

Recent CV COE Faculty Publications July through November

Over the last five months, Wake Forest School of Medicine CV COE faculty published **168 manuscripts** in leading peer-reviewed journals such as *Circulation*, *JACC*, *Hypertension*, *Human Molecular Genetics*, and *Nature Communications*. A full list of these publications can be found at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1JSeQsdreOokM/collections/53833698/public/>. Below are a few highlights from the list:



Dr. Liu

Dr. Yongmei Lui et al, published an article titled "Blood Monocyte Transcriptome and Epigenome Analysis Reveal Loci Associated with Human Atherosclerosis" in *Nature Communications*.



Dr. Wagenknecht

Dr. Lynne Wagenknecht et al published an article in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* titled, "Bone Mineral Density and Progression of Subclinical Atherosclerosis in African-Americans with Type 2 Diabetes."



Dr. Soliman

Dr. Elsayed Soliman et al recently published an article titled, "Effect of Intensive Blood Pressure Lowering on Left Ventricular Hypertrophy in Patients with Hypertension: SPRINT (Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial)" in *Circulation*.



Dr. Mongraw-Chaffin

Dr. Morgana Mongraw-Chaffin et al, published an article in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* titled, "CT-Derived Body Fat Distribution and Incident Cardiovascular Disease: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis."

A Note from the Director's of the CVSC

The Cardiovascular Sciences Center annual report was submitted in August and the Directors met with Centers and Cores Administration: Drs. Wagenknecht and Burke, Terry Hales and Laurie Molloy. They were particularly pleased with our progress in establishing the elements of the new Center, the positive survey results and our newsletter.

Overall 85% of our members rated the CVSC Agree or Strongly Agree towards meeting the goals of a Center in the Annual Member Evaluation Survey. The initial faculty membership goal has been surpassed with ~100 faculty, staff and trainee members. Our administrative structure engages the CVSC Executive Advisory Committee (Appt, Burke, Bushnell, Edwards, Parks, Zhao) quarterly representing key clinical and research stakeholders to provide critical guidance concerning the activities of the Center. Sub-committees developed from member input at the inaugural luncheon (Tallant, Bertoni – Career Development; Shaltout, Jordan – Resources; Chappell, Tan – Pilot Grants) seek ongoing suggestions and member engagement to identify activities of interest and strategies to assist with development of programmatic areas of research.

From the responses in the Member Evaluation Survey, it was also clear that member awareness of ongoing activities could be better. We will use the Good News! to highlight many of the ongoing and special initiatives in the coming year. As a recap of FY17, activities included mentoring and professional development (Journeys presentations, facilitated Research Studio, by request grant reviews), sponsored seminars (guest speakers, Go Red Symposium), awarding of pilot grants (Hariom Yadav – co-funded with CDOM, Andrew South) and increasing EPIC/bioinformatics resources (Diego Malaver – analytics support). Administrative efforts contributed to the renewal of an existing cardiovascular focus T32 and two diversity focused R25s, facilitation of two responses to RFAs for AHA Strategically Focused Research Networks that led to additional grant submissions and collaboration for increasing resources in support of rodent cardiometabolic phenotyping. Remember to save the date for another Ignite conference on February 21st that will showcase early career stage faculty research as part of the Dean's Research Symposia Series.

Good News!

Wake Forest School of Medicine Cardiovascular Sciences Center

Third/Fourth Quarter 2017



Cardiovascular Medicine Grand Rounds Host Star Studded Line Up



Dr. Anand Rohatgi



Dr. Robert Weiss



Dr. Mukesh Jain

The Cardiovascular Medicine Grand Rounds have always been a highly attended conference, but this year, attendance has soared! With the addition of 12 guest speakers this academic year, it is hard to pass up! In conjunction with the CVSC (Cardiovascular Sciences Center), Cardiovascular Medicine has already hosted four high-profile guest speakers including Drs. Anand Rohatgi, Robert Weiss, Mukesh Jain, and Kenneth Ellenbogen. Each grand rounds seminar has been intriguing and informative, allowing attendees the opportunity to interact with the best and brightest in the field. Remember to save the date for upcoming speakers **Thomas Wang, MD** (Vanderbilt): January 19, 2018; **James de Lemos, MD** (UT Southwestern): February 9, 2018; **Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD** (U. of Arizona): March 23, 2018; **Bruce Psaty, MD, PhD, MPH** (U. of Wash.): April 6, 2018; and **Laura Newby, MD** (Duke): April 27, 2018; The Cardiovascular Medicine Grand Rounds are held every Friday at 7:30 am in the Medical School Board Room. Please contact Randi Sullivan (rdwhite@wakehealth.edu) to be added to the mailing list for reminders.

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CVSC Honors and Awards



Drs. Hazzard, Freischlag, Opina, Barnes, and Rosenthal

Erin Barnes, MD (T32 Cardiovascular Medicine Research Fellow/ Instructor, Infectious Disease) and Teresa Opina, MD (T32 Gerontological and Geriatric Research Fellow) were named the inaugural recipients of the William R. Hazzard Scholars Program Award. The program will consist of a two-year cycle in which participants who have completed their residency or fellowship positions will receive stipends, full tuition support to overcome financial barriers to clinical research training, and research and travel funds. It is anticipated that at least two scholars will be appointed for each funding cycle. Those interested in applying to the William R. Hazzard Scholars Program should contact Dr. David Herrington, Vice Chair for Research, Department of Internal Medicine.



Dr. Melendez

Giselle Melendez, MD was recently named the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) Minority Faculty Scholarship recipient for 2017. This full scholarship will allow Dr. Melendez to attend the AAMC Minority Faculty Leadership Seminar in New Orleans, Louisiana in January 2018. The seminar is designed for early career racial and ethnic minority faculty and post docs, who aspire to leadership positions in academic medicine. This award was proudly presented on behalf of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Office of faculty Affairs, and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.



Drs. Rangel, Franzil, and Smith

In September, Cardiovascular Medicine fellows Drs. Jodie Franzil, Octavia Rangel, and James Smith represented Wake Forest in the Cardiology Jeopardy competition at the NC/SC ACC chapter meeting. We are pleased to announce that they took first place, winning over Duke and UNC.

Erin Barnes, MD (T32 Cardiovascular Medicine Research Fellow/ Instructor, Infectious Disease) and Teresa Opina, MD (T32 Gerontological and Geriatric Research Fellow) were named the inaugural recipients of the William R. Hazzard Scholars Program Award.



Dr. South

In September, Andrew South, MD was awarded the Hypertension Early Career Oral Award during the AHA Council on Hypertension in San Francisco, CA. Dr. South also received the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease New Investigator Travel Award.

The 2017-2018 **Best Doctors in America®** list was announced in September and **312 Wake Forest Baptist Health** physicians made the cut. This list highlights the top 4 percent of the best doctors currently practicing in the United States. Included in this list were Wake Forest physicians from 36 different specialties, including Cardiovascular Disease, Thoracic Surgery, and Vascular Surgery. For the full list of Wake Forest physicians that were named, please visit <http://www.wakehealth.edu/bestdocs/>

Funding Announcements

Dr. David Soto-Pantoja has received a CBB PUSH pilot award for \$50,000 from the Wake Forest University Comprehensive Cancer Center for his proposal "Targeting CD47 Regulates Immunometabolism and Boosts Melanoma Immunotherapy."

Dr. Giselle Melendez's proposal titled "Extracellular Matrix Remodeling: A Novel Mechanism of Anthracycline-Induced Heart Failure" will be supported by the CTSI Ignition Fund Pilot Award in the amount of \$5,000.

Dr. Christina Hugenschidt (Asst. Prof.-Gerontology) has been awarded a NIH administrative supplement to Dr. Dalane Kitzman's R01-funded SECRET 2 trial. This was an administrative increase of \$138,683 and \$154,008 for the -16 and -17 budget years.

Dr. Santiago Ramirez recently received notice of award for a Diversity Supplement in the amount of \$95,713 to support his research on Dr. Carlos Ferrario's P01.

Dr. Tina Brinkley has been awarded funding for her grant titled "Improving Cardiac Rehabilitation Outcomes with Evidence-Based Obesity Treatment." This is an NIH/NHLBI project that will be funded through August

Student Activities and Achievements

Alexa Hendrix, a Neurosciences Program PhD student mentored by Dr. Debra Diz, received an F31 Individual Pre-doctoral Fellowship from National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. She also received her Notice of Award from National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for the F99/K00 Individual Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award. Alexa was accepted into the business and development internship where she will work at the Center for Technology Innovation and Commercialization. Alexa has also received a travel award to the American Heart Council on Hypertension Meeting in San Francisco where she gave an oral presentation entitled, "Central Angiotensin-(1-7) Treatment Attenuates ERK 1/2 Expression and Oxidative Stress in the Dorsal Medulla of Betamethasone-Exposed Sheep that Associates with Improved Blood Pressure and Baroreflex Sensitivity".

Omeed Rahimi, a graduate student in Drs. Ann Tallant and Patricia Gallager's who co-founded EncepHeal Therapeutics, received an investment from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center's Small Business Research Loan Program worth \$150,000.

A'ja Duncan, a PRIME Scholar and post-doctoral fellow mentored by Dr. Debra Diz, accepted a position as a Physical Scientist (Forensic Chemistry) with the Department of Defense, Department of the Army in Fort G. Meade, MD.

Marianne Collard, graduate student mentored by Drs. Tallant and Gallagher, won the Student Silver Award for Basic Science at the 25th Annual Surgical Sciences Residents' and Fellows' Research Day. Her poster was titled 'Muscadine Grape Extract Inhibits Proliferation and Migration of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells in Association with a Reduction in MAPK Signaling and Hmnr Expression.'

Welcome to Dr. Manuel (Mannie) Ramirez (PRIME Scholar) and rotating graduate students Alaa Bawaneh (IPP), Tiffany Newman (MCB), and Elizabeth Sterling (MCB) working in Drs. Katherine Cook and David Soto-Pantoja's lab.

Events and Happenings



The second annual William C. Little Symposium was held October 7. This annual event is presented by The William C. Little Society in conjunction with the Heart and Vascular Center of Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Dr. Lou Dell'Italia (Professor and Associate Chief of Staff for Research at UAB) gave the keynote address titled "Chymase Inhibition in Cardiovascular Disease: Closing the Gap of 'Residual Risk' in Clinical Trials." In addition, 7 current Wake Forest faculty and fellows and 2 former fellows also gave talks. The symposium is held in honor of Dr. William Campbell Little, who held the title of Chief of Cardiology at Wake Forest School of Medicine from 1989-2013. Along with his extensive list of accomplishments and awards, he published more than 270 peer-reviewed articles; 39 of which have been cited more than 100 times.

Career Development Corner

The next Academic Journeys Seminar will be held Thursday, December 14th, in the Commons Conference Rooms on the G floor of the Nutrition Center, from 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Our speaker will be Dr. Lynne Wagenknecht, Associate Director of Public Health Sciences, who will share her career journey with us. Future career journeys will feature outside invited faculty as well as additional faculty from WFSM who will share their experiences. All are invited to these talks—undergraduate, medical and graduate students, fellows, residents and faculty—and light refreshments will be served. Please watch your emails for future talks.

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

If junior (or senior) faculty would like to participate in the Career Development Committee for the CVSC or have ideas about services we can provide to further your career, please contact Dr. Ann Tallant—all ideas are welcome.