN N. FORREST JR., MD

PETER MCPHEDRAN, MD

Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Internal Medicine

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BOARDMAN 110

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NEW HAVEN, CT 06520-8056