Grants & Contracts

Congratulations to our very productive faculty on their recent grants and contracts!

- Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was awarded a one-year, $67,000 grant from Northwestern University for “Retrospective NCI Phantom-Monte Carlo Dosimetry in Wilms Tumors.”
- Jayam Booth, MS, PhD, Research Associate, Department of Pediatrics, has been awarded a one-year $50,000 IDCRC Pilot Grant for “Human Intestinal TRM: Distinct Cross-Reactive Responses against Pathogens” by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID).
- Niel Constantine, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Institute of Human Virology, has been awarded $203,760 for nine months from Family Health International 360 for the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Quality Assurance Program. This award, an extension from a previous three-year award, supports the continuation of Dr. Constantine’s work to evaluate HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, cryptococcus, and other rapid test kits sent from international locations and manufacturers to determine if their performance characteristics meet manufacturers’ claims. Technical assistance activities are provided also.
- Meagan Fitzpatrick, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a one-year $199,976 grant by the National Science Foundation for RAPID: Identifying the Drivers of Optimal COVID-19 Allocation.
- Bruce Wasserman, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the recipient of a $1,581,587 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA) for “The Role of Intracranial Atherosclerosis in the Development of Alzheimer’s Disease.” The award was recently transferred from Johns Hopkins University.
- Jayaum Booth, MS, PhD, Research Associate, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a one-year $199,976 grant by the National Science Foundation for RAPID: Identifying the Drivers of Optimal COVID-19 Allocation.
- Meagan Fitzpatrick, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a one-year $199,976 grant by the National Science Foundation for RAPID: Identifying the Drivers of Optimal COVID-19 Allocation.
- Bruce Wasserman, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the recipient of a $1,581,587 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA) for “The Role of Intracranial Atherosclerosis in the Development of Alzheimer’s Disease.” The award was recently transferred from Johns Hopkins University.

In the News

A job well done to all who have kept us in the media spotlight!

- Omer Awan, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, has been placed in the top 0.1% of scholars writing about teaching over the past ten years, a level Expertscape’s PubMed-based algorithms labels as “World Expert.” As part of their “Daily Experts” announcements to recognize world experts, on January 24, 2022, Expertscape tweeted the following on Twitter: “Jan 24 is International Day of Education. So, congratulations to Dr. Omer A Awan of the University of Maryland Baltimore—Recognized as an Expertscape World Expert in Teaching.”
- James Campbell, MD, MS, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by WBAL News to discuss the importance of boosters for teens.
- Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, Professor, Department of Medicine, was interviewed by Fox5DC regarding the Omicron surge.
- Karen Kotloff, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by WJZ-TV and The Weather Channel on the Novavax COVID vaccine clinical trial results in the study she co-led.
- Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by BBC World News TV in a segment entitled “Omicron Variant Threatens to Overcome Vaccine Protection.” He also was interviewed and quoted in PolitiFact online in a segment “Claim that Pfizer Data Shows Vaccine Does More Harm than Good is Pants on Fire; he was interviewed by the U.S. Agency for Global Media in a segment titled “Additional Measures to Combat Omicron in the United States;” and he discussed with WTOP News the possibility of getting both influenza and COVID infections at the same time.
- Kristen Lyke, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine, discussed pandemic predictions for 2022 with Politico.
- Kathy Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH Professor of Vaccinology and Director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was interviewed by WTOP News to discuss why boosters are helpful particularly for immunocompromised people. She also was quoted in a live blog in The Philadelphia Inquirer on “Do I Need to Wait 6 Months to Get a Booster?” and in U.S. News & World Report explains who should get a COVID-19 booster.
Kudos to our colleagues who are experts in their fields and give their all to represent the School of Medicine!

- Afrah Ali, MBBS, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine;
  Wendy Chang, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Program in Trauma;
  Ali Tabatabai, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Program in Trauma;
  Melissa Pergakis MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma;
  Camilo Gutierrez, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology; 
  Jamie Podell, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma;
  Gunjan Parikh, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma;
  Neerja Badjatia, MD, Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma; 
  Melissa Motta, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma; and
  Nicholas Morris, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology.

- Katharine Bisordi, MS, MGC, CGC, Instructor, Department of Pediatrics, was on the committee for the first virtual educational conference for the Maryland and DC Society of Genetic Counselors (MDCGC), which was held on November 5, 2021. Ms. Bisordi was a guest co-organizer and presented a talk entitled “Gene Therapy for Vestibular Pathology.”

- William Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO, the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH Professor of Vaccinology and Director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was the plenary speaker at the plenary session—Typhoid Conjugate Vaccines in High-Burden Countries: Where are We and Where Do We Need to Go? at the 12th International Conference on Typhoid & Other Invasive Salmonelloses. At the same conference, she was a moderator for the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine Safety and Efficacy: Results from Clinical Studies in Africa and Asia Symposium and the Typhoid Intestinal Perforations in Africa: What Do We Know? What Can We Learn? Symposium.

- Faculty from the Department of Radiation Oncology were among the presenters on March 3, 2021, at a symposium on “Advancements in GRID, Lattice, and FLASH Radiotherapy,” which was held in conjunction with the 2022 Radiosurgery Society Scientific Meeting in Carlsbad, CA.
  - Byong Yong Yi, PhD, Professor, presented “GRID to Lattice: More Tools in the Toolbox”
  - Jason Molitoris, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, presented “Clinical Utilization of Proton GRID (Beamlets)”
  - Sina Mossahebi, PhD, Assistant Professor, presented “Physics Considerations in Proton GRID/Lattice” and “Practical Aspects for Proton GRID Therapy”
  - William Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO, the Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Chair of Radiation Oncology, presented “Practical Aspects for GRID Therapy.”

- Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, has been selected for the UMB Faculty Leadership Program.
Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, Søren Bentzen, PhD, Professor, and J in the December 2021 issue of Communication: A Technologist’s Perspective,” which was epublished on January 3, 2022.

Omer Awan, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Hippocampal-Subregion Mechanisms of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation: An MRI Study.”

Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Moving Beyond “Leaning In”—It Is Time to Reach Out and Partner to Solve the Military Sleep Problem.”

Jonathan Baghdadi, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, and Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, Professor, both from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, co-authored “Bacterial Coinfections in COVID-19 Patients without a Positive Microbiologic Result: A Word of Caution,” which was published in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy on January 3, 2022.

Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Total Body Irradiation in Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Paediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia: Review of the Literature and Future Directions,” which was published in Frontiers in Pediatrics on December 3, 2021.

Maureen Black, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pediatrics, was a co-author of “Nurturing Care and Early Child Development in the Integrated Child Development Services,” a book chapter in

Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, Søren Bentzen, PhD, Professor, and J in the December 2021 issue of Communication: A Technologist’s Perspective,” which was epublished on January 3, 2022.

Omer Awan, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the author of “Preserving the Spirit of Lifelong Learning,” which was published in Academic Radiology, Separately, Dr. Awan was the last author of “Strategies to Optimize Workflow Complexity,” which was published in Journal of American Geriatrics Society on December 10, 2021.

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Stimulation Causally Associated with Amelioration of Episodic Memory in Amnestic Mild Cognitive Impairment,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the *Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.*

Shuo Chen, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Separating Clinical and Subclinical Depressive Symptoms by Big Data Informed Structural Vulnerability Index and Its Impact on Cognition: ENIGMA Dot Product,” and “A New Mendelian Randomization Method to Estimate Causal Effects of Multivariable Brain Imaging Exposures,” which were published earlier this year in *Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing.*

Chengyan Chu, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Anna Jablonska, PhD, Research Associate; Yue Gao, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Xiaoyan Lan, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Yajie Liang, MB, PhD, Assistant Professor; Monica Pearl, MD, Adjunct Associate Professor; Mirosław Janowski, MD, PhD, Associate Professor; and Piotr Walczak, MD, PhD, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Hypersmolar Blood-brain Barrier Opening Using Intravascular Injection of Hypersmotic Mannitol in Mice under Real-Time MRI Guidance,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of *Nature Protocols.* Dr. Chu was the first author and Dr. Walczak was the last author.

Thomas Ernst, Dr rer nat, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Associations of the Dietary Inflammatory Index with Total Adiposity and Ectopic Fat through the Gut Microbiota, Lipopolysaccharides, and C-Reactive Protein in the Multicentric Cohort-Adiposity Phenotype Study,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.*

Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, was a co-author of “Rehabilitation Care at the Time of Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) Pandemic: A Scoping Review of Health System Recommendations,” which was published in the *Journal of Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience* on January 4, 2022.

Jack Gladstein, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, edited a comprehensive text entitled *Pediatric Headache,* which is now in print. This text was designed to target primary care practitioners, families, and headache specialists. It provides latest treatments, offers practical advice for families in their interactions with school and coaches as well as provides best practices for practitioners to share with school and other practitioners. Pediatric headache experts from all over North America participated in the volume, and an effort was made to incorporate behavioral approaches, acupuncture, and complementary medicine along with traditional approaches.

Olga Goloubeva, PhD, MSc, Professor, is among the co-authors of “Comparison of Efficacy and Toxicity of Chemoradiation Regimens for Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Primary Treatment,” which was published in *Head and Neck* on December 20, 2021.

Ann Gruber-Baldini, PhD, Professor, and Kristen Stafford, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, were among the co-authors of “People Ageing with HIV—Protecting a Population Vulnerable to the Effects of COVID-19 and its Control Measures,” which was published in *AIDS Care* on December 24, 2021.

Kim Hankey, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Deep Dissection of the Antiviral Immune Profile of Patients with COVID-19,” which was published in *Communications Biology* in December 2021. Dr. Hankey was also among the authors of “Impaired Immune Response to COVID-19 Vaccination in Patients with B-cell Malignancies after CD19 CART Cell Therapy,” which was published in *Blood Advances* on December 23, 2021.

Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, co-authored “In-Hospital Mortality in a Cohort of Hospitalized Pregnant and Nonpregnant Patients with COVID-19,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine.*

Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, and Jessica Mong, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology, were the senior authors on a publication led by Benjamin Shuster, BS, Research Fellow, Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, of “Estradiol Protects against Noise-Induced Hearing Loss and Modulates Auditory Physiology in Female Mice,” which was published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* on November 11, 2021. Dr. Hertzano also was among the co-authors of “Lineage-Tracking and Translational Analysis of Damage-Inducible Mitotic Coherent Progenitor Identifies Candidate Genes Regulating Regeneration,” which was published in *FlaBiology* on November 10, 2021.

Rydhwan Hossain, MD, Assistant Professor; Jean Jedy, MD, Professor, and Charles Whittaker, MD, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were the authors of “Chest Radiograph and CT Findings in Patients Hospitalized with Breakthrough COVID-19,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of *Radiology: Cardiovascular Imaging.*

Mirosław Janowski, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, and Piotr Walczak, MD, PhD, Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “A Primeval Mechanism of Tolerance to Desiccation Based on Glycolic Acid Saves Neurons in Mammals from Ischemia by Reducing Intracellular Calcium-Mediated Excitotoxicity,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of *Advanced Science (Weinh).*

Pratap Karki, DSci, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, and Konstantin Birukov, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, were among the co-authors of “Oxidized Phospholipids in Control of Endothelial Barrier Function: Mechanisms and Implication in Lung Injury,” which was published in *Frontiers in Endocrinology* on November 23, 2021. This article was part of the special research topic “Epilipidome as a New Level of Cellular Regulation.”

Alyssé Kowalski, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Ann Pullin Kuhn, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Helena Selam, BA, Graduate Student; Erin Hager, PhD, Associate Professor; and Maureen Black, PhD, Professor, all
from the Department of Pediatrics, were co-authors of “Pre-Pandemic to Early-Pandemic Changes in Risk of Household Food Insecurity among Maryland Families with Children,” which was published in Public Health Nutrition on December 10, 2021.

Young Kwok, MD, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Quality of Life Implications of Dose-escalated External Beam Radiation for Localized Prostate Cancer: Results of a Prospective Randomized Phase 3 Clinical Trial, NRG/ RTOG 0126,” which was published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics on January 1, 2022.

Marcel Lanza, PhD, Research Associate; Jin Kang, SPT ’22; Hayley Karl, SPT ’22; Jacob Myers, SPT ’22; Erin Ryan, SPT ’22; and Vicki Gray, MPT, PhD, Assistant Professor, all from the Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, were co-authors of the “Hip Abductor Power and Velocity: Reliability and Association with Physical Function,” which was published in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research on December 23, 2021. He was also a co-author of “Effect of Long-Term Maximum Strength Training on Explosive Strength, Neural and Contractile Properties,” which was also published in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research on December 23, 2021.

Vicky Gray, MPT, PhD, Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, was a co-author of “A Systematic Review of the Importance of Hip Muscle Strength, Activation, and Structure in Balance and Mobility Tasks,” which was published in the journal Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation on January 4, 2022.

Surbhi Leekha, MBBS, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Prevalence of Carbapenemase-producing Organisms among Hospitalized Solid Organ Transplant Recipients, Five U.S. Hospitals, 2019-2020,” which was published in Transplant Infectious Disease on January 5, 2022.

Hua Jun Liang, MBBS, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Thomas Ernst, Dr rer nat, Professor; and Linda Chang, MD, MS, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Contributions of Chronic Tobacco Smoking to HIV-Associated Brain Atrophy and Cognitive Deficits,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of AIDS. Dr. Liang was the first author and Dr. Chang was the last author.

Richard Lichenstein, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Carol Greene, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Katherine Bisordi, MS, MGC, CGC, Instructor, Department of Pediatrics; and Lynn Schriml, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Institute for Genome Sciences; were among the co-authors of “The Human Disease Ontology 2022 Update,” which was published in Nucleic Acids Research on November 10, 2021.

Iris Lindberg, PhD, Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, co-authored “Obesity, POMC, and POMC-processing Enzymes: Surprising Results from Animal Models,” which was published in Endocrinology on December 1, 2021.
Under-Sampled Projections Using a Convolutional Neural Network, which was published in the December 2021 issue of Quantitative Imaging in Medicine and Surgery.

- Saima Riazuddin, PhD, MPH, MBA, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, was the lead author of “Bi-Allelic In-frame Deletion of SOX1 is Associated with Developmental Delay, Hypotonia and Intellectual Disability,” which was published in the European Journal of Human Genetics on November 8, 2021. Zubair Ahmed, PhD, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, was among the co-authors.

- Elana Smith, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the first author of “Online Hide and Seek: Allopatric US Medical Schools’ Radiology Education Virtual Presence,” which was published in the January-February 2022 issue of Current Problems in Diagnostic Radiology.

- Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Germline Variants Disrupting MicroRNAs Predict Long-Term Genitourinary Toxicity After Prostate Cancer Radiation,” which was published in Radiation Therapy and Oncology on January 3, 2022. He was also among the authors of “An Expert Review on the Combination of Relugolix with Definitive Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer,” which was published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics on December 16, 2021. Separately, Dr. Tran was among the authors of “Performance of a Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen Positron Emission Tomography/Computed Tomography-Derived Risk-Stratification Tool for High-Risk and Very High-Risk Prostate Cancer,” which was published in JAMA Network Open on December 1, 2021.

- Charles White, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of “The Patent Ductus Arteriosus in Adults with Special Focus on Role of CT,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Diagnostics (Basel).

- Jade Wong-You-Cheong, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Adrenal Mass Evaluation: 2021 Update,” which was published in the November 2021 issue of the Journal of the American College of Radiology.

- Paul Yi, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of “Deep Learning Detection of Solute Fractures Using Unsupervised Algorithms to Mimic Radiologist Search Pattern,” which was published in the February 2022 issue of Skeletal Radiology.

- Hong Zhang, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Higher Radiation Dose to the Immune Cells Correlates with Worse Tumor Control and Overall Survival in Patients with Stage III NSCLC: A Secondary Analysis of RTQG0617,” which was published in Cancer (Basel) on December 8, 2021.

If you would like to acknowledge an award, presentation, publication, or other noteworthy accomplishments, please send the information to the liaison within your department, program, center, or office.

OR

You may submit your Buzz items online:
https://umbforms.wufwoo.com/forms/2150Db5x10Db267/