Message Sent on Behalf of Dr. Hashem B. El-Serag
Chairman, Department of Medicine

Please join me in congratulating the following colleagues for achieving such important milestones and achievements that help us further the mission and success of the Department of Medicine. It is always the season for recognition, so please take a moment to note, and congratulate, your fellow Department of Medicine members.

If you have good news or events to share with your colleagues at DoM, email me at hasheme@bcm.edu.

Future DoM and BCM News and Events

Mark your calendar! The next 2018 DoM Town Hall Meeting will be held April 30 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Kleberg Auditorium, followed by a reception. Please clear your calendar so you may attend. We have room for 400 attendees!

Dr. Wayne Shandera, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub, has been invited to perform at a Mother’s Day pipe organ concert at the Los Angeles Cathedral on May 11; in preparation, Dr. Shandera will be performing a Houston concert – featuring Schubert, Bach, Widor, Weber, Messiaen, and Karg-Elert – on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. at St. Basil Chapel at the University of St. Thomas. All are invited.

Recent DoM and BCM News and Events

The 19th Annual GI and Hepatology Course took place this past weekend, with ~200 attendees. Dr. Manreet Kaur, assistant professor, was course director and Drs. Mohamed Othman, associate professor, Kalpesh Patel, associate professor, and Gagan Sood, associate professor, provided well-attended sessions on advanced endoscopy and hepatology.

The Texas Interventional Endoscopy Group, a non-profit educational group co-founded by BCM faculty Drs. Mohamed Othman, associate professor, RJ Sealock, assistant professor, and Kalpesh Patel, associate professor, all of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, held the 2019 Submucosal and Extra-Luminal Endoscopy Course on March 29 at the Baylor Simulation Center. With more than 50 custom-built animal models, participants from
throughout the U.S. participated in intensive hands-on training in the latest endoscopic techniques. Participating GI faculty included Drs. Wasif Abidi, assistant professor, Nisreen Husain, assistant professor, Avi Ketwaroo, assistant professor, and Ellie Jarbrink-Sehgal, assistant professor.

Dr. Hardeep Singh, professor, Health Services Research, was the keynote speaker at the Richard Engel Primary Care Symposium, held March 20 in Portland, titled “Achieving Diagnostic Excellence in Primary Care: Lessons from a Decade of Patient Safety Research.” He also presented a webinar to the Health Informatics Society of Australia, held March 7, titled “Emerging Areas and Next Steps for Improving Patient Safety.”

Dr. Kevin Erickson, assistant professor, Nephrology, was a keynote speaker at the 2019 Annual Dialysis Conference, held March 16-19 in Dallas. His talk was titled “Big Data! Past Limitations and the Future.” Dr. Erickson also presented “Evaluating Evidence Behind Policy Mandates in Dialysis Care” at the same conference.
Health Services Research Drs. Molly Horstman, assistant professor, and Aanand Naik, associate professor, attended the annual meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine, held March 24 in Washington, D.C. The topic of their presentation was “Post-Discharge Resource Use and 30-Day Unplanned Hospital Readmissions in Patients Admitted for Heart Failure.”

Drs. Jordan Shapiro, clinical postdoc fellow, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Lilian Dindo, assistant professor, Health Services Research, and Jason Hou, associate professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, gave a presentation at the Crohn’s and Colitis Congress, held Feb. 7-9 in Las Vegas. The title of their presentation was “Longitudinal Psychological Health in Veterans with IBD.”

Cardiology Drs. Andrew Civitello, assistant professor, and medical director of the Baylor College of Medicine Advanced Heart Failure Center of Excellence, and Leo Simpson, assistant professor and director of the Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center Percutaneous Mechanical Circulatory Support Program, were invited participants at the Second Annual Houston Shock Symposium, held March 1-3. Dr. Simpson moderated the session Mechanical Circulatory Support Devices in Shock and Dr. Civitello delivered a presentation during the same same session entitled “The Optimal Support Platform in Shock: Let’s Not Forget the IABP.”

On March 20, Drs. Samaya Anumudu, assistant professor, and Kevin Erickson, assistant professor, both from Nephrology, joined U.S. physicians and patients on behalf of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) in Washington, D.C. The group met with representatives, senators, and staff for Kidney Health Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill to urge Congress to support the KidneyX (Kidney Innovation Accelerator) initiative. Dr. Anumudu is a member of the ASN Policy and Advocacy Committee and Dr. Erickson is a member of the ASN Quality Committee. Pictured are (l-r) staff member from
Representative Lizzie Fletcher, AAKP patient representative Kent Bressler, Dr. Anumudo and Dr. Erickson.

Dr. Hashem El-Serag, professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, gave a presentation at the American Society for the Study of Liver Diseases/European Association for the Study of the Liver Hepatitis C Virus Special Conference, held Feb. 1 in Miami. His presentation was titled “Clinical Impact of HCV Cure on Liver Disease and HCC.”

Achievements, Appointments, Awards and Grants

Drs. Venkat Ramanathan, professor, Nephrology, and Horatio Adrogue, professor, Nephrology, have been selected to receive the Master Clinician Award for Excellence in Patient Care. The prestigious award recognizes "stellar and enduring contributions to the patient care mission of Baylor College of Medicine through clinical excellence, leadership, mentoring, clinical innovation and continuous service to the Baylor community.”

Dr. Susan Samson, associate professor, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the American Program Directors of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the annual APDEM meeting, held March 23-26 during Endo2019 in New Orleans.
Dr. Sylvia Hysong, associate professor, Health Services Research, has been selected to the role of Continuing Education Chair for the Society of Industrial/Organizational Psychology for the period 2019-2010.

The BCM 2019 Women of Excellence includes many women from the Department of Medicine. The group was honored on March 28 at a recognition ceremony in Cullen Auditorium. DoM women honored were:

- Dr. Sharmila Anandasabapathy, professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Dr. Jennifer Chen, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Priti Dangayach, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Nadia Ismail, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Lubna Khawaja, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Lee Lu, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Meroë Morse, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Nalini Ram, associate professor, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism
- Dr. Sandhya Thomas, assistant professor, Nephrology
- Dr. Rosa Schmidt, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Richa Shukla, assistant professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Isabel Valdez, instructor, General Internal Medicine
- Dr. Liping Zhang, assistant professor, Nephrology
Dr. Ruben Hernaez, assistant professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was elected top reviewer for 2018 for Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Annals of Internal Medicine. Dr. Hernaez also was elected to be part of the American Gastroenterological Association Research Institute Research Awards Panel Committee.

IQuESt held a “promotion party” to honor the promotions of Drs. Elizabeth Chao and Thomas Giordano to full professor and Drs. Jason Hou and Jan Lindsay to associate professor.

Members of the Section of Nephrology participated in the National Kidney Foundation Kidney Walk 2019, held March 24 at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. The group was part of the team Harris Health Heroes and joined individuals from all over Houston to walk in support of kidney patients, families, and people at risk. The team exceeded their fundraising goal with more than $700 in donations! Pictured are Dr. Samaya Anumudu, assistant professor, alongside nurses from the dialysis department at Ben Taub Hospital, Eduardo Dela Cruz, Soosan Chacko-James, and Greg Guillen.

Mentoring Moments
The **Ligums Family Transition Medicine Grant** is available again this year to support projects focusing on late adolescents and young adults who (1) have chronic conditions originating in childhood and (2) are transitioning from pediatric to adult care. The funding supports quality improvement in the transition experience of this patient population, with the ability to partner with community leaders or interest groups.

The maximum amount of annual support has been increased to $30,000, with the possibility of renewal for a second year upon successfully meeting proposed goals and objectives (see attached announcement). The Section of Transition Medicine is hoping to receive applications from throughout the Department of Medicine, and is available to provide guidance for the application process. For more information, email [Maggie Weimer](mailto:Maggie.Weimer@tmc.edu).

The Texas Medical Center is offering a monthly **education and training series for clinical research professionals** on the TMC campus with Continuing Education credits. The series will occur on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 3:30-4:30 p.m., will be held in a conference room at the Third Coast Restaurant and will be open to employees from all TMC Member Institutions. The first event, “Insights into the Clinical Trial Protocol,” was held April 3. TMC has created an EventBrite link for pre-registration; on-site registration is also available.

The **John S. Dunn Collaborative Research Award Program** has been renewed for another 10 years (2019-2029). The program fosters new, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional engagement in the quantitative biomedical sciences by providing three research seed grants each year of up to $100,000 per team to support research/preliminary work for a 2-year period. Find more information about the Dunn Program [here](https://www.tmc.edu/research/john-s-dunn-collaborative-research-award-program).

The **2019-2020 Big Data Scientist Training Enhancement Program (BD-STEP)**, jointly supported by the National Cancer Institute and VA, is accepting applications. The program is a 2-year fellowship program that uses data science to advance cancer research and patient care. The deadline to apply is **July 19**; submit applications to [service.cancer.gov/bd-step](https://service.cancer.gov/bd-step).
In the News

Dr. Azka Afzal, medical resident, General Internal Medicine, wrote a Feb. 1 article for ABC News titled “The hidden danger of the humble toothpick.”

Dr. Rajeev Raghavan, associate professor, Nephrology, was interviewed for a Feb. 4 article in Renal & Urology News titled “Improving dialysis for undocumented immigrants with ESRD.”

Dr. Hoda Badr, associate professor, Epidemiology and Population Sciences, was interviewed for a Feb. 5 article in Oncology Times titled “3 questions on the role spouses play in head and neck cancer care.”
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<th><strong>Dr. David Graham, professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology</strong>, was interviewed for a Feb. 4 article in <em>Gastroenterology &amp; Endoscopy News</em> titled “Anti-MAP treatment tops placebo in large Crohn’s trial.”</th>
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<td>Dr. Biykem Bozkurt, professor, Cardiology, was interviewed for a Feb. 1 on-air spot on KRIV Fox 26 News titled “Go Red for Women Day.”</td>
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<td>Dr. Philip Alapat, assistant professor, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, was interviewed for a Feb. 13 article in <em>BCM News</em> titled “How light may impact your sleep.” The subject also was covered in an on-air story on WSLS NBC titled “Light can affect sleep.”</td>
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<td>Dr. David Corry, professor, Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology, was interviewed for a Jan. 31 article in <em>BCM From The Labs</em> titled “Beyond the airway and into the brain, yeast impairs memory in mice.”</td>
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