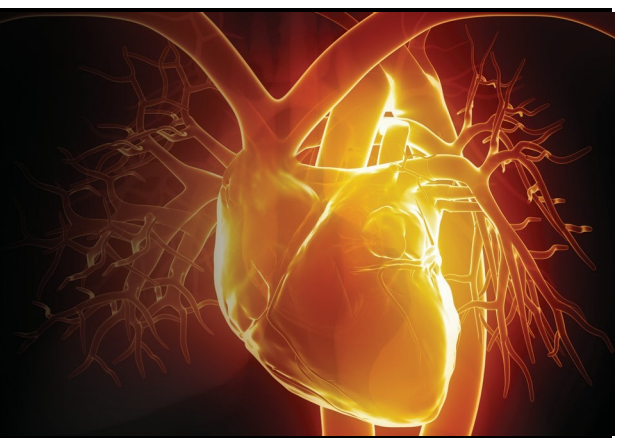


# Good News!

Wake Forest School of Medicine Cardiovascular Sciences Center

First Quarter 2019



## WFBMC Heart Transplant Team Leads the State in 1-Year Post Transplant Survival Rates



Sherman Transou, Heart Transplant Patient with Barbara Pisani, DO

The Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center **Heart Transplant Team**, led by Director, Dr. Barbara Pisani, has been recognized as achieving a 1-year survival for 100% for the past 5 years, according to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients, which is the best rating of this kind in the state of North Carolina. This registry analyzes data to provide patients with information so that they can make informed decisions regarding their transplant options. Information from the registry is listed online at [www.srtr.org](http://www.srtr.org).

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Heart Transplant Team
- ▶ Funding and Awards
- ▶ Accomplishments
- ▶ Invited Lectures, Presentations, & Conferences
- ▶ In The News
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Career Development Corner

 **Wake Forest**  
School of Medicine

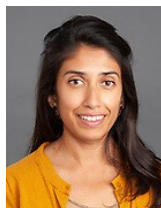
## Funding and Awards



Giselle Melendez, MD

and **Dr. Shivani Ghoshal** Assistant Professor, Neurology, for her proposal "Dialysis Modality Impact on Cerebral Hemodynamics."

**CVSC Pilot Awards went to: Dr. Giselle Melendez** Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Medicine, for her proposal "NK-1 Receptor Blockade as a Novel Strategy to Prevent Anthracycline Cardiotoxicity in Breast Cancer and Improve Cancer Outcomes,"



Shivani Ghoshal, MD

**Dr. Liliya Yamaleyeva** was selected as a November 2018 recipient of the **Ignition Fund Pilot Award** for her project titled "Developing and Validating Assays for Measuring Circulating Peptides".



Kylie Kavanagh, VMS

**Dr. Kylie Kavanagh** has a recently funded **R01** titled, "Adipose Mitochondrial Quality Control and Cardiovascular Function in Metabolically Healthy and Unhealthy Obese Monkeys." Day (April 17, 2019).

**Dr. Haiying Chen's** project titled, "Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Glucose Lowering Medications," will be funded in collaboration with the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and will study on Effectiveness and Cost effectiveness of Glucose Lowering Medications in Type 2 Diabetes. This project will leverage data collected from Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) and Action for Health in Diabetes (Look AHEAD), two of the largest diabetes clinical trials conducted in the last decade in the United States.



Mark Chappell, PhD

**Drs. Mark Chappell and Lisa Washburn** received a favorable score for their **R01 application** entitled "Uric Acid, Klotho and Salt Sensitivity in Young Adults Born Preterm" that is within the current NHLBI funding range.

Start date for the \$2.5 million award (direct cost) is July 1, 2019.



Lisa Washburn, MD

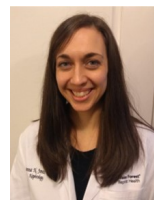
Co-Principal Investigators **Drs. David Soto-Pantoja and Lance Miller** received a pilot award from the **Cancer Center**. The title of the grant is "Metabolic & Immune Endpoints as Biomarkers of Immune-Related Adverse Events & ICB Response". In addition, Dr. Soto-Pantoja was awarded a pilot grant from the CRBM titled, "TSP1/CD47 Blockade Prevents Chemotherapy Related Cardiotoxicity."



Christopher Schaich, PhD

**Dr. Chris Schaich's F32** award titled, "Heart Rate Variability as a Predictor of Cognitive Performance in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis" was funded and will be activated in 2019.

## Accomplishments



Deanna Jones, MD

First-year Nephrology fellow, **Dr. Deanna Jones**, received the terrific news that she has been selected as the recipient of the **JACC Young Author Achievement Award**. Deanna was selected for this award based on her manuscript titled, "Frequency of Transition From Stage A to Stage B Heart Failure After Initiating Potentially Cardiotoxic Chemotherapy, which was published in December 2018 in JACC: Heart Failure. The award will be presented to Deanna and her mentor, Dr. Gregory Hundley, on March 16 at the 2019 ACC Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, Louisiana. After starting her research in cardiology, she has now switched gears to focus on nephrology. Her current projects include: studying urine electrolytes as a way to optimize diuretic dosing in hospitalized patients and the effects and safety of intermittent fasting and low-refined carbohydrate diets in patients with chronic kidney disease and diabetes.



Drs. Reynolds, Freischlag, and Diz

In December, **Dr. Debra Diz** received the **2018 James Edwin Byrum Distinguished Faculty Research Mentor Award** for her dedication and commitment to mentoring and training more than 75 graduate, undergraduate, and medical students as well as faculty during her 26-year career. Dr. Diz shares this award with Dr. Patrick

Reynolds of Neurology. A plaque was presented to both faculty members by the Dean at the FEC meeting on December 12, 2018 for this accomplishment.

**Dr. Liliya Yamaleyeva** has been invited to serve as a mentor in the **WIMS Mentoring Program**. This program helps recruit, retain and advance early-career women faculty. The longest running WIMS program, it addresses the general career development needs of women faculty at the instructor and assistant professor levels.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jasmina Varagic** for fulfilling all of the criteria required for **promotion to the rank of Full Professor with Tenure** in Department of Hypertension. Dr. Yamaleyeva is also affiliated with the Department of Women in Medicine and Science.



**Dr. Olivia Gilbert** was selected as an **SSOC lead reviewer** for the 2019 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway on Assessing Trajectory and Risk in Patients Hospitalized with Heart Failure and North Carolina ACC, Councilor (2019-2021), Co-Chair of Legislative and Advocacy Committee (2019-2020).

Olivia Gilbert, MD

## Invited Lectures, Presentations, and Conferences



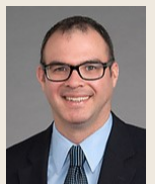
**Dr. David Soto-Pantoja's** abstract was selected for a talk at the **Keystone Symposia on Cancer Metastasis: The Role of Metabolism, Immunity and the Microenvironment**, March 15-19, 2019, in Firenze Fiera- Fortezza da Basso in Florence. The title of his talk is "Metabolic Endpoints as Biomarkers of Immune Checkpoint Therapy Response". Dr. Soto-Pantoja was also invited to speak at the "Enabling Advancements in Cell Metabolism Research" Agilent Cell Analysis Group User Meeting at the Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa, FL, February 26-27, 2019.

David Soto-Pantoja, PhD



**Dr. Mary Branch**, CV Medicine Research Fellow, has the honor of her abstract being accepted for **The Dr. Jay Brown Best Abstract Competition**. The competition will take place during ACC and is hosted by the Association of Black Cardiologists. The title of Mary's abstract is, "Incremental Risk for Mortality Among Patients with Diabetes Mellitus: Post Hoc Analysis of the ACCORD Trial." The winner of the competition will receive a monetary award.

Mary Branch, MD



**Dr. Jeffrey Willey** was invited to visit the **US Congress** on Wed, March 6, 2019 to discuss challenges facing US leadership in maintaining robust space life and physical sciences research.

Jeffrey Willey, PhD

**Dr. Andrew Michael South's** abstract "Food Insecurity is Associated with High Blood Pressure in a National Sample of Children and Adolescents Independent of Obesity" was accepted as a platform presentation at the **Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting** in Baltimore, MD on April 29, 2019. In addition, Dr. South has been invited to give a talk at the same meeting entitled, "Neonatal Hypertension: Before, During and After the NICU."

**Dr. Anita Kelkar** was selected as an attendee for the **HFSA (Heart Failure Society of America) Future Leaders Symposia** May 10-11, 2019, in Washington, DC. This conference provides an amazing opportunity for early career physicians to interact with national and international leaders in the field of heart failure.



Thomas O'Neill, MD

**Dr. Thomas O'Neill's** abstract titled, "Hiding in Plain View: Antibody-Mediated Cardiac Allograft Rejection Presenting as Unilateral Pleural Effusion and Atrial Flutter," was accepted for presentation at **International Society for Heart and Lung Transplant Annual Meeting** in Orlando, FL in April.



Geoffrey Jao, MD

**Dr. Geoffrey Jao's** abstract titled, "Quantitative Right Ventricular Function Assessment Using the Anterior Tricuspid Annular Plane Systolic Excursion" was accepted for presentation at **ACC Scientific Sessions** in March.

## In The News



Stephen Kritchevsky, PhD

The National Institute on Aging has announced they will fund a new exciting resource, **The Research Centers Collaborative Network**. The program promises to advance aging research by bringing different research groups and disciplines together. The project is being led by the American Federation for Aging Research and investigators at Wake Forest School of Medicine. The PI of the project is **Dr. Stephen Kritchevsky**, Professor of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine.

**Dr. Amer Aladin**, Cardiovascular Medicine Clinical/Research fellow received the good news that he will receive **media promotion at the American College of Cardiology Scientific Sessions** in New Orleans for his study titled, "Alcohol Consumption and Risk of Hypertension."



Amer Aladin, MD

## Events

The **19th Annual Graduate Student and Postdoc Research Day** will be held Friday, March 22, 2019 at Biotech Place.

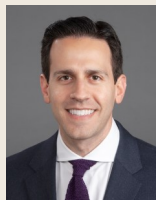
**Women's Health Research Day** is April 17, 2019 and will be held in Commons, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Join us for "What's on HER Mind?: Gender Differences in Cognitive Function

The next **Pathways to Promotion** is scheduled for Thursday, May 30 2019, 5:00-6:30 pm in the Cancer Center Conference Rooms 10B and 10C. Registration is required and can be completed online via the WFBMC Intranet by May 24th.



## 124 CV COE Faculty Publications from December 2018 – March 2019

During the last three months, Wake Forest School of Medicine CV COE faculty published **124 manuscripts** in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of the American Heart Association*, *Circulation*, and *JACC*. Below are a few articles from the list. All of the publications can be found at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1JSeQsdreOokM/collections/57871165/public/>



Charles German,  
MD

**Dr. Charles German** and colleagues published a manuscript titled, “Implications of the 2017 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Hypertension Guideline in a Modern Primary Prevention Multi-Ethnic Prospective Cohort (Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis)” in *The American Journal of Cardiology*.



Brandon Stacey,  
MD

**Dr. Brandon Stacey** and colleagues published a manuscript titled, “Asymptomatic Myocardial Ischemia Forecasts Adverse Events in Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance Dobutamine Stress Testing of High-Risk Middle-Aged and Elderly Individuals” in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance*.



Dalane Kitzman, MD

**Dr. Dalane Kitzman** and colleagues published a manuscript titled, “New Concepts in an Old Disease: Exercise Intolerance in Moderate Mitral Stenosis” in *JACC Cardiovascular Imaging*.



Joseph Yeboah, MBChB

**Dr. Joseph Yeboah** published a manuscript titled, “Lung Cancer Screening Eligible?” in *Circulation*.

## Career Development Corner

### 2019 EICS Summer Research Program

The 2019 Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences (EICS) summer research program will be held this summer, from June 2<sup>nd</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Twelve (12) undergraduate students will be invited to spend the summer in research laboratories (basic or clinical) on our campus, to learn about biomedical research. We have a number of outstanding applicants, from all over the continental US and Puerto Rico, and will be selecting our participants in the coming weeks. Our NHLBI-funded program pays for the stipend, travel and housing cost during the summer for each participant—the only costs to the faculty hosts are expenses related to the research project. If you are interested in hosting one of our students this summer, please contact Dr. Ann Tallant (6-2108 or [atallant@wakehealth.edu](mailto:atallant@wakehealth.edu)). The students, selected based on their academic records and their interest in biomedical research, work in the laboratory for 9 weeks and present a poster of their work at the end of the summer. It is very rewarding to watch these undergraduate students learn about biomedical research and subsequently follow their careers as biomedical scientists. Of the students who participated in the EICS program since its beginning in 1993, 79 percent have remained in science careers, with 31% entering medical or other healthcare professional schools, 31% entering graduate school, into either PhD or Master's programs, and 17% in technical or teaching careers. We currently have 7 former EICS students in the Wake Forest School of Arts and Sciences PhD program.

### Academic Journeys Seminar Series

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. At our first two meetings of the 2018-2019 year, students/fellows/residents visited with Dr. Scott Levick, from the University of Sydney, and with Dr. Judy Hung, from Massachusetts General/Harvard University. Our most recent Journey meeting featured Dr. Thomas Di Salvo, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Cardiology at the Medical University of South Carolina, was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Please check your emails for additional Journey meetings in the coming months.