MAJOR LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

EL-RAYES NAMED JOHN KAUFFMAN FAMILY PROFESSOR FOR PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH
Bassel F. El-Rayes, MD, Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, was named John Kauffman Family Professor for Pancreatic Cancer Research. Dr. El-Rayes joined the Emory faculty in 2009 as Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 2014. Dr. El-Rayes’ recent research has focused on the integration of heat shock protein (Hsp) 90 inhibitors to the standard treatment paradigms in gastrointestinal cancers. Dr. El-Rayes serves as the principal investigator on a number of investigator-initiated and industry clinical trials that have provided innovative treatment options for our patients. He serves as the Associate Director of Clinical Research in the Winship Cancer Institute. Dr. El-Rayes is also a valuable member of the Discovery and Development Therapeutic Program at Winship, one of Winship’s four research programs. His transformative leadership of our clinical research enterprise plays a crucial role in Winship’s goal to become a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. El-Rayes serves on important committees and task forces at the NCI, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and SWOG. He serves as a reviewer for leading journals such as JAMA and Clinical Cancer Research.

PATTARAS NAMED JAMES C. KENNEDY CHAIR IN PROSTATE SURGERY
John G. Patteras, MD, Associate Professor of Urology, was named James C. Kennedy Chair in Prostate Surgery. Dr. Patteras joined the Emory faculty in 2000 as Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2009. Dr. Patteras’s research and clinical interests have been in minimally invasive genito-urinary surgery, including but not limited to robotic/laparoscopic/endourologic reconstructive, oncology, and urolithiasis procedures. His recent interests have been in high-risk prostate cancer treatment, nephron-sparing surgery, and long-term success of renal tumor ablative therapy. In 2013, Dr. Patteras took his strong skill sets to expand Emory urologic care in his capacity as Urology Service Chief at Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital, where he met Mr. Kennedy.

RAMALINGAM NAMED ROBERTO C. GOIZUETA CHAIR FOR CANCER RESEARCH
Suresh S. Ramalingam, MD, Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Deputy Director of the Winship Cancer Institute, and Assistant Dean of Research, was named Roberto C. Goizueta Chair for Cancer Research. Dr. Ramalingam joined the Emory faculty in 2007 as an Associate Professor and was promoted to Professor in 2012. He was also named as a Georgia Cancer Coalition scholar in 2007. Since his arrival at Emory, he has led the Winship Thoracic Oncology Program and is also co-leader of the Discovery and Developmental Therapeutic Research Program within Winship’s Cancer Center Support Grant (P30). Under Dr. Ramalingam’s leadership, a new P01 grant in lung cancer has been submitted. He has reorganized the Winship research programs in lung and aerodigestive cancer working groups, resulting in increased enrollment of patients onto therapeutic clinical trials. His predominant research focus is on the design, execution, and implementation of clinical trials for patients with lung cancer. He is author or co-author of over 125 peer-reviewed publications and has an h-index of 42. Dr. Ramalingam has been recognized on the
national level by receiving the Young Investigator Award for 2013 by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Research and Education Foundation and by receiving the Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award from the NCI.

**ROSSI NAMED JAMES C. KENNEDY CHAIR IN PROSTATE CANCER**

Peter J. Rossi, MD, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, was named James C. Kennedy Chair in Prostate Cancer. Dr. Rossi joined the Emory faculty in 2008 as an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology and associate member of the Winship Cancer Institute, and his clinical work initially focused on the management of men with prostate cancer on the Clifton Road campus. In 2012, he was appointed Medical Director in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital (ESJH), as well as Co-Director of the Multi-Disciplinary Prostate Cancer Center and Co-Director of the Gamma Knife Center at that facility. Dr. Rossi was promoted to Associate Professor in 2015. Dr. Rossi’s primary service responsibilities within Emory University at the present time are as a radiation oncologist primarily caring for men with prostate cancer, as the Medical Director of the Department of Radiation Oncology at ESJH, and as one of the three primary physician leaders in Winship’s clinical program at ESJH.

**TORRES NAMED LOUISA AND RAND GLENN FAMILY CHAIR IN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH**

Mylin A. Torres, MD, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology, was named Louisa and Rand Glenn Family Chair in Breast Cancer Research. Dr. Torres joined Emory faculty in 2009 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and a member of Winship. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2014. Dr. Torres is an active member of Winship’s Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program. She has been invited to deliver a number of original lectures within Emory and Winship and has been an active speaker at community events regionally. She has delivered invited visiting professor grand round lectures at several institutions, including the Institut Gustave Roussey in France and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of Rutgers University. She has also delivered invited presentations at national meetings, including the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) semi-annual meetings in 2012 and 2013 meetings, which were attended by about 900 professionals. She was introduced to the RTOG in 2009 as the New Investigator Representative to its Breast Cancer Working Group and became a full member of that group by 2011. During her tenure here at Emory and Winship, Dr. Torres has been the recipient of a Winship Kennedy Seed Grant, which led to her Susan B. Komen-supported research award entitled “Epigenetic Memory of Breast Cancer Treatment-induced Inflammation and Fatigue.” As the newly appointed Director of the Glenn Family Breast Center, Dr. Torres will work towards establishing a physical space for multidisciplinary clinical care and research collaboration and a commitment to ancillary staff and support services. Her goals are to develop sound infrastructure that supports a seamless patient and research experience and to standardize and consistently provide high-quality diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to patients at every Glenn Family Breast Center location. Together with other faculty, she will enhance our research portfolio to include clinical trials and patient outcome databases to address the breadth of issues associated with the care of women with breast cancers seen within the community and at Winship.

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WALKER NAMED MARIE AND E.R. SNELLING PROFESSOR
Lary C. Walker, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurology, was named Marie and E.R. Snelling Professorship. Dr. Walker joined the Emory faculty in 2003 as Associate Professor of Neurology and Research Professor at Yerkes National Primate Center. Dr. Walker has been immersed in his field for 25 years, beginning with studies of the origins and composition of senile plaques and cerebral β-amyloid angiopathy in humans and animal models. Since then, he has continued his research on the biological basis of neurodegenerative disease. Most recently, his laboratory, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Tübingen, has been working to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which Aβ aggregation can be induced in vitro to gain insights into the origin and evolution of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Walker is an outstanding scientist who has received worldwide acclaim for his scientific accomplishments, including the highest awards in the field; for example, the Metropolitan Life Award for Alzheimer's Disease. He has made significant contributions to academic neurology that have brought recognition to the Department of Neurology, the School of Medicine, and the University.

PARKS NAMED AHA FELLOW
Willie James Parks, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was named fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA). AHA is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Dr. Parks is active with national and international committee memberships, including the American Heart Association Cardiovascular Disease in the Young council, Cardiovascular Radiology and Interventional Council, the Society of Cardiovascular Imaging, North American Society of Cardiovascular Imaging, and the Society for Cardiovascular Computed Tomography.

MILLER AND GREEN NAMED NAMS CERTIFIED MENOPAUSE PROVIDERS
Taniqua Miller, MD, Assistant Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, and Victoria Green, MD, MHSA, JD, MBA, Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, were named Certified Menopause Practitioners by the North American Menopause Society (NAMS). There are only 13 NAMS Certified Menopause Practitioners in the state of Georgia, and four of them are members of the Emory Clinic: Taniqua Miller, MD; Victoria Green, MD, MHSA, JD, MBA; Mary Dolan, MD, MPH; and Penny Castellano, MD. NAMS is North America's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting women's health and quality of life through an understanding of menopause and healthy aging. Those who hold the NAMS certification have demonstrated special interest and competency in the field of menopause. Dr. Miller maintains her clinical practice at the Emory Clinic on Clifton Road, while Dr. Green practices at Grady Memorial Hospital.

MCFADDEN NAMED GAAAP PRESIDENT-ELECT
Terri McFadden, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was named President-elect for the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (GAAAP). Dr. McFadden also received the Gretchen Hunsberger Medical Champion Achievement Award. This award honors a doctor or other medical provider who has been extraordinary as a trainer, clinician, and/or clinical director; one whose exemplary personal and professional medical leadership has helped to make delivery of the Reach Out and Read program model all it can be in pediatric primary care. Dr. McFadden is Medical Director of Primary Care at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding. She has been

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instrumental in inspiring healthcare providers to implement the Reach Out and Read model and promote literacy across the state and in her practice.

GREENBAUM NAMED ASPN PRESIDENT
Larry Greenbaum, MD, PhD, Marcus Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of nephrology at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, was named President of the American Society of Pediatrics Nephrology (ASPN). The ASPN is the primary representative of pediatric nephrology field in the U.S. and Canada and currently has more than 600 members. Dr. Greenbaum had previously served on the ASPN council and as ASPN Secretary-Treasurer and President-elect. He also currently serves as past-Chair of the AAP Section of Nephrology and is on the Nephrology Subboard of the American Board of Pediatrics.

WILLINGHAM NAMED GGES PRESIDENT
Field Willingham, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, was named President of the Georgia Gastroenterology and Endoscopic Society (GGES). Dr. Willingham is a leading expert in interventional and therapeutic endoscopy, seeing patients for specialized procedures from the United States and abroad. He focuses on clinical trial, epidemiologic, and translational research in interventional and therapeutic endoscopy, frequently studying conditions such as neoplasms of the foregut, cholangiocarcinoma, esophageal cancer, Barrett's esophagus, pancreatic cancer, chronic pancreatitis, cystic disease of the pancreas, and autoimmune pancreatitis.

PARSLOW NAMED APC PRESIDENT
Tristram Parslow, MD, PhD, William Patterson Timmie Professor and Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, was named two-year term President of the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC). APC is a non-profit society, which serves as the voice of academic departments of Pathology in the U.S. and Canada. Parslow laboratory's research is focused mainly on the structure and assembly of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and influenza A virus, with the goal of developing new approaches to antiviral therapy. The team is particularly interested in understanding how each of these viruses is able to recognize and package its genomic RNA into new viral particles as they form within an infected cell. By combining three-dimensional structural analysis with targeted mutagenesis of virally encoded macromolecules, we are elucidating specific RNA-RNA and RNA-protein interactions that are critical for replication, and that may offer new targets for antiviral drugs.

CZAJA NAMED HBPP STUDY SECTION CHAIR
Mark J. Czaja, MD, FAASLD, Professor of Medicine, was named Chair of the Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology (HBPP) Study Section of the Center for Scientific Review. Dr. Czaja's research attempts to understand the mechanisms of liver injury and hepatocyte cell death in order to develop new approaches to prevent human liver failure. Dr. Czaja's laboratory first described the metabolism of cellular lipids through the lysosomal pathway of autophagy, and his studies have delineated a role for autophagy in liver injury.

DUWAYRI APPOINTED SEVSG MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Yazan Duwayri, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Chief Quality Officer of the Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy, has been a member of the Executive Committee of

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the Southeastern Vascular Study Group (SEVSG) since 2012. Following SEVSG’s recent Spring 2016 meeting, Dr. Duwayri was elected to a three-year term as Medical Director of the organization, which will expand his responsibilities to chairing the executive committee and overseeing the group’s overall operations. The SEVSG is a partnership of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi-based clinicians, hospital administrators, research personnel, and their affiliated hospitals that collects, analyzes, and shares patient data involving perioperative variables in addition to short and long-term outcomes. This regional group functions under the auspices of the Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI) of the Society for Vascular Surgery, which aims to continuously improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and cost of vascular care by facilitating local translation of national registry data into practice change. Dr. Duwayri's participation in SEVSG was instrumental to the early success of the group, primarily through his initiation of an automatic data import mechanism that allowed Emory's electronic medical record to integrate with the VQI's database, thereby increasing accuracy and significantly lowering the costs and time associated with data abstraction.

MORRIS SELECTED TO NITRIC OXIDE SOCIETY COUNCIL
Claudia Morris, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was selected as a member Council of the Nitric Oxide Society. This organization promotes the advancement of basic and applied scientific research in all aspects of nitric oxide research, to develop and enhance the education and training of students and researchers in this field, to foster interdisciplinary communication. Dr. Morris's academic interests include translational research in Sickle cell disease, pulmonary hypertension, and Asthma.

WETMORE ELECTED TO AAP SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Cynthia Wetmore, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was elected to the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Wetmore serves as the Director of the Center for Clinical and Translational Research for Emory + Children’s, and Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program in Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center. Dr. Wetmore's research interests include innovative therapies in pediatric oncology; pediatric neurooncology; developing and running Phase I/II studies in pediatric oncology especially neuro-oncology and solid tumors.

ZHENG APPOINTED TO NDPR STUDY SECTION
James Q. Zheng, PhD, Professor of Cell Biology and Neurology, was appointed to the Neuronal Differentiation, Plasticity, Regeneration and Rhythmicity (NDPR) Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors. Dr. Zheng’s research focuses on study the cell biology of nerve cells with a specific focus on the signal transduction and cytoskeletal mechanisms underlying neural development, disorders, and regeneration.

SRINIVASAN APPOINTED TO CIMG STUDY SECTION
Shanthi Srinivasan, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, was appointed to the Clinical, Integrative and Molecular Gastroenterology (CIMG) Study Section of the National Institutes of Health-R01. Dr. Srinivasan's clinical interest is in gastrointestinal motility disorders with a focus on diabetes and
how it affects gastrointestinal motility. Her laboratory focuses on the factors affecting the survival and differentiation of the Enteric Nervous System.

**JONES SELECTED TO GPLA**

Jeremy K. Jones, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, was selected to the Georgia Physicians Leadership Academy (GPLA). GPLA was established in 2007 to develop physician leaders who will enhance the medical profession and the health care system and the quality of life in the state. Dr. Jones is actively involved in clinical trials investigating new therapeutic options for glaucoma. He is particularly interested in the education of ophthalmology residents and medical students as well as advocacy on behalf of his profession and his patients. His clinical interests include medical and surgical management of glaucoma, laser therapy for glaucoma, and surgical management of cataracts.

**MEISEL SELECTED TO ASCO COMMITTEE**

Jane Meisel, MD, Assistant Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, was selected as a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) Cancer Education Committee. She was also selected to be the Committee’s Professional Develop Track Leader. In addition, Dr. Meisel was selected as a member of the NRG’s Developmental Therapeutics Committee. Dr. Meisel is passionate about women's health, and specializes in treating patients with breast and gynecologic malignancies. Her research is focused on the development of new therapeutic options for women with gynecologic and breast cancers, and on improving quality of life for these patients.

**TEODORESCU SELECTED TO IPRO ESRD MEDICAL REVIEW BOARDS**

Victoria Teodorescu, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, was selected as a member of the Divisional and Medical Review Boards of the IPRO’s End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), Network of the South Atlantic (Network 6). Network 6 encompasses dialysis patients and providers in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and includes over 44,000 dialysis patients. As a Divisional Board member, Dr. Teodorescu, who is an expert in vascular access for dialysis, advises the IPRO Board of Directors on quality improvement activities and policies and procedures; interface with CMS and other regulatory agencies; encourage and facilitate participation by patients, providers of services, and ESRD facilities in vocational rehabilitation programs; develop criteria and standards relating to the quality and appropriateness of patient care and Network goals; and numerous other tasks. Medical Review Board representatives also analyze local data such as clinical performance measures, and develop, implement, and evaluate Network quality improvement projects.

**SABA APPOINTED TO CANCER AND CANCERS OF THE HEAD AND NECK PUBLICATIONS EDITORIAL BOARD**

Nabil Saba, MD, Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, was appointed to the Editorial Board of *Cancer* and *Cancer of the Head and Neck Publications*. Dr. Saba was also elected as a member of the NRG Oncology’s Head and Neck Cancer Core Committee. Dr. Saba is a nationally recognized expert in the treatment of head and neck, and esophageal cancer. He has been the recipient of several NIH and industry funded grant support to study these malignancies. He has recently received funding from the NIH to examine novel genomic approaches for diagnosing HPV positive oropharyngeal cancers. He conducts and leads a number of head and neck cancer clinical trials with a focus on biomarker endpoints.
CARDONA APPOINTED TO ASO EDITORIAL BOARD
Kenneth Cardona, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, was appointed to the Editorial Board of the bone and soft tissue sarcoma section of Annals of Surgical Oncology, the official journal of the Society of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Cardona is the Director of the core curriculum for the general surgery residency, co-Chairs the gastrointestinal working group at Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM), and was one of the drivers of the formation of the Emory Sarcoma Center at EUHM.

RESEARCH

ETHIER AWARDED GRANT TO SUPPORT ASTRONAUT HEALTH ON LONG DURATION SPACE EXPLORATION MISSIONS
C. Ross Ethier, PhD, Professor and Interim Chair of Biomedical Engineering and Georgia Research Alliance Lawrence L. Gellerstedt, Jr. Eminent Scholar in Bioengineering, is one of two College of Engineering faculty members awarded grants to support astronaut health on long duration space exploration missions. NASA's Human Research Program and National Space Biomedical Research Institute fund 27 proposals to help answer questions about astronaut health and performance during future long duration missions beyond low Earth orbit. Dr. Ethier, will study VIIP Simulations of CSF, Hemodynamics, and Ocular Risk. The selected proposals will investigate the impact of the space environment on various aspects of astronaut health, including visual impairment, behavioral health and performance, bone and muscle loss, cardiovascular alterations, human factors and performance, sensorimotor adaptation and the development and application of smart medical systems and technologies.

DATABASE LINKAGE FINDS GREATER SURVIVAL RATES AFTER LUNG CANCER SURGERY FOR OLDER ADULTS
By linking lung cancer operations data from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD) with data for patients 65 years of age or older from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a study published in the June 2016 edition of The Annals of Thoracic Surgery discovered that these patients are living longer after lung cancer surgery. The conclusions drawn by "Longitudinal Follow-up of Lung Cancer Resection From the Society of Thoracic Surgeons General Thoracic Surgery Database in Patients 65 Years and Older" are especially significant considering that the elderly represent an increasing proportion of patients diagnosed with lung cancer. As a solution to the inability of the STS GTSD to capture long-term survival after lung cancer surgery beyond 30 days, first author Felix Fernandez, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, and his coauthors merged 37,009 GTSD records for patients 65 years of age and older who underwent lung cancer surgery between 2002 and 2012 with claims data from CMS for the same period. The records of 26,055 patients were successfully linked, providing access to vital information related to long-term patient outcomes, including hospital readmission rates, reinterventions (second procedures), and long-term survival. According to the National Cancer Institute, the five-year survival of all patients diagnosed with lung cancer in the United States is approximately 17%, meaning that fewer than half of all patients who undergo surgery for lung cancer survive as long as five years. In examining the STS-CMS linked data, the researchers found that the median survival following lung cancer surgery for pathologic Stage I was 6.7 years, almost two years longer than the benchmark five-year survival rate. In addition, the study showed that the
five-year survival rate for selected older patients with advanced lung cancer who were treated with surgical therapy was 29.9% for Stage III and 26.7% for Stage IV. The researchers posited that the ability to connect discrete data pools in such a manner can be yet another useful tool improving lung cancer treatment.

**PSM STUDY AT GRADY FINDS COMMON FACTORS IN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS NEEDING POSTOPERATIVE THERAPY**

The Prospective Surveillance Model of care (PSM), originally developed by the American Cancer Society in conjunction with a panel of breast cancer experts and advocacy groups, practices early identification, treatment, and support of the physical impairments experienced by breast cancer survivors. This proactive approach to the morbidity of breast cancer treatment has been applied and evaluated since 2012 at Grady Memorial Hospital’s Avon Comprehensive Breast Center, a program directed by Sheryl Gabram, MD, Professor of Surgery. In a study published online in June by the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, a team of investigators that included Dr. Gabram as senior author and members of Turning Point Breast Cancer Rehabilitation, Emory University, and other national academic medical centers, sought to begin compiling data that would eventually allow physicians to identify breast cancer patients that were most likely to need rehabilitation intervention.

“Implementing the Prospective Surveillance Model (PSM) of Rehabilitation for Breast Cancer Patients with 1-Year Postoperative Follow-up, a Prospective, Observational Study” was the first study to undertake a year-long observation of PSM in action and focus on describing the incidence of impairments during the first postoperative year and the differences between the patients requiring rehabilitation intervention and those who did not. A total of 120 patients were enrolled. Impairment measures of pain, range of motion, and self-reported measures of function using the Upper Extremity Functional Index (UEFI) and Quick Disability of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (QuickDASH) questionnaires were performed at designated intervals during the postoperative year. All patients received exercise and education, and the 36 patients with identified impairments underwent individualized rehabilitation intervention. Clinical factors associated with need for intervention were determined using univariate analysis. The study team found no statistically significant differences between the intervention and non-intervention groups for BMI, breast surgery type, reconstruction type, or radiotherapy. However, the intervention group had significantly lower levels of extremity function at the early postoperative evaluation, greater number of lymph nodes removed, greater extent of axillary surgery, were more likely to have undergone chemotherapy, had greater overall burden of disease, and were younger than the non-intervention group. The study concluded that survivorship practitioners should have heightened awareness for rehabilitation intervention in patients whose treatment experience contains a number of these characteristics, and that future studies should focus on implementing a screening tool for early identification of patients in need of rehabilitation referral.

**iCHOOSE KIDNEY APP OBSERVED TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTION**

The iChoose Kidney app has been available both as a free download and in an online format for over two years. Developed by a team led by Rachel Patzer, PhD, Assistant Professor Surgery and Director of the Emory Transplant Health Services and Outcomes Research Program, and Mohua Basu, MPH, a Transplant Epidemiologist for the Emory Transplant Center (ETC), the app provides an individualized comparison of mortality risk estimates for end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients on dialysis vs. living or deceased donor kidney transplantation. Evidence suggests that nearly 1/3 of

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dialysis patients in the U.S. are not informed about transplantation as a treatment option for kidney disease, even though kidney transplantation provides significant survival advantages over long-term dialysis, and living donation has better graft and patient survival rates than deceased donor transplantation. The iChoose app was conceived to address this problem, and designed as a simple, novel tool that can be used at the bedside to translate evidence-based information to patients. Shortly after its roll out, Dr. Patzer, Mrs. Basu, and participating nephrologists and kidney transplant surgeons at the ETC, Columbia Transplant Center in New York, and Northwestern Transplant Center in Chicago began evaluating the app with their patients as a randomized, controlled trial. The findings were recently announced by Mrs. Basu at the American Transplant Congress, and concluded that the iChoose Kidney decision-making support tool can indeed fulfill its purpose. The study enrolled 470 patients from the three large transplant centers and randomly assigned 230 control patients to receive standard education, and 240 intervention patients to receive standard education assisted by iChoose decision tools. Thirty-four transplant nephrologists and surgeons participated in the study, which evaluated how the use of iChoose Kidney improved patient knowledge of treatment options, patient uncertainty and preferences about treatments options, patient access to receiving a kidney transplant, and whether physicians found the tool useful during transplant evaluations. The results showed providers discussed the survival benefit of kidney transplantation vs. dialysis with 97% of the intervention patients and 94% of the control patients, and reviewed living vs. deceased donation with 93% of the intervention patients and only 80% of control patients. The providers believed the tool improved patient understanding of the survival benefits of transplantation vs. dialysis in 90% of the intervention patients and understanding of the survival benefit of living vs. deceased donor kidney transplantation in 86% of intervention patients. The physicians also believed 71% of control patients would have benefited from using the iChoose app, as the “visual depiction was easier to understand,” “it was easier to interpret risks to patients,” iChoose Kidney included “more precise estimates” and “more quantitative data,” and that “patients may be more motivated to try to find a living donor” after using the app. The research team plans to assess the impact of iChoose Kidney on access to waitlisting and kidney transplantation once longer follow-up times are available.

USING VLPs VACCINES TO INDUCE BROAD SPECTRUM PROTECTION AGAINST HIV-1

Richard Compans, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and Andrei Vzorov, MD, PhD, co-authored a paper describing the effects of HIV-1 Env protein modifications on the antigenic properties of Virus-Like Particles (VLPs) vaccines. The study was published in the May-Jun edition of Molecular Biology (Mosk). An ideal protective HIV-1 vaccine can elicit broadly neutralizing antibodies, capable of preventing HIV transmission. The strategies of designing vaccines include generation of soluble recombinant proteins, which mimic the native Env complex and are able to enhance the immunogenicity of gp120. Recent data indicate that the cytoplasmic tail (CT) of the Env protein has multiple functions, which can affect the early steps of infection, as well as viral assembly and antigenic properties. Modifications in the CT can be used to induce conformational changes in functional regions of gp120 and to stabilize the trimeric structure, avoiding immune misdirection and induction of non-neutralizing antibody responses. Env-trimers with modified CTs in VLPs are able to induce antibodies with broad spectrum neutralizing activity and high avidity and have the potential for developing an effective vaccine against HIV.

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SKIN VACCINATION WITH TETANUS TOXOID PROTECTS MOTHER AND NEWBORNS FROM INFECTION
Edward Stein Esser, Research Specialist in Microbiology and Immunology, was first author and Richard Compans, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, was the senior author of a study that found potent protective efficacy to rodent mothers and their offspring after skin immunization with microneedle patches containing unadjuvanted tetanus toxoid. This vaccine delivery method is well suited for expanding vaccination coverage in developing countries. Maternal and neonatal tetanus claim tens of thousands lives every year in developing countries, but could be prevented by hygienic practices and improved immunization of pregnant women. This study tested the hypothesis that skin vaccination can overcome the immunologically transformed state of pregnancy and enhance protective immunity to tetanus in mothers and their newborns. To achieve this goal, we developed microneedle patches (MNPs) that efficiently delivered unadjuvanted tetanus toxoid to skin of pregnant mice and demonstrated that this route induced superior immune responses in female mice conferring 100% survival to tetanus toxin challenge when compared to intramuscular vaccination. Mice born to MNP-vaccinated mothers showed detectable tetanus-specific IgG antibodies up to 12 weeks of age and complete protection to tetanus toxin challenge up at 6 weeks of age. In contrast, none of the 6-week-old mice born to intramuscularly vaccinated mothers survived challenge. Although pregnant mice vaccinated with unadjuvanted tetanus toxoid had 30% lower IgG and IgG1 titers than mice vaccinated intramuscularly with Alum®-adjuvanted tetanus toxoid vaccine, IgG2a titers and antibody affinity maturation were similar between these groups.

HONORS, AWARDS AND RANKINGS

COMPANS RECEIVES DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE AND AWARD
Richard Compans, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, delivered the annual Dean’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture in the School of Medicine. Chris Larsen, MD, DPhil, Dean of Emory University School of Medicine, presented Dr. Compans with the Dean’s Award. Dr. Compans has led research on ways to improve influenza vaccination, such as vaccines based on non-infectious virus-like particles and microneedle patches for delivery, now being tested clinically. He was instrumental in developing the Emory Vaccine Center, with more than 250 faculty members and staff. Dr. Compans’s work with influenza vaccines has received considerable attention since the 2009 H1N1 flu epidemic, as well as concern for emerging pandemic avian flu. In addition, Michael Cassidy, President and CEO of the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), along with Senior Vice President, Susan Shows, presented Dr. Compans with the GRA’s Catalyst Award. The Catalyst Award is given to a scientist whose work has helped progress research exploration, university collaboration, or university startup formation and growth in Georgia. Dr. Compans has recruited many esteemed faculty to Emory University and helped develop the Emory Vaccine Center into the world’s largest academic vaccine research center in the world.

WOODS RECEIVES AFLAC CANCER CENTER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
William G. Woods, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Director Emeritus of the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, received the Aflac Cancer Center 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr.
Woods has been integral to the Aflac Cancer Center’s fundraising efforts, increasing donor support for research, fellowships, and the family support team. During his tenure as Director, Aflac Cancer Center grew to become a top-ranked national program and grew from 18 to 80 faculty members and researchers, generating about $18 million annually in grants. Dr. Woods also was Chief of hematology/oncology/BMT (blood and marrow transplant) in the Department of Pediatrics. His research interests include clinical trials in myeloid leukemia, neuroblastoma screening and access to care for pediatric cancer patients.

ARMSTRONG NAMED WINNER IN PHYSICIAN CATEGORY
Wendy Armstrong, MD, Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of Grady Health System’s Ponce de Leon Infectious Disease Clinic, was named winner in the Physician category of the Atlanta Business Chronicle annual Health Care Heroes Awards competition. She is at the forefront of efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis and provide affected populations with the treatment and knowledge they need to prevent the spread of the virus. She directs the care of nearly 5,000 AIDS patients who come to the center for medical care and mental health, substance abuse and dental treatment. As co-chair of the Fulton County Task Force on HIV/AIDS, Dr. Armstrong helped develop Fulton’s plan to address the growing number of HIV/AIDS cases in the county and has championed the creation of a new clinic that will provide the HIV prevention drug, Truvada, free to people with a high risk of contracting the disease. Dr. Armstrong is Chair-elect of the national HIV Medicine Association, Chair of the Training Program Directors’ Committee of the Infectious Disease Society of America, program Director for Emory’s Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program and is active in the Emory Center for AIDS Research. Dr. Armstrong’s research interests revolve around disparities in access to care and barriers to care as well as health care utilization for vulnerable, HIV-infected populations.

COSTARIDES RECEIVES AAO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Anastasios P. Costarides, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, received the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Dr. Costarides was appointed as Interim Director of the Glaucoma Service. His clinical practice focuses on the medical and surgical management of patients with glaucoma. Research interests include oxidative stress in the eye as it pertains particularly to glaucoma, cataract development and corneal endothelial dysfunction. Clinical research interests include the effect of glaucoma and its management on the corneal endothelium.

HUBBARD RECEIVES AAO SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
G. Baker Hubbard, III, MD, Thomas M. Aaberg Sr. Chair of Ophthalmology, received the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Dr. Hubbard’s primary research interest is in characterizing the clinical manifestations of pediatric retinal disorders and their treatment outcomes. He has also been the institutional principal investigator for national clinical trials on emerging therapies for adult retinal disorders, such as diabetic retinopathy and age-related macular degeneration.

YOGANATHAN RECOGNIZED AT INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Ajit Yoganathan, PhD, Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Regents’ Professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory, delivered the keynote speech at the 11th International Symposium on Biomechanics in Vascular Biology and

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Cardiovascular Disease held at Emory University. After his presentation, Dr. Yoganathan was recognized for his lifetime contributions and advancements in the field of cardiovascular research by Hanjoong Jo, PhD, Associate Chair for the Coulter Department, and Robert Nerem, PhD, Parker H. Petit Distinguished Chair for Engineering in Medicine and Professor Emeritus from the Georgia Institute of Technology. This year, the international symposium attracted more than 100 researchers specializing in vascular biology and cardiovascular disease. Some of the countries represented by academic researchers included Canada, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States. Dr. Yoganathan's research deals with experimental and computational fluid mechanics as it pertains to artificial heart valves, left and right sides of the heart, and congenital heart diseases. His work involves the use of laser Doppler velocimetry, digital particle image velocimetry, Doppler ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging to non-invasively study and quantify blood flow patterns in the cardiovascular system.

KHALIFA RECEIVES AAO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Yousuf Khalifa, MD, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, received the Achievement Award from American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). He also received the Thomas M. Aaberg Teacher of the Year Award from the Emory Eye Center. Dr. Khalifa serves as Chief of service of ophthalmology at Grady Memorial Hospital and in the cornea service at Emory Eye Center. He is a member of the AAO, the Fredrick C. Cordes Eye Society, the Society of Heed Fellows, the Cornea Society, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

HAYEK RECEIVES LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OPHTHALMOLOGY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
Brent Hayek, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, receives the Ophthalmology Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Loyola University. Dr. Hayek’s areas of expertise include both reconstructive and cosmetic procedures. Dr. Hayek's research interests include eyelid and orbital tumors, as well as various implants suitable for long-term eyelid reconstruction. He is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society.

LIEPPE RECEIVES ESJH BURSON PHYSICIAN AWARD OF DISTINCTION
William Lieppe, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was named the 26th recipient of Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital's (ESJH) annual E. Napier "Buck" Burson, Jr., MD Physician Award of Distinction. The award is ESJH's highest honor for physician service and is named for the late Burson, a leader in gastroenterology. Dr. Lieppe is a pioneer in the treatment of aortic stenosis using the transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure, a minimally invasive procedure that allows physicians to place a new valve inside the heart without stopping the heart or opening the chest. Dr. Lieppe performed the first TAVR in 2011 at Emory Saint Joseph's, and this program has experienced considerable growth under his leadership.

DUNHAM RECEIVES ACA MARGARET C. ETTER EARLY CAREER AWARD
Christine M. Dunham, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, received the 2017 Margaret C. Etter Early Career Award from the American Crystallographic Association (ACA). The award is given to single rising star who uses the structural biology technique of X-ray crystallography to

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address important biological questions. Dr. Dunham also received a highly competitive and prestigious Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Award from the Burroughs Wellcome. This award is given to junior faculty members who have shown independence in their research program. Dr. Dunham’s lab is interested in determining the molecular basis for dysregulation of the bacterial ribosome resulting from different cellular environments that control bacterial proliferation and persistence.

LYLE RECEIVES AHA PVD EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR AWARD
Alicia Lyle, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, received the Early Career Investigator Award from the American Heart Association’s (AHA) Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) Council. Dr. Lyle’s research is focused on how vascular inflammation functions to regulate new vessel formation (neovascularization) and the pathogenesis of vascular disease. She has a strong interest in how inflammation influences cell proliferation and migration, both of which are required for neovascularization.

TANGPRICHA RECEIVES AACE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, received the Outstanding Service Award from the American Academy of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE). Dr. Tangpricha’s current research projects include studies to evaluate methods to improve vitamin D status in cystic fibrosis patients, use of vitamin D in cardiovascular disease, evaluation of T-lymphocytes in post-menopausal osteoporosis and investigation in the mechanism of calcium absorption mediated by vitamin D.

HIGGINS RECEIVES EVANGELINE T. PAPAGEORGE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD
Stacy Higgins, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, received the Evangeline T. Papageorge Distinguished Teaching Award at Emory School of Medicine’s commencement ceremony. Dr. Higgins’s area of interest is women's health, specifically, management of the menopause, use of hormone replacement therapy, cervical cancer screening, and medical complications of pregnancy. Within the Internal Medicine residency, she has established a women's health curriculum, women's health elective, and women's health fellowship.

ZAVATKAY RECEIVES CHOA GOLDEN APPLE AWARD
Dana Zavatkay, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, received the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Golden Apple Award for excellence in healthcare education. This was awarded in recognition of both community education (training future professionals to work with children with autistic spectrum disorders and to teach social skill development) as well as patient education with a focus on social skill development. Dr. Zavatkay’s primary research interests are to examine how applied behavior analysis can be integrated into the school setting, determining which methods of consultation lead to the most effective and efficient training of school staff.

DIXON RECEIVES 2016 TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Robert Dixon, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, received the 2016 Teacher of the Year by the graduating residents. Dr. Dixon joined the Emory faculty in 2011. He provides general pediatric services at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston.
ESBENSEN AND O’DONNELL AWARDED FAME GRANT
Kari Esbensen, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Christopher O’Donnell, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, were awarded the Department of Medicine’s prestigious Fostering the Academic Mission (FAME) grants. The FAME grant program provides support for clinician faculty in the Department of Medicine to dedicate up to 20% of their professional time to scholarly activity including research, education, quality improvement projects and mentoring. Dr. Esbensen is currently the palliative medicine clerkship director and co-teaches several sessions in ethics to medical students. Dr. O’Donnell joined the Emory faculty in 2015. He is board certified in internal medicine.

BERGER RECEIVES GAPS RICHARD DRACHTER AWARD
Michael Berger, MD, PhD, a second year abdominal transplant surgery fellow of the Emory Department of Surgery, is one of the two youngest recipients to ever receive the Richard Drachter Award of the German Association for Pediatric Surgery (GAPS). The award recognizes the importance of Dr. Berger’s investigations of hepatoblastoma, the most common but alternately rare form of liver cancer in very young children. GAPS has bestowed the Drachter Award every two years since 1974 for outstanding scientific work in pediatric surgery, and is named for one of Germany’s most well-known pediatric surgeons. Dr. Richard Drachter was chief surgeon of University Children’s Hospital in Munich for 21 years—he joined the institution in 1914—and pioneered various pediatric urological procedures. Dr. Berger’s primary interest in pediatric cancer and its interaction with the human immune system, he began publishing scientific in 2007 and often focused on the identification of novel therapeutic targets in pediatric liver cancers. Dr. Berger’s goal is to improve the lives of children that suffer from liver cancer and other hepatobiliary disorders, and he views his Emory transplant fellowship as essential to reinforcing the clinical side of his specialty.