



# GW Medicine Notes

A Monthly Publication of the GW Department of Medicine

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June 2020

## QI PROJECT WINNERS

This year we had a virtual poster competition for the IM residents' QI projects. *Thank you Dr. Courtney Paul for being such a terrific mentor and special thanks to Dr. Catalanotti and Tori Sufczynski for setting this up. It went well with great input and feedback from the judges.*

**Here are the winners (top 3) in no particular order. These three QI projects will be presented in Grand Rounds on June 18th:**

### **"Increasing Inpatient Naloxone Prescriptions at George Washington University Hospital"**

Moyer A, Mohyi P, Yoon A, Rogers H, Alharbi M, Gracely J, Newman E, Knight M

### **"Increasing the Utilization of an Online Patient Portal ("Follow My Health") to Facilitate Physician-Patient Communication"**

Dan Karel, Tran Nguyen, Alex Wilkinson, Joseph Cioffi, Leen Raddaoui, Walaa Aldahri, Nora Alzahrani, Gavin Truong, Seba Ramhmdani, Margaret Pruitt, Leor Needleman, Julie Zemskova, Sneha Shah, Ezra Lee, Marwa Baalbaki, Carlos Rodriguez-Russo, Christopher Lawrence, Anna Rubin MD, April Barbour MD

### **"Increasing naloxone prescribing in an outpatient setting"**

Victoria Garland MD, Lily Nedda Dastmalchi DO, Alberto Batarseh MD, Kendall Brown MD, Stephano Leitner MD, Mohamed Bohlega MD, Javaughn Davis MD, Shengyuan Li MD, Michael Knight, MD

## FACULTY/HOUSESTAFF

**We are sad to officially announce that our End of the Year gathering at the Ritz-Carlton has been cancelled. We would like to invite you to join us to celebrate virtually on**

**Friday, June 5th at 7:00 pm**

<https://qwu.webex.com/join/join.php?>

[MTID=m135b2cf7c47de0f6acc677e8c1b5d3a6](https://qwu.webex.com/join/join.php?MTID=m135b2cf7c47de0f6acc677e8c1b5d3a6)

Access Code: 479 647 808

Password: DGIM2020

**Faculty and House Staff Awards, acknowledgement of departing residents, potential roasts, & more...**

## From the Chairman

An executive order would have been nice for a lot of things these past 4 months. It would have been important back in February to evoke the Defense Production Act to have factories start making PPE or ventilators. In January, it certainly would have helped to have placed biotech firms on notice to ramp up testing kits and swabs for detecting COVID-19. An executive order to enlist thousands to do contact surveillance after the first few cases were discovered in the United States just might have limited spread. None of these were done.

But there was a recent executive order aimed at all things keeping meat-processing facilities open. The order gave the Secretary of Agriculture (believe it: Sonny Perdue) the power to invoke the Defense Production Act to force these plants to stay open or re-open if shut. Why was an executive order required? Answer – so many people have been infected and died at these plants from COVID-19 that the “liability problem” needed to be solved. It wasn’t that the manufacturers didn’t want to open; they didn’t want to be sued by all their employees being forced to work in dangerous conditions. How dangerous? 115 meat-processing plants in 23 states have reported cases with over 20 deaths.

Not to worry, the CDC is once more on top of the issue releasing voluntary guidelines to protect workers and expecting the companies (like Perdue) to make “good faith efforts” to comply. Sort of like (exactly like) the fox guarding the hen house.

One plant in Missouri had almost 300 employees test positive last week, which they said would allow them to adjust daily staffing levels but not to close. Tyson has one plant in Nebraska that can provide enough beef in one day to feed 18 million people (as long as they are not all from Nebraska.) I am gagging just writing this.

The government has been reluctant to help or override states for anything, but in this case, they can force states to keep plants open. A plant in Minnesota is being forced to open with only 10-20 of its 200 employees willing to come to work. They will only be working to dispose of the pigs that were abandoned when it closed. Those little piggies won’t be going to market.

How about an executive order to promote plant-based diets? Unlike the lives we lost from the inactivity and denial of our government over COVID-19, maybe we could start to reduce some of the high risk factors like diabetes and obesity if we altered dietary habits. Of course, how self-centered is it of me to use a pandemic to try, and make people healthier when so many are dying. Even I don’t understand that last sentence.

The biggest problem facing the entire meat processing issue is that with plants closed the animals are living (excuse me) “high on the hog,” and are becoming too big to fit into the processing plant. Thousands of animals a day are being euthanized. Why are they growing so big and strong? Easy, they are on a plant-based diet.

*Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.*

## **Department of Medicine June 2020 Grand Rounds**

Occurs every Thursday

Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 475 023 900

or <https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?MTID=me1a9fc60338d1653d8163fea4e198281>

Password: DOMGrandRounds

**JUNE 4** "Teaching During the Pandemic"  
**Dr. Anjeni Keswani**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
GW MFA

**Dr. Jillian Catalanotti**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
GW MFA

**JUNE 11** Karl Whiplinger Memorial Lecture  
*Best of Chairman's Rounds*  
"Intermittent Fasting"  
**Dr. Karandeep Singh**  
GW IM Resident

"Dung Fever"  
**Dr. Jonathan Czeresnia**  
GW IM Resident

**JUNE 18** "QI Grand Rounds" - *see first page for listing*  
**Dr. Courtney Paul**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
GW MFA

**JUNE 25** "COVID Vaccine"  
**Dr. David Diemert**  
Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical  
Medicine  
GW MFA

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. GWUMC designates this continuing medical education activity on an hour-for-hour basis in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. (AMA).

## **Medicine Team Contacts**

### **Need to find a Resident on an inpatient team?**

Please use Tiger text to reach the appropriate physician. Go to [gwu.medhub.com/paging](http://gwu.medhub.com/paging); password: GWUPublicCall; Select Internal Medicine.

### **Alternatively**

GWUH Defining Medicine Intranet: Go to Applications \ Inactive-Non-Production \ Directory Contact System

**GWUH Citrix Portal**—<https://gwportal.gwu-hospital.com/vpn/index.html>

**MFA URL**— <http://192.168.254.132/miTeamWebWA/Home> (Logon) -  
<http://192.168.254.132/miTeamWebAL/Home> (View Only)

*If you have trouble with your MedHub account, please contact Anna Sufczynski at [asufczynski@mfa.gwu.edu](mailto:asufczynski@mfa.gwu.edu).*

## **Cardiology Grand Rounds**

Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 626 048 800

or <https://meetingsamer.webex.com/meetingsamer/j.php?>

[MTID=mc1f10d618330cf519001019eb20c8510](https://meetingsamer.webex.com/meetingsamer/j.php?MTID=mc1f10d618330cf519001019eb20c8510)

Password: u5BeV3y3vQx

**JUNE 3**

"Ten Emerging Concepts in Cardio Obstetrics –Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and Long-Term CV Risk"

**Dr. Garima Sharma**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
GW MFA

*Remaining Conferences TBA*



## **Resident Lecture Series June 2020 Noon Conferences**

*In an effort to practice social distancing we will host Chairman's rounds, Patient Safety Conferences and Clinical Pathology Conferences via WebEx. All other resident conferences are currently suspended until further notice.*

## **Resident Conferences**

### **All Faculty Invited to Attend**

Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 Access code: 739 912

912 or <https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?>

[MTID=m0a9fcb5540f4a6dc3ea0918af35b9b7d](https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?MTID=m0a9fcb5540f4a6dc3ea0918af35b9b7d)

Meeting password: PeaceLoveCOVID.

**JUNE 5** Case Based Conference hosted by Dr. Jillian Catalanotti

**JUNE 9** Patient Safety Conference: Drs. Kango and Epling

**JUNE 12** Case Based Conference hosted by Dr. Jillian Catalanotti

**JUNE 16** Patient Safety Conference: Drs. Beatty & Khalid

**JUNE 19** Case Based Conference hosted by Dr. Jillian Catalanotti

**JUNE 26** Case Based Conference hosted by Dr. Jillian Catalanotti

**2020 PROMOTION, TENURE AND EMERITUS STATUS**



Congratulations Dr. Joshua Cohen on your promotion to the rank of *Professor Emeritus*



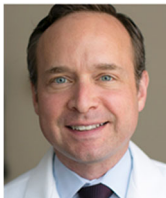
Congratulations Dr. Daniel Ein on your promotion to the rank of *Clinical Professor Emeritus*



Congratulations Dr. Alan Stone on your promotion to the rank of *Clinical Professor Emeritus*



Congratulations Dr. Anita Aggarwal on your promotion to the rank of *Professor*



Congratulations Dr. William Borden on your promotion to the rank of *Professor*



Congratulations Dr. Sabyasachi Sen on your promotion to the rank of *Professor*



Congratulations Dr. Victoria Shanmugam on your promotion to the rank of *Professor*



Congratulations Dr. Helen Burstin on your promotion to the rank of *Clinical Professor*



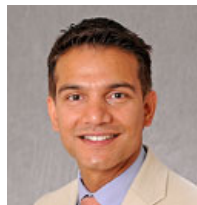
Congratulations Dr. Rohan Fernandes on your promotion to the rank of *Associate Professor with Tenure*



Congratulations Dr. Andrew Choi on your promotion to the rank of *Associate Professor*



Congratulations Dr. Mikhail Kogan on your promotion to the rank of *Associate Professor*



Congratulations Dr. Shailendra Sharma on your promotion to the rank of *Associate Professor*

**Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newest Chief Residents to the Department of Medicine**

**Ghazal H. Kango, MD**, Joins as a Chief Medical Resident, assigned to the Division of General Internal Medicine on June 23, 2020.

Dr. Kango received her Medical Degree from The George Washington University following the completion of a Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering at the University of Maryland College Park. During her time in Medical School, she served on the leadership committee for a student-led health clinic and has maintained an interest in academic medicine ever since.

**Leigh Anne Dickinson, DO** joins the MFA as a Chief Medical Resident. She will serve at the GWU Hospital effective June 23, 2020.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Dickinson received her Medical Degree from Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine in North Carolina. Prior to her medical education, she attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her Bachelor of Science in Biology. Dr. Dickinson has special interests in academic hospital medicine, healthcare administration, and women's health.

**Emily Bilger, MD**, joins the MFA as a Chief Medical Resident. She will serve at the GWU Hospital effective June 23, 2020.

Dr. Bilger received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from the George Washington University. From there, she worked in the Laboratory of Brain and Cognition at the National Institutes of Health before attending medical school at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, NJ. Her professional interests include hospital medicine and health disparities, particularly amongst urban underserved populations.

**Monica Arendt, MD**, joins us as a Chief Medical Resident starting on June 23, 2020. She will serve at the DC Veteran's Affairs Medical Center.

After earning her Bachelor in Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan, Dr. Arendt received her Medical Degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. During her medical training, Dr. Arendt has maintained an interest in health policy and women's health.

**Mohammad Shirazi, MD**, joins us as a Chief Medical Resident starting on June 23, 2020. He will serve at the DC Veteran's Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Shirazi received his Medical Degree from Howard University College of Medicine in 2017. Prior to Medical School, he worked in a translational medicine research laboratory at Inova Fairfax Hospital focusing on genomics studies. Throughout his Medical School and Residency training, Dr. Shirazi has maintained an interest in both academic medicine and health disparities

**Congratulations Dr. David Burstein, Primary Care Residency Program Graduate, on being awarded the Founders' Grant at the 2020 SGIM Award Reception**

The SGIM Founders' Grant provides \$10,000 in support to junior investigators who exhibit significant potential for a successful research career and who needs a "jump start" to establish a strong research funding base

Check out his acceptance speech and his shout out to Dr. Barbour: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VhvI3YA4nM&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VhvI3YA4nM&feature=emb_title)

**WELCOMING OUR NEW INTERNS!**

The Internal Medicine Residency Program is excited to welcome our new interns on June 23rd! 49 ambitious doctors will begin their residency endeavors with us! We are very excited to have them join our program and to watch them grow into the fantastic physicians that you all are. We are confident that they will be a wonderful addition to our GW/MFA family. Please be sure to welcome them as you see and work with them in clinic and the hospital!

**Kudos, Congratulations, Commiserations & Goodbyes**

**Kudos...Dr. Weerakoon Shaneke**, Cardiology Fellow, on being recognized by the Director of Training at GW Hospital for her "caring behavior while taking care of a patient."

**Kudos...Marylynn Aminrazavi**, FNP-BC Nephrology, on words of praise from a patient's family member "You give us a light of hope."

**Congratulations...Dr. Hayley Rogers**, GWU Internal Medicine Resident on winning the National ACP Research Poster Competition, "LGBTQI+ Healthcare Training in Medical Education: A Quantitative and Qualitative Investigation."

**Congratulations...Dr. Rebecca Kaltman**, Hematology/Oncology, for being select for the W. Scott Schroth Scholarly Concentration Mentorship Award that recognizes outstanding mentorship by a GW faculty member of a scholarly concentration student.

**Congratulations...Dr. Alex J. Mechaber**, GWU Primary Care Residency Program Graduate, Former Chief Resident & Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education at the University of Miami, for becoming Associate Vice President for Physician Licensure Programs at the National Board of Medical Examiners.

**Congratulations...Elina Kapoor** (MD Class of 2022) after competition at the national level Elina's project has been successfully funded for the AΩA Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship this year. Elina is the 13<sup>th</sup> medical student awardee from our GW AΩA chapter to be funded for this respected fellowship.

The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates  
Department of Medicine, Suite 8-416  
2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW