

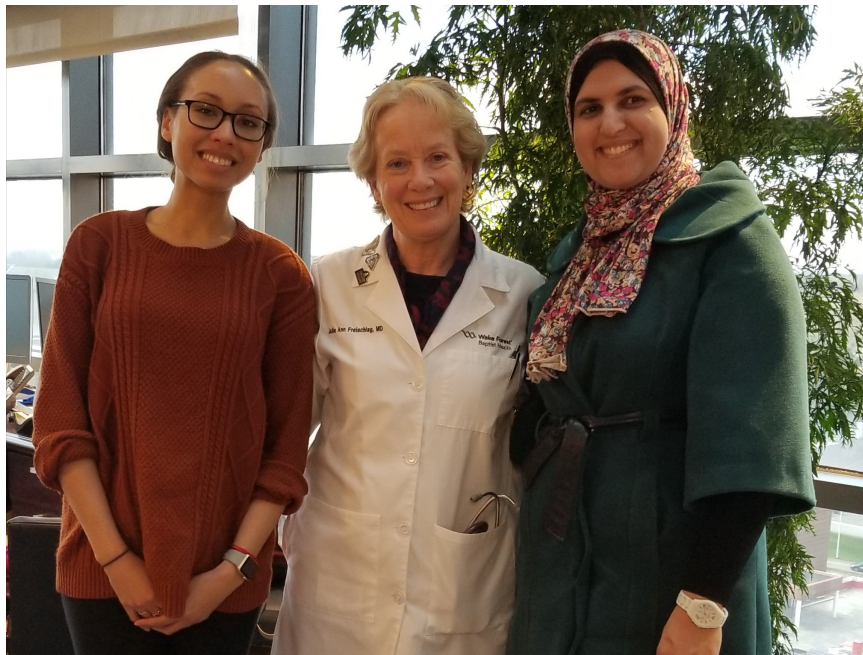
# Good News!

Wake Forest School of Medicine Cardiovascular Sciences Center

First Quarter 2018



## Dean's Research Symposia Showcases All-Star Array of CVSC Speakers and Trainee Posters



Dr. Julie Freischlag congratulates graduate students Alexa Hendricks and Fatima Ryalat

The Cardiovascular Sciences Center had the honor of participating in the Dean's Research Symposia series on February 21. The symposia was a great success, drawing in researchers institution wide. Representatives from Comparative Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine, Hypertension, PHS, Vascular Surgery, Pediatrics, Molecular Medicine, and Gerontology highlighted the cast of speakers, while thirteen selected graduate students and trainees competed in a friendly poster competition. Attendees of the symposium were tasked with rating the posters using a 1-5 star voting range. In the end, graduate students **Alexa Hendricks** and **Fatima Ryalat** tied for the win. Congratulations Alexa and Fatima!

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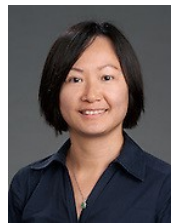
 **Wake Forest**  
School of Medicine

## In the News



Dr. Stacey

**Brandon Stacey, MD, MS** was interviewed by ACCEL, a subscription audio service of the American College of Cardiology, to discuss his recently accepted abstract titled, “Cardiac Stress Results Forecast Adverse Cardiovascular Events in High Risk Asymptomatic Middle and Older Aged Men: Identification of Silent Myocardial Ischemia in the Elderly.” Please visit the ACCEL website to subscribe and listen to Dr. Stacey’s interview <http://www.acc.org/education-and-meetings/products-and-resources/accel-audio>



Dr. Zhou

In December, **Li Zhou, MD**, gave a phone interview to US News & World Report in which she discussed soy protein and Cardiovascular Disease. In the interview, Dr. Zhou explained that soy beans can still be an excellent food choice for supporting heart health since the polyunsaturated fats found in soy are known to assist in lowering LDL. Read the interview here

<https://health.usnews.com/health-care/patient-advice/articles/2017-12-15/we-now-know-soy-cant-reduce-heart-disease-but-what-foods-can>



Dr. Zhao

Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine and Director of the Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence, **Dr. David Zhao**, recently spoke with US News and World Report regarding new research that suggests stenting may be no better than a placebo in reducing chest pain when angina is caused by “stable” angina. In the interview, Dr. Zhao states his concern that the results of this research and the message it sends are not necessarily consistent and could affect patients that truly do need stents that have a more serious disease. Read Dr. Zhao’s comments here <https://health.usnews.com/health-care/patient-advice/articles/2017-12-01/what-options-do-angina-patients-have-to-reduce-chest-pain>

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center has been named as one of the **Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals** in the nation, according to IBM Watson Health. The deciding factors for ranking on the list were clinical outcomes for heart attack, heart failure treatments, coronary bypass, and angioplasty surgeries, as well as 30-day mortality and readmission rates. For more information, please visit <http://intranet.wakehealth.edu/In-the-Spotlight/2017/Wake-Forest-Baptist-Recognized-as-a-Top-Heart-Hospital.htm>

## Achievements



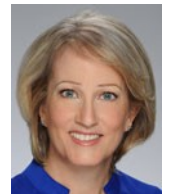
Dr. DeBo

**Ryne DeBo, MS, PhD** received the 2017 Radiation Research Editors’ Award at the Annual Meeting of the Radiation Research Society in Cancun Mexico for his 1st authored manuscript “Late Effects of Total-Body Gamma Irradiation on Cardiac Structure and Function in Male Rhesus Macaques” published in the July 2016 issue of Radiation Research. A key figure from the manuscript was selected for the cover of the journal. Dr. DeBo received his PhD degree in Molecular Medicine and Translational Sciences in May 2017 and was a post-doctoral fellow in Comparative Medicine until January 2018 when he was hired as a Scientist in Prevention at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in New York City. Congratulations to Ryne for landing this ‘dream job’ as he has battled Type I diabetes for over 20 years and has been an avid fundraiser for the organization.



Dr. Burke

Already a prominent leader for Wake Forest School of Medicine, **Gregory Burke, MD**, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Professor of PHS, has accepted the additional role of Chief Science Officer of WFBMC. In this new role, Dr. Burke will utilize his extensive expertise and knowledge of PHS and clinical research to advance the health and wellness of our patients and communities. Also, **Lynn Anthony, MD**, previously Associate Dean, has accepted a promotion to Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. Dr. Anthony will continue to devote time to patient care, while also remaining the Section Head of Pediatric radiology. Congratulations to both Dr. Burke and Dr. Anthony.



Dr. Anthony

## Announcements



Dr. Soto-Pantoja

**David Soto-Pantoja, PhD**, has been invited to chair the session “ECM of Inflammation, Infection, and Immunity” at the 2018 American Society for Matrix Biology Meeting on October 14-17, 2018, at the Red Rock Casino resort and Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. He will also present a talk on his research involving CD47 and thrombospondin.

The Excellence in Cardiovascular Science (EICS) Summer Program has been renewed for 5 more years of funding (years 26-30). Congratulations to **Ann Tallant, PhD** and **Debra Diz, PhD** for this outstanding accomplishment.

## Funding and Awards



Dr. Shaltout



Dr. Yamaleyeva



Dr. Register



Dr. Kitzman

The 2018 CVSC Pilot Award winners have been announced! Congratulations to **Hossam Shaltout, PhD** and **Liliya Yamaleyeva, MD, MS** for their proposal titled, “Novel Role for Apelinergic System in Autonomic Function in Preeclampsia” and **Thomas Register, PhD**, and **Dalane Kitzman, MD**, for their proposal titled, “Development of a Menopausal Nonhuman Primate Model of Diet and Drug Induced Vascular Dysfunction.”



Dr. Cook

**Katherine Cook, PhD**, received a Young Investigator Award METAvivor Foundation grant of \$50,000 for research into treatments for established metastatic breast cancer. The grant title is: “Dietary Considerations Effecting Lung Metastatic Therapeutic Responsiveness and Co-morbidities.”

Dr. Cook is also a collaborator with Dr. Pierre Vidi in Cancer Biology on a recently funded Department of Defense grant “Impact of a Community-Based Diabetes Prevention Trial on Epithelial Biomarkers of Breast Cancer Risk”.

**David Soto-Pantoja, PhD** also received a Young Investigator Award METAvivor Foundation grant of \$50,000 to target the receptor CD47 to enhance immune cell attack against metastatic breast cancer. His grant title is: “Anti-CD47 Immunotherapy as a Treatment for Metastatic breast Cancer”



Dr. Barnes

**Erin Barnes, MD** is the most recent recipient of the CTSI’s KL2 Mentored Career Development Award. The title of Erin’s project is “Development of an E.H.R. Case Identification Tool for Intravenous Drug Use Infective Endocarditis (IDU-IE). As a Research Scholar, Erin will receive 75% salary support for at least 2 years, up to \$35,000/year to support educational and research needs, an Individual Development Plan, and a multi-disciplinary mentoring team.

## Events and Speaking Engagements

**Debra Diz, PhD** had the honor of being a speaker at the Center on Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism Seminar Series on Monday, February 19th. The title of her presentation was “The Endocannabinoid – Angiotensin System: Partners in Cardiometabolic Risk.”

Hypertension & Vascular Research and Cardiovascular Sciences Center hosted a Red Dress Day Event on Tuesday, February 27th. Speakers included **Laura Cox, PhD**, and Kim Chidester, Director of Grassroots Mid-Atlantic Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

**TanYa Gwathmey-Williams, PhD**, and **Debra Diz, PhD**, will present an abstract on diversity-focused research training programs at the Understanding Interventions that Broaden Participation for in Science Careers to be held in Baltimore on March 2-4, 2018.

**Hossam Shaltout, PhD**, will be chairing the Women’s Health and Sex Differences Research Day Planning Committee for the upcoming ‘Translational Approaches to Cardiometabolic Syndrome in Women’ to be held Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 8am – 4:30pm, in the Commons Conference Rooms - Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

The Experimental Biology 2018 ASPET Symposium “Cardiovascular Consequences of Metabolic Targeting in Obesity”, co-chaired by **Amy Arnold, PhD** and **Debra Diz, PhD**, will be held in San Diego on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 8:30 am – 11:30 am (topics include adiponectin, angiotensin(-17), energy balance and hypertension in obesity, endocannabinoids). Dr. Diz’s presentation will be titled: “The Endocannabinoid System and Cardiometabolic Risk Factors.”



# Recent CV COE Faculty Publications December through February

During the last quarter, Wake Forest School of Medicine CV COE faculty published **70 manuscripts** in peer-reviewed journals including *The American Journal of Hypertension*, *Circulation*, *JAMA Cardiology* and *The American Journal of Cardiology*. A full list of these publications can be found at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1JSeQsdreOokM/collections/54485045/public/>

Below are a few highlights from the list:



Bharathi Upadyha, MD



Lindsay Reynolds, PhD



Joseph Yeboah, MD



Tina Brinkley, PhD



Morgana Mongraw-Chaffin, PhD

**Dr. Bharathi Upadyha** et al published an article titled “Effect of Spironolactone on Exercise Tolerance and Arterial Function in Older Adults with Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction” in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

**Dr. Lindsay Reynolds** et al recently published “Tobacco Exposure-Related Alterations in DNA Methylation and Gene Expression in Human Monocytes: the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) in *Epigenetics*.

The manuscript titled “Association Between Mean Systolic Blood Pressure and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Diabetes Mellitus: ACCORD trial”, authored by **Dr. Joseph Yeboah** et al, was published in *Journal of Human Hypertension*.

“Long-Term Effects of an Intensive Lifestyle Intervention on Electrocardiographic Criteria for Left Ventricular Hypertrophy: The Look AHEAD Trial”, authored by **Dr. Tina Brinkley** et al was recently published in *American Journal of Hypertension*.

**Dr. Morgana Mongraw-Chaffin** et al published a manuscript titled, “Relation of Ectopic Fat with Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease Risk Score in South Asians Living in the United States (from the Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America [MASALA] Study) in *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

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## Career Development Corner

The Academic Journey meetings are held monthly, featuring a faculty member at Wake Forest School of Medicine or a visiting clinician/scientist from the Cardiovascular Sciences Center Seminar series. These meetings are designed for graduate and medical students/postdoctoral fellow and residents/junior faculty members to spend time with distinguished physicians and scientists from our institution or other academic institutions and learn about their journeys to becoming successful clinicians/research scientists/educators. Our most recent meeting was with Dr. James de Lemos from UT Southwestern. The next Academic Journey meeting will be held Thursday, March 15th, from 4 until 5, at Biotech Place. Our speaker will be Dr. TanYa Gwathmey-Williams, Assistant Professor in Surgery/Hypertension, Director of the Hypertension Core Laboratory and Co-Director of the Institutional Research and Career Development Award (IRACADA) and the Post-Baccalaureate Research Program (PREP). Future career journeys will feature Dr. Brian Griffin from the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at The Cleveland Clinic (in May), and Dr. Stavros Drakos from the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Utah (in June). Please watch your email for more details.

We are pleased to announce the successful renewal of the Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences

training grant by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, co-directed by Drs. Ann Tallant and Debra Diz. This program, which has been ongoing since 1993, provides funds for short-term training for minority undergraduate students to conduct cardiovascular research at our medical school, with the goal of facilitating their careers in biomedical research. If you would be interested in mentoring one of our summer participants, please contact Dr. Tallant ([atallant@wakehealth.edu](mailto:atallant@wakehealth.edu)). In addition, a number of training grants were submitted in January, to support undergraduate, postgraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows for training in biomedical research. Members of the Cardiovascular Science Center are either the directors or training mentors of these training programs. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in getting these training grants submitted, which are vital to the education and development of our students and fellows.

The Career Development Committee is glad to provide help with grant reviews/critiques prior to submission or during resubmission for early career stage investigators. If you would like assistance, please contact Dr. Ann Tallant ([atallant@wakehealth.edu](mailto:atallant@wakehealth.edu)) and she will identify faculty who can critique your proposal and provide advice.