

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEDICINE MATTERS

Department of Medicine
October 2026 Newsletter



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UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second edition of *Medicine Matters*.

This newsletter was created as a way to celebrate our department, share our achievements, and highlight the remarkable work taking place across the Department of Medicine. As I reflect on Dean Gladwin's University of Maryland School of Medicine's recent State of the School Address and our State of the Department Presentation, I am especially proud of the extraordinary commitment and talent that define our community.

Dean Gladwin's address showcased the tremendous momentum across the School of Medicine, highlighting our institution's continued leadership in patient care, education, research, innovation, and community engagement. It is inspiring to see the impact our faculty, staff, learners, and trainees make every day, both locally and nationally.

Our State of the Department offered a meaningful opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished together over the past year. Through your dedication and hard work, we have advanced our mission by enhancing clinical care, strengthening educational excellence, expanding groundbreaking research, and deepening our impact on the patients and communities we are privileged to serve.

None of these achievements would be possible without each and every one of you.

To our faculty, thank you for your commitment to advancing science, educating future physicians, and delivering exceptional care. To our staff, thank you for the expertise, professionalism, and support that keep our department moving forward every day. To our trainees and learners, thank you for your curiosity, enthusiasm, and dedication to becoming the next generation of leaders in medicine.

The successes highlighted in these presentations belong to all of us. They reflect a culture of collaboration, innovation, and shared purpose that continues to make our department stronger.

On a more personal note, I had the privilege of being invested as the next Theodore E. Woodward Chair in Medicine. Dr. Woodward was an icon in academic medicine: a quadruple threat, a builder, and a generational leader; and holding a Chair in his name is a tremendous honor and an awesome responsibility. The Investiture Ceremony was beautiful and was also an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the academic medicine family that deeply connects all of us. We should feel extremely privileged to be part of it! What we do is meaningful and impactful: we serve, we teach and we generate knowledge.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our patients, our learners, our institution, and each other.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Medicine Matters*.

With sincere gratitude,

Roberto F. Machado, MD
Chair, Department of Medicine



New Faculty

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Please give a warm welcome to our new faculty members!

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

Leili Behrooz, MD, MPH
Muhammad Butt, MD, MS, FHRS
Daniel Forman, MD
Sakeina Howard-Wilson, MBS, DO
Radhika Kuna, MD

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND NUTRITION

Varun Kavuru, MD, MS

GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

Cerise Kleb, MD
Ahmad Nawaz, MBBS
Tamasha Persaud, MD
Alla Turshudzhyan, DO

GEOGRAPHIC MEDICINE

Megan Kowalcyk, PhD, MPH

GERONTOLOGY, GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Jade Walden, MD

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

Madelyn Klugman, MD
Sarah Sammons, MD
Xiaolei Shi, BM, PhD, MS

HOSPITALIST & GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Rediet Atalay, MD
James Brady, Jr, DO (Dual Appointment in Pulmonary)
Ashley Gordon-Phillips, MD
Michael Grasso, MD, PhD
Anna Prohl, MD
Maidah Raja, MD
Natesh Sudarshan, MD
Ramya Vasireddy, MBBS

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tara Palmore, MD
Luke Pryke, MD

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE & SLEEP MEDICINE

Nitin Kamble, PhD
Nalinikanth Kotagiri, MBBS, PhD
Allison LaRocco, MD
Michael Lu, MD
Albahi Malik, MBBS
Sonal Mallya, MD, MHS
Kristyn McLeod, MD
Miyant'e Newton, MD
Shoshanna Rudin, MD
Katherine Shutta, PhD, MS
Zachary Wynne, MD

RHEUMATOLOGY, ALLERGY & CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY

Ashika Ajitkumar, MBBS
Sergei Atamas, MD, PhD

DOM Wins

PROMOTIONS

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

Anuj Gupta, MD, Professor
Gautam Ramani, MD, Professor

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND NUTRITION

Elizabeth Lamos, MD, Professor

GEOGRAPHIC MEDICINE

Scott Baliban, PhD, Tenure Track (Assistant Professor)
Meagan Deming, MD, PhD, Tenure Track (Assistant Professor)
Justin Ortiz, MD, MS, Tenure (Professor)

HOSPITALIST & GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Arun Amble, MD, Assistant Professor
Aseem Sood, MD, Assistant Professor
Katelyn Donohue, MD, Associate Professor
Nidhi Goel, MD, Associate Professor

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Uzoamaka Eke, MBBS, Associate Professor
John Powers, MD, Adjunct Associate Professor
Gregory Schrank, MD, Associate Professor
Sarah Kattakuzhy, MD, Professor

NEPHROLOGY

Stephen Seliger MD, MS, Professor

OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

Marianne Cloeren MD, MPH, Professor

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE & SLEEP MEDICINE

Alison Grazioli, MD, Associate Professor
Jason Rose, MD, Tenure (Associate Professor)
Mark Sutherland, MD, Associate Professor, Secondary
Emerson Wickwire, PhD, Tenure (Professor)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Congratulations to **Roberto F. Machado, MD**, who was awarded the Theodore E. Woodward Chair in Medicine on September 15, 2026. Featured speakers included Lindsay Farrington, MBA, William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO, Mark T. Gladwin, MD, Serpil Erzurum, MD, and Steven M. Dudek, MD, ATSF.

You can watch a recording of the ceremony on the **UMSOM Philanthropy website**.

TOP DOCS

The following Hospitalist and General Internal Medicine faculty have been named Baltimore Top Doctors for 2026!

Phillip Dittmar, MD
Katelyn Donohue, MD
Dara Farber, MD
Jessica Lee, MD, MPH
Stacy Schwartz, MD
John Allen, MD
Danielle Baek, MD
Andrew Delapenha, MD, MPH
Christina Koch, MD

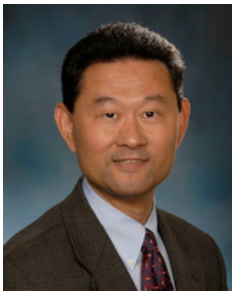
UMMC TAVR: 3-STAR PERFORMANCE RATING

Congratulations to the TAVR team at UMMC for achieving a 3-star performance rating, with volumes in the 95th percentile and an outcome profile of 95.4% of cases free from six common complications.

MARYLAND HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Sandra Quezada, MD, was named a Maryland Hispanic Leadership Award Honoree. This award honors the growing and powerful force of the Hispanic people in Maryland's economy and culture by recognizing Hispanic leaders and the companies that empower them.





RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Please congratulate **Feng Qian, Dr. rer. nat.**, winner of the 2027 Lillian Jean Kaplan International Prize for Advancement in the Understanding of Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD).

Dr. Qian will receive the award during the ISN World Congress of Nephrology 2027 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, taking place April 1-4, 2027.

Read more about the award >

NEW APPOINTMENT

Caitriona Buckley, MB,BCh, was named Associate Chief Clinical Officer for Critical Care of University Maryland Medical & University of Maryland Access Center as of July 01, 2026.

Please join us in congratulating her!





LOCAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Congratulations to **Kirsten Lyke, MD**, who was named to The Daily Record's 2026 Power List for Healthcare!

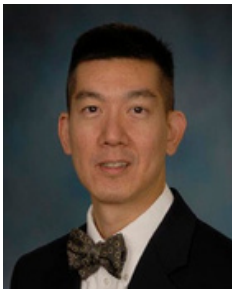
On a national level, Dr. Lyke was also nominated as a Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH).

JOINED WHO WORKING GROUP

Justin Ortiz, MD, MS, has joined the World Health Organization's Ad Hoc Observational Studies Working Group for Ebola Vaccine Effectiveness.

Please congratulate him as he continues this important work while collaborating with other infectious disease specialists worldwide!





NFID APPOINTMENT

Wilbur Chen, MD, was named to the 2026-2027 Board of Directors for the National Foundation of Infectious Diseases (NFID).

Make sure to submit your faculty's wins for next quarter!

Upcoming Events

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

Mark your calendar to join us at our Department of Medicine Grand Rounds which are held weekly on **Wednesdays at noon** in the Shock Trauma Auditorium (T1R18) unless otherwise noted.

10/28: CPC | Petr Hausner, MD, PhD
11/4: Shira Kansas, MD Memorial Lecture | Brian Driver, MD
11/11: Julius Friedenwald Memorial Lecture in GI-Hepatology | Folasade (Fola) P. May, MD, PhD, MPhil
11/18: ICTR | Stephen N. Davis, MBBS, FRCP, FACE, MACP and Alan R. Shuldiner, MD

Unable to attend in person? Join us via **Zoom**; Password is 5678

DEVELOPING MEDICAL LEADERSHIP

Registration is now open for the Fall 2026 cohort of **Developing Medical Leadership (DML)**, a three-day leadership development program designed specifically for University of Maryland School of Medicine faculty who are interested in strengthening their leadership skills and expanding their impact within academic medicine.

The program will be held on **Fridays, November 6, 13, and 20, 2026**, at **Rye Street Market | Baltimore Peninsula**.

Participants will engage in interactive sessions focused on:

- Fostering Personal & Collaborative Enterprise
- Constructive Conflict & Collaboration
- Negotiations
- Applied Leadership Workshop

Register now >

Palliative Medicine 4th Annual Remembrance Event

Date: November 21, 2026
Time: 12:00 PM
Location: SMC Campus Center, Elm Room, 2nd Floor

Learn more >



Research Highlights

HIGH-PRIORITY PIVOTING PROGRAMMATIC RESEARCH INITIATIVES

The PPRGs support the development of new research programs that will be highly competitive in the current funding environment.

Center for Vaccine Development & Global Health (CVD)

- Evolution of Dengue Virus in Response to Host Factors, Climate Drivers, and Vector Kinetics (PI: Kirsten Lyke; $653,114)
- Maryland Respiratory Pathogen Project (PI: Justin Ortiz; $749,893)

Institute of Human Virology (IHV)

- Immune Correlates of Chronic Hepatitis B Infection Immune Exhaustion and Functional Cure (PIs: Lydia Tang, Lishan Su, Guanming Li; $816,931)
- Characterizing HIV Subtypespecific Epigenetic Signatures of Immune & Cellular Aging Significance (PIs: Alashl'e Abimiku, Man Charurat; $588,026)
- Decoding the Emergent Properties of Antibodies to Enhance Context-Specific Patterns of Immune Protection (PIs: Mohammad Sajadi, George Lewis, Krishanu Ray; $500,711)

PIVOTING PROGRAMMATIC RESEARCH GRANTS (PPRG)

DOM Funded

- Network Medicine Risk Phenotyping to Predict and Mitigate Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction (PIs: Brad Maron, Jason Rose, Michael Keller, Alex Krupnick; $246,322)

DOM Involvement Funded

- Academic Science-led Consortium ENabling Drug repurposing (ASCEND) Program (PIs: Stephen Davis, James Polli, Jean-Pierre Raufman, Prajwal Ciryam; $249,706)
- Humanized Immune Models To Define Type I Interferon, AI driven Neuroinflammation And Neurodegeneration After Traumatic Brain Injury (PIs: Bogdan Stoica, James Barrett, Alonso Heredia, Kari Ann Shirey; $249,954)
- FUS-Enabled Therapy for Brain Metastases (PIs: Pavlos Anastasiadis, John Schmitz; $249,992)
- UMB Oral-Systemic Health Research Commons (OSRC): Shared Clinical Research and AI Platform (PIs: Radi Masri, Jean-Pierre Raufman, Chixiang Chen, et al; $249,937)
- Kidney-Targeted Small Molecule Therapeutics for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) (PIs: Fengtian Xue, Yan Shu, Alex Mackerell, Maureen Kane, Zhe Han; $250,000)

GSK-UMMS COPD Alliance

- $1.2MIL Program in Year 1 to improve COPD care and readmissions within our practice and at UMMC-DTC (600K GSK + 600K in kind work)
- Year 2: expand to UMMC-MTC
- Years 3-5: additional UMMS hospitals throughout system
- **KPI:** Increase outpatient follow up for COPD patients, reduce readmission rates

Scope of Project

- Hire 2 nurse navigators for our Pulmonary practice, focus on COPD
- Design and build IT infrastructure to manage workflows and patient care
- Design and update education materials for COPD patients
- Manage, iterate, and measure outcomes with Steering Committee (DOM, UMMS)

DOM RESEARCH AWARDS

- **Jean-Pierre Raufman, MD:** Mentor of the Year
- **Rozalina McCoy, MD, MS**: Researcher of the Year

DOM PUBLICATION AWARDS

- **Konstantin Tsoyi, PhD:** Macropinocytosis inhibition attenuates pro-fibrotic responses in lung fibroblasts and pulmonary fibrosis models. (JCI)
- **Wilbur H. Chen, MD, MS:** A combination typhoid and non-typhoidal Salmonella polysaccharide conjugate vaccine in healthy adults: a randomized, placebo-controlled phase 1 trial. (Nature)

MAJOR AWARDS

- **Terry Watnick, MD**:
  - Maryland Polycystic Kidney Disease Research Core Center (MPKD-RCC), 9/15/25-8/31/30, $4,767,354
  - Central Coordinating Site for the Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Research Core Centers, 9/15/25-8/31/30, $6,179,214
- **Alice Ryan, PhD**: University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC), 9/15/26-8/31/31, $6,445,639
- **Taofeek Owonikoko, MD, PhD**, **Stuart Martin, PhD**, and **Rebecca Nowak, PhD, MPH**: Advancing Oncologic Research Communities in Health Equity (ARCH) K12 Program, 9/15/25-8/31/30, $3,198,798
- **Djordje Atanackovic, MD**: First-in-human phase I clinical trial using tri-specific (CD19/CD20/CD22) CAR T cells for the treatment of relapsed/refractory B cell lymphoma, 9/30/25-9/29/29, $4,523,000
- **Justin Ortiz, MD, MS**: INNA - 051-POC-001 Clinical Study funded by ENA Respiratory PTY LTD, 11/20/25-11/19/27, $5,768,137
- **Kirsten Lyke, MD**: Evaluation of earphone EXG sending for early detection of malaria by Gates Foundation, 11/17/25-10/31/27, $1,400,310

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH UPDATES

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND NUTRITION

- **Rozalina McCoy, MD, MS**:
  - Mentorship in Patient-Oriented Research to Improve Health of Older Adults with Diabetes (NIA K24AG098115) - Dr. McCoy is the PI
  - University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) (NIA P30AG028747) - Dr. McCoy is the co-Lead of the Biostatistics, Data Science, and Informatics Resource Core (RC1)
  - Navigating the Uncertainties of Thyroid Cancer Risk in GLP-1RA Users (NCI R01CA299220) - Dr. McCoy is the site PI

GEOGRAPHIC MEDICINE

- **Bing Guo, PhD, MD, BM**: Incorporating the Missing Time Dimension into Identity-by-Descent-based Malaria Genomic Surveillance, NIH
- **Wilbur Chen, MD**: Planning grant to evaluate the use of pentavalent meningococcal vaccine in pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa, NIH

GERONTOLOGY, GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

- The State of Maryland HOPE RSI application has been submitted in collaboration with community-based palliative care partners.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- **Omar Harfouch, MD**, MPH: NIAID K23 Grant
- **Gregory Taylor, MD**: NCI Grant - CASCADE Network: The U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported HIV/Cervical Cancer Prevention 'CASCADE' Clinical Trials Network conducts pragmatic clinical trials evaluating the clinical effectiveness of prevention interventions.
- **Joel Chua, MD**:
  - Site PI: Phase 3 RCT HIV switch to long active injectables LEN/TAB/ZAB q6mo vs CAB/RPV q1-2mo. Sponsor: Gilead Sciences
  - Site PI: Phase 2 RCT Chronic HBV treatment with AHB-137 injections. Site Sponsor: AsperBio Pharma
- **Shivakumar Narayanan, MBBS, MD**: Site PI: Phase 3 RCT HIV switch to long active injectables LEN/TAB/ZAB q6mo vs SBR. Sponsor: Gilead Sciences
- **Kapil Saharia, MD, MPH**: Site PI: Phase 3 RCT RSV vaccine in immunocompromised hosts. Sponsor: Pfizer

Divisional News

CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

New Faculty



Daniel Forman, MD, joined us on August 24, 2026 as Professor of Medicine. He also serves as Director of Cardiovascular Research in Aging and Rehabilitation at the University of Maryland and Director of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the VA Maryland Health Care System.

Dr. Forman is a nationally recognized leader in geriatric cardiology, cardiovascular aging, and cardiac rehabilitation. His research focuses on improving physical function, mobility, independence, and quality of life in older adults with cardiovascular disease, integrating cardiovascular medicine, geriatrics, exercise physiology, and geroscience.



Radhika Kuna, MD, Clinical Professor, joined the division in October 2026.

Dr. Kuna is board-certified in Cardiology and Internal Medicine, with additional board certification in Nuclear Cardiology and Echocardiography. She brings 20 years of clinical experience in consultative cardiology and chronic care of cardiology patients.



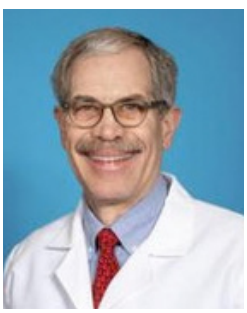
Muhammad Umer Butt, MD, MS, FHRS, Assistant Professor of Medicine, joined the division in October 2026.

Dr. Butt has board certifications in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Medicine. He completed his Cardiac Cardiology Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University and Electrophysiology Fellowship at New York University. He was a staff Cardiac Electrophysiologist for three years before joining the University of Maryland.

Additional New Faculty

- **Leili Behrooz, MD, MPH**, and **Sakeina Howard-Wilson, MBS, DO**, are our new CVM providers starting in October 2026 at our Reisterstown and Redwood CAC practices

Media Features



Scott Jerome, MD, was interviewed by WTTG_TV about the heart health of student athletes: **Watch now >**

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND NUTRITION

PARTNER WITH THE AMISH RESEARCH CLINIC

The **Amish Research Clinic (ARC)** serves as a unique recruitment and research collaboration site, offering investigators access to both study participants and deeply characterized clinical, phenotypic, and genetic data. This integrated environment enables efficient recruitment while supporting exploratory analyses, feasibility assessments, and the generation of preliminary data for gene- and disease-focused research.

Investigators can engage ARC for short-term or project-based support to identify, recruit, and manage study participants. ARC's longstanding relationships with the Amish community enable efficient and respectful recruitment of participants with specific characteristics or health conditions relevant to a study.

Research Advantages

- Access to extensive longitudinal clinical and phenotypic datasets
- Availability of genetic data and curated biospecimens
- Ability to support gene- and disease-specific exploratory analyses
- Enables preliminary data generation and feasibility assessments
- Facilitates identification of well-characterized cohorts for recruitment
- Cost-effective model compared with similar research efforts in Baltimore
- ARC's longstanding relationship with the Amish community supports respectful, relationship-based recruitment
- Dedicated personnel support study management, clinical operations, laboratory coordination, and recruitment logistics
- Leveraging ARC's existing infrastructure is faster and more cost-effective than building stand-alone recruitment workflows

What can ARC support:

ARC provides end-to-end clinical research support, from study design through implementation. Services Include:

- Participant recruitment and pre-screening
- Home- and clinic-based study visits
- Questionnaire development and administration
- Blood collection and sample processing
- Physical and clinical measurements
- Bone mineral density and body composition assessment (DXA)
- Advanced clinical procedures upon request, including:
  - Oral Glucose Tolerance Tests (OGTT)
  - Intravenous Glucose Tolerance Tests (IVGTT)
  - Platelet aggregation studies
  - Other specialized procedures
- Protocol development and IRB submission support



ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND NUTRITION

ARC Service Options
Researchers can work through iLabs to request support for the following:
Research Nurse - Participant-facing protocol support, clinical procedures, specimen collection, and visit coverage.
Research Coordinator - Scheduling, subject tracking, workflow support, documentation coordination, and study logistics.
Laboratory Technician - Study-related sample handling, processing support, and coordination with laboratory workflows.
Recruitment Services - Outreach support, pre-screening, recruitment tracking, and targeted enrollment efforts.
Data Management - REDCap data collection and management, including questionnaire development, data cleaning, and integration into analysis-ready datasets.

Why work with ARC?
We welcome conversations with faculty and study teams seeking:
- Recruitment support for clinical research studies
- Access to well-characterized study populations
- Assistance with study operations and implementation
- Opportunities for research collaboration
- Support generating preliminary data for future grant applications

Getting Started:
- Submit a request through iLabs or contact ARC to discuss your study needs.
- Provide a brief protocol summary that includes recruitment goals, timeline, and staffing needs.
- ARC will review the submitted summary and contact you to discuss potential next steps.

ARC staff will solicit input from the Amish community to assess how well the proposed project aligns with community needs and interests. ARC leadership and staff will then follow up regarding next steps, including potential assistance with study design.

Interested in Collaborating? Ready to talk? ARC can provide a fast, flexible path for recruitment support, study operations, and collaboration.

Contact ARC at ARCSTAFF@som.umaryland.edu or bmitchel@som.umaryland.edu

MEDIA MENTIONS

- **Rozalina McCoy, MD, MS**, spoke to The Washington Post about a new weekly injection that offers diabetics an alternative to daily insulin.
- **Dr. McCoy** also spoke to The New York Times about what older adults should know about GLP-1 medications as Medicare coverage expands.



GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

- **Aline Charabaty, MD**, obtained a competitive award from Pfizer to support an Advanced IBD Fellow from July 2027-June 2028
- The GI Faculty and Fellows and IM Residents presented nearly **30 abstracts** at the American College of Gastroenterology meeting in Nashville, which was held October 9-14, 2026.

GEOGRAPHIC MEDICINE



AN EXPERT VOICE

- **Wilbur Chen, MD** presented at George Washington University in August with a talk titled "Foodborne Infections."
- He also had a few recent media features:
  - Fox45 Baltimore "Health Watch: Breaking Down the Cyclosporiasis Outbreak", July 24, 2026
  - Maryland Public Television "Infectious disease update", August 10, 2026
  - CNN, Trump's EO on the MMR vaccine, August 11, 2026.

GERONTOLOGY, GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

STRATEGIC PLANNING

A division-wide strategic planning session was held on October 2, 2026, to establish priorities and prepare for a major expansion of the palliative care program.



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Raya Kheirbek, MD, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Advisory Panel on Comparative Effectiveness Research.

HOSPITALIST & GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Please welcome our new faculty!



Dr. Ashley Gordon-Phillips

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Ashley Gordon-Phillips joined the Division of Hospitalists and General Internal Medicine on September 1, 2026, as a Primary Care Physician. Dr. Gordon-Phillips joins us from The Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she completed the Osler Internal Medicine Residency Urban Health Track and is currently completing a Women's Health Fellowship in General Internal Medicine. She earned her MD from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and an MPH from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.

A board-certified internist and Menopause Society Certified Practitioner, Dr. Gordon-Phillips brings expertise in primary care and women's health, including preventive care, contraception, menopause management, and chronic disease management. She is also actively involved in medical education and resident training.



Dr. Rediet Atalay

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rediet Atalay joined the Division of Hospitalists and General Internal Medicine on September 1, 2026, as a Hospitalist on the Midtown Campus. Dr. Atalay joins us from Howard University Hospital, where she completed her Internal Medicine residency training and served as Associate Chief Resident. She earned her medical degree from Addis Ababa University and brings extensive experience caring for diverse and medically complex patient populations.

In addition to her clinical expertise, Dr. Atalay has demonstrated a strong commitment to medical education, leadership, and scholarly activity, with numerous peer-reviewed publications and national presentations.

Faculty Publication Spotlight

Congratulations to **Jennifer Paul-Quinn, MPH, RDN, Karol Toledo, BS**, and **Mihir Patel, MD, MS, FACP**, on the publication of their article, “Openness to Vegetarian Diets Among Patients With Chronic Disease: Racial Parity Between Black and White Patients," in the American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine. The study surveyed patients receiving care in Baltimore-area outpatient clinics and found that patients with chronic disease demonstrated moderate openness to adopting a vegetarian diet, with no significant differences in openness or perceived barriers by race. The findings highlight the importance of providing culturally relevant, patient-centered nutrition counseling and challenge assumptions that certain patient populations may be less receptive to dietary change.

HOSPITALIST & GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

REISTERSTOWN PRIMARY CARE



We are pleased to remind our patients and colleagues about our Primary Care practice at UM Faculty Physicians at Reisterstown Crossing, located at 118 Westminster Pike, Suite 106, Reisterstown, MD 21136.

The Reisterstown site offers convenient access, free parking, and a multidisciplinary care environment with both primary and specialty services. We are also excited to welcome Dr. Nicole Masimasi, whose expertise in internal medicine, preventive care, women's health, and chronic disease management further strengthens the care available to our patients and community.

Our team remains committed to providing high-quality, patient-centered care close to home. We look forward to continuing to serve the Reisterstown community.

To schedule an appointment, please call 410-876-0086.

NEPHROLOGY

GENERAL UPDATES

- Partnered with Johns Hopkins University to co-sponsor the inaugural **B'More Kidney Science Forum**, held on October 2, 2026, on the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus in Baltimore.
- These initiatives strengthen institutional collaboration, research infrastructure, and trainee development in preparation for the upcoming U2C/TL1 application.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The University of Maryland Medical Center was designated as a Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Foundation Center of Excellence for comprehensive polycystic kidney disease clinical care.

Learn More About PKD Centers of Excellence >

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Events, Lectures, and Workshops

- **Omar Harfouch, MD, MPH**
  - Gender Affirming Care 101, University of Maryland, Baltimore. Department of Family Medicine Grand Rounds. 2026.
  - Curriculum Development Expert and Lecturer for the Family Medicine Residency Learning Collaborative of MD/DC/WV – HIV Prevention and Anal Cancer Prevention.

Other News

- **Paul Saleeb, MD, MSPH** – A generous patient made a $5,000 gift to the Infectious Disease Division in honor of Dr. Saleeb.

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE & SLEEP MEDICINE



RESEARCH/PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST RECRUITMENT

Nalinikanth Kotagiri, PhD, has joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine as a Professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, with additional appointments in the Fischell Department of Bioengineering, the University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Center for Translational Engineering and Medicine (CTEM). Dr. Kotagiri is a translational scientist working at the intersection of engineering, molecular imaging, and therapeutics to advance precision medicine for pulmonary disease, infection, and cancer.

Dr. Kotagiri serves as Director of Translational Engineering within our Division, helping expand engineering-driven innovation across our clinical, research, and educational missions. His unique ability to bridge engineering, chemistry, biology, and medicine has led to the development of novel imaging agents, nanoparticle-based therapeutic platforms, and translational technologies that accelerate the movement of scientific discoveries toward clinical application.

QUALITY AND CLINICAL INFORMATICS

- A major quality and operational priority has been the development of real-time, actionable clinical informatics data to support leadership decision-making, provide clinician feedback, and facilitate practice improvement initiatives.
- PCCSM will launch a pilot to expand CEDAR, with **Caleb Chan, MD, MPH**, becoming the Director of Quality and Clinical Informatics
- Work closely with hospital informatics leadership, including **Mark Sutherland, MD**, and divisional leadership to implement informatics modernization in PCCSM.



Caleb Chan, MD, MPH



Mark Sutherland, MD

LEAD PULMONARY APP

- Since FY24, went from 1.3 APP to 6 APP within the PCCSM Practice, 3 in Transplant
- Lead of Lung Transplant APP Team
- 40% of time into PCCSM will embed in our advanced lung disease practice
- Lead APP team for Pulmonary Group



Julie Riggs,
DNP, CRNP, FNP-C, ACNPC-AG

RHEUMATOLOGY, ALLERGY, & CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY



WALK TO END LUPUS NOW

The Baltimore community came together on September 19, 2026, for the **Walk to End Lupus Now**, raising over $71,000 for lupus research and awareness.

Ashira Blazer, MD, spoke to WMAR about the event and why she became a rheumatologist specializing in lupus.
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Publications

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND NUTRITION

McCoy RG, Patel S, Faust L, Heien HC, Zhang N, Caffo B, Ngufor C. Predicting acute and chronic diabetes complications among adults newly diagnosed with diabetes: development and validation of dynamic risk prediction models. Nat Commun. 2026 Aug 25;17(1):10167

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