Hummira Abawai, DPM, Instructor, Department of Orthopaedics, presented “Minimally Invasive Surgery: Burden” at the 2018 American Pediatric Medical Association’s Annual Scientific Meeting, held in Washington, DC, July 12–15.

Alan Cross, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine, participated in Medical Grand Rounds on campus on June 13.

Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, presented “PSPFZ-CVac in Malian Adults: Efficacy Results from the First Field Trial” at the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) Annual Meeting of the Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units, held in Rockville, MD, May 3. In addition, Dr. Laurens also presented “Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy of a Metabolically Active, Non-Replicating, Whole Organism Malaria Vaccine (PSPFZ Vaccine) in Malaria-Experienced Adults in Burkina Faso,” at the 7th Multilateral Initiative on Malaria Conference on April 18, in Dakar, Senegal. Separately, Dr. Laurens discussed “PSPFZ-CVac in Malian Adults: Efficacy Results from the First Field Trial,” at the Annual NIH Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit Conference on May 2, in Bethesda, MD.

Iris Lindberg, PhD, Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, gave a talk at the Protein Processing, Trafficking, and Secretion Gordon Conference titled “PCSK1 and proSAAS in Human Disease” in July. At this same meeting she ran the Power Hour, a special forum designed to help address the challenges women face in science and the workplace.

Kathleen Neuville, MD, MPH, FIDSA, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, Director of the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, presented “Influenza Biology, New Vaccines and Vaccination Strategies for Different Age Groups” and was a small group facilitator for “Decision-Making for the Evaluation and Impact Assessment of New Vaccines Introduced in Selected Countries: Safety and Effectiveness,” at the 19th Advanced Course of Vaccinology, May 7–18, at the Les Pensières Institute and Neurobiology, gave a talk at the Protein Processing, Trafficking, and Secretion Gordon Conference titled “PCSK1 and proSAAS in Human Disease” in July. At this same meeting she ran the Power Hour, a special forum designed to help address the challenges women face in science and the workplace.

Kathleen Neuville, MD, MPH, FIDSA

Iris Lindberg, PhD

Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH, FIDSA

Charles Simone, II, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, presented “Applications of Proton Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy” on April 20 at the 37th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology, in Barcelona, Spain. He also was one of seven participants in the Presidential Categorical Course on May 5 at the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Radiation Society in Orlando, FL. The session in which he participated was titled “Proton and Heavy Ion Therapy: Current State and Future Directions for Clinical Applications.” At the same meeting, Dr. Simone and Mark Mishra, MD, Assistant Professor, also from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the authors of a presentation titled “A Co-Responsiveness of Proton Beam Therapy for Oncologic Management.” Dr. Simone was also a senior author on a poster: “Novel Use of Machine Learning for Predicting Radiation Pneumonitis in Locally Advanced Stage II-III Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer” at that meeting.

Several faculty members from the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health spoke and presented at the 2nd International Vaccines Against Shigella and ETUCE (VASE) conference held in Mexico City in June. Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, Associate Professor, Department Medicine, was on the organizing committee for this important event and moderated a panel covering recent advances in clinical development and evaluations. Karen Kotloff, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director of Clinical Research, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, spoke on a panel “About Changes in Incidence, Etiology, and Consequences of Moderate-to-Severe Diarrhea Among Children Under 5 Years in Sub-Saharan Africa: The VIDA study (GB081).” She also discussed “An Overview of the Currently Available Shigella Chim Models,” “How Can CHIMs Accelerate Clinical Development and Policy Pathways for Vaccines Against Shigella?” and “Clinical Endpoints for Studies of Enteric Vaccines in Pediatric Populations From Low and Middle Income Countries,” for the workshop titled, “Clinical Endpoints for Efficacy Studies.” Marcela Pasetti, PhD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, spoke on a panel about Shigella-specific serum bactericidal and opsonophagocytic killing antibodies induced by oral S. flexneri 2a whole-cell killed and live attenuated vaccines (CL079).

Marcelo Szttein, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, organized and co-chaired a workshop titled “Role of Antigen Specific T and B Cells in Systemic and Mucosal Immune Responses in ETUCE and Shigella Infections and their Potential Serve as Correlates of Protection in Vaccine Development.” Dr. Szttein and Monica McArthur, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, also gave a talk on “Review of Mechanistic T/H Responses Across Two Studies: ETUCE Challenge and ETUCE Vaccination. Additionally Dr. Szttein and Franklin Tsompanta, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, gave a talk “Review of Mechanistic Observations from Shigella Vaccine and Challenge Studies.”

Several faculty and staff in the Malaria Research Program in the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD) spoke and/or presented at the Genomic Epidemiology of Malaria conference in Cambridge, UK, June 11–13. Mark Travassos, MD, MSc, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, presented a poster titled “Seroreactivity to PfEMP1 Dhl-a tags Reflects Malaria Exposure, But Differs from the Seroreactivity of PfEMP1 Constitutive Domains.” Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, chaired the Genome Variation Session. Emily Stucke, Medical Student, presented a poster “Comparison of DNA Enrichment Methods to Identify Var Expression in Whole Blood Clinical Samples.” David Serre, Dr., rer. nat., Associate Professor, Microbiology and Immunology, Institute for Genome Science, Katie Bradwell, Research Fellow, and Kara Moser, PhD, former PhD student, also gave a talk “A Catalogue of Structural Variants in P. falciparum Genomes from Clinical Isolates in Malaria Endemic Regions.” Zakal Shah, PhD Student, gave a talk “Genome-wide Differences in P. falciparum Parasites in Malawaiian Children and Adults.”
Hats off to those who have been published!

Elizabeth Balcer-Kubiczek, MD, Associate Professor, and John Eley, PhD, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were the authors of “Secondary Malignancies in the Era of High-Precision Radiation Therapy,” published in 23rd Volume of Critical Reviews in Oncogenesis.

Maureen Black, PhD, the John A. Scholl, MD and Mary Louise Scholl, MD Professor in Pediatrics, was a co-author of “Home and Center-based Learning Opportunities for Preschoolers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries” published in the May 2018 issue of Child and Youth Services Review. Dr. Black was also an author on “Examining the Obesogenic Attributes of the Family Child Care Home Environment,” published in the Journal of Obesity on June 10, 2018. Dr. Black along with Bridget Armstrong, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Van Wang, MD, DPh, Associate Professor; and Erin Hager, PhD, Associate Professor, all from the Department of Pediatrics, were authors of “BMI and Disordered Eating in Urban, African-American, Adolescent Girls: The Mediating Role of Body Dissatisfaction,” published in the April 2018 issue of Eating Disorders.

Thomas Blanchard, PhD, Associate Professor; Vivekjiyoti Banerjee; Steven Czinn, MD, Professor and Chair; and Aditi Banerjee, PhD, Assistant Professor; all from the Department of Pediatrics,rena Lapidos, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine; and Andrea Bafford, MD, Assistant Professor, Department Surgery, were among the co-authors of “Upregulation of RASSF1A in Colon Cancer by Suppression of Angiogenesis Signaling and Akt activation” published in July 2018 issue of Cellular Physiology and Biochemistry.

Uttam Bodanapally, MBBS, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Recent Advances in Abdominal Trauma Computed Tomography,” published in the April 2018 issue of Seminars in Roentgenology.

Rong Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Rich Club Disturbances of the Human Connectome from Subjective Cognitive Decline to Alzheimer’s Disease,” published in the May 2018 issue of Thrombvosis. Dr. Chen was also among the co-authors of “Effects of Restraint Manipulation on Learning memory ability, Visceral Acuity, and Body Mass of Rats” published in the American Journal of Nuclear Medicine on June 29, 2018. Drs. Dilsizian and Smith were also among the co-authors of “The Effect of Time-of-flight and Point Spread Function Modeling on 2D2 Myocardial Perfusion Imaging of Obese Patients,” published in the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology on June 15, 2018.

Wengen Chen, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, and Vasken Dilsizian, MD, Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were co-authors of “FDG PET/CT for the Diagnosis and Management of Infective Endocarditis: Expert Consensus vs Evidence-Based Practice,” published in the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology on August 14, 2018. In addition, Dr. Chen along with Rao Guillaupalli, PhD, MBA, Professor; and Steven Roys, MS, Research Associate; all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Multicenter Research Studies in Radiology,” published in the January 2018 issue of Academic Radiology.

Edward Herskovits, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Multicenter Research Studies in Radiology,” published in the January 2018 issue of Academic Radiology.

Julio Jauregui, MD, Resident, Department of Orthopaedics, was a co-author of “Accuracy of Distal Femoral Valgus Defor- mity Correction: Fixator-Assisted Nailing vs Fixator-Assisted Locked Plating,” published in the American Journal of Orthopedics in June 2018. In addition, Dr. Jauregui and Neil Sardesai, MD, Resident; R. Frank Henn III, MD, Associate Professor, and Farshad Adib, MD, Assistant Professor; all from the Department of Orthopaedics, were among the co-authors of “Unicompartmental Knee Arthroplasty for Spontaneous Osteonecrosis of the Knee: A Meta-Analysis,” published in the February 2018 issue of the Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Jean Jeudy, MD, Associate Professor; Mark Smith, PhD, Associate Professor; Wengen Chen, MD, PhD, Associate Professor; and Vasken Dilsizian, MD, Professor; all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “VT Substrate Characteristics: Insights from Multi-modality Structural and Functional Imaging of the VT Substrate Using CMR Scar, 123I-mIBG-SPECT Innervation and Bipolar Voltage,” published in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine on June 29, 2018. Drs. Dilsizian and Smith were also among the co-authors of “The Effect of Time-of-flight and Point Spread Function Modeling on 2D2 Myocardial Perfusion Imaging of Obese Patients,” published in the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology on June 15, 2018.

Gaurav Jindal, MD, Associate Professor; Timothy Miller, MD, Assistant Professor; and Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, Professor; all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “A Sustained Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome is Associated with Shunt-dependent Hydrocephalus after Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage,” published in the Journal of Neurosurgery on June 29, 2018. Dr. Jindal was also a co-author, along with Ranyah Almardawi, MBBS, Senior Research Specialist, of “Wide-neck Bifurcation Aneurysms of the Middle Cerebral Artery and Basilar Apex Treated by Endovascular Techniques: a Multi-centre, Core Lab Adjudicated Study Evaluating Safety and Durability of Occlusion (BRANCH),” published in the Journal of Neurointerventional Surgery on June 1, 2018.

Kimia Kani, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was first author of “Fragility Fractures of the Proximal Femur: Review and Update for Radiologists,” published in Skeletal Radiology on June 29, 2018.

Young Kwok, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Association of MGMT Promoter Methylation Status with Survival Outcomes in Patients with High-Risk Glioma Treated with Radiotherapy and Temozolomide: An Analysis from the NRG Oncology/RTOG 0424 Trial,” e-published in the Journal of Neuro-Oncology on June 28, 2018. Dr. Kwok was also among the authors of “An Update from the Pediatric Proton Consortium Registry,” published in the Frontiers in Oncology on May 24, 2018.

Katja Langen, PhD, Assistant Professor, and Mingyao Zha, PhD, Assistant Professor, were among the co-authors of “The Patient with Thunderclap Headache,” published in the August 2018 issue of Neuroimaging Clinics of North America.
both from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were the authors of “Concepts of FTV and Robustness in Passively Scattered and Pencil Beam Scanning Photon Therapy,” published in the June 2018 issue of Seminars in Radiation Oncology.


Arezoo Modiri, PhD, Assistant Professor; Santanu Samanta, MD, MMBS, Resident; and Amit Sawant, PhD, Associate Professor; all from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the authors of “Virtual Bronchoscopy-Guided Treatment Planning to Map and Mitigate Radiation-Induced Airway Injury in Lung SABR,” e-published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics on May 2, 2018.

Pranshu Mohindra, MD, Assistant Professor, and Mark Mishra, MD, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the authors of “How Histopathologic Tumor Extent and Patterns of Recurrence Data Inform the Development of Radiation Therapy Treatment Volumes in Solid Malignancies,” published in the June 2018 issue of Seminars in Radiation Oncology.

Nathan O’Hara, MHA, Research Associate, Gerard P. Sliobogean, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor; and Robert O’Toole, MD, the Hansjörg Wyss Medical Foundation Endowed Professor in Orthopaedic Trauma; all from the Department of Orthopaedics, were among the co-authors of “Orthopaedic Trauma Association Annual Meeting Program Committee: Analysis of Impact of Committee Size and Review Process on Abstract Acceptance,” published in the May 2018 issue of the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma.

Robert O’Toole, MD, the Hansjörg Wyss Medical Foundation Endowed Professor in Orthopaedic Trauma, and Theodore Manson, MD, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Orthopaedics, were among the co-authors of “Intraoperative Vancomycin Powder Reduces Staphylococcus aureus Surgical Site Infections and Biofilm Formation on Fixation Implants in a Rabbit Model,” published in the May 2018 issue of the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma.

Hussin Rothan, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Biomedical Engineering & Technology, was the first author and the corresponding author of “Zika Virus and the Metabolism of Neuronal Cells,” published in Molecular Neurobiology on July 25, 2018.

Marcus Sciadini, MD, Professor; Robert O’Toole, MD, the Hansjörg Wyss Medical Foundation Endowed Professor in Orthopaedic Trauma; and Raymond Penny, MD, Associate Professor; all from the Department of Orthopaedics, were among the co-authors of “Is Prescribed Lower Extremity Weight-Bearing Status After Geriatric Lower Extremity Trauma Associated with Increased Mortality?” published in the February 2018 issue of Injury. In addition, Drs. Sciadini, O’Toole, Penny, along with W. Andrew Egereder, MD, Professor, also from the Department of Orthopaedics, were co-authors of “What is the Ideal Starting Point for an Olecranon Screw? An Anatomic Cadaveric Study,” published in the June 2018 issue of the Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma.

Charles Simone, II, MD, and Amit Sawant, PhD, both Associate Professors from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were the authors of “Margins and Uncertainties in Radiation Oncology,” published in the June 2018 issue of Seminars in Radiation Oncology. Dr. Simone was also among the authors of “Disparities in Perioperative Radiation Therapy Use in Elderly Patients with Soft-Tissue Sarcoma,” e-published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics on May 14, 2018. In addition, Dr. Simone was among the authors of “Cardiac Mortality in Limited-Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer;” e-published in Radiotherapy and Oncology on June 19, 2018.

Charles White, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Blunt Cardiothoracic Trauma: Common Injuries and Diagnosis,” published in Seminars in the April 2018 issue of Roentgenology. Additionally, Dr. White was among the co-authors of “Extrapulmonary Neoplasms in Lung Cancer Screening;” published in the June 2018 issue of Translational Lung Cancer Research.

Su Xu, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Diminished Gallbladder Filling, Increased Fecal Bile Acids, and Promotion of Colon Epithelial Cell Proliferation and Neoplasia in Fibroblast Growth Factor 15-Deficient Mice,” published in the May 2018 issue of Oncotarget.

New Faculty

We welcome our new faculty!

Dario Rodrigues, PhD, joined the Department of Radiation Oncology in June 2018 as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Translational Radiation Sciences. He has a PhD in biomedical engineering from the New University of Lisbon (Portugal) and Duke University (Durham, NC). He obtained a postdoctoral fellowship and completed his thermal oncology physics training at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. As a thermal therapy physicist, Dr. Rodrigues performs adjuvant hyperthermia treatments that are combined with chemo- or radiotherapy in cancer patients. He also implements treatment planning, thermal dosimetry, and quality assurance of clinical microwave hyperthermia equipment. His research involves both development of improved microwave applicators and new hyperthermia treatment planning strategies.

Honors & Awards

Congratulations to the following who have received honors!

Brian Johnson, OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, received a travel award sponsored by The National Science Foundation to participate in the Progress in Motor Control Student-Faculty workshop at Penn State University, July 23–25. The workshop was part of the Progress in Clinical Motor Control: Neurorehabilitation Conference. At the conference, Brian presented a poster on July 24, with Kelly Westlake, PhD, MSc, PT, Assistant Professor, also from the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, titled “Targeted Memory Reactivation During a Daytime Nap to Enhance Non-paretic Arm Skill Performance in Older Adults with Chronic Stroke.”

Aikaterini Kontrogianni-Konstantopoulos, PhD, Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was awarded the Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award at the Graduate School’s Doctoral Hooding Ceremony in May. The Graduate Student Association established the Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award to honor those who put forth great effort in aiding and mentoring graduate students. Dr. Kontrogianni was nominated by her students.

Thanh Pham, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was awarded to the Infectious Diseases (ID) Fellows Programs at the ASM Microbe 2018 in Atlanta, GA, June 7–11. In this meeting, Pham gave both oral and poster presentations titled “Over-Expression of Lipid A Decaacylase Pagl. Improves Delivery of Protective Antigens from Attenuated Salmonella Typhi Live Carrier Vaccines Through Mediating Hypervisculation.”
Congratulations to our very productive faculty on their recent grants and contracts!