



# SOMnews

## Point of PRIDE



**Elijah Saunders, MD, FACC, FACP, FAHA, FASH, '60** was an internationally-renowned expert on hypertension in African Americans. Dr. Saunders became the first African American resident in internal medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1960, and the first African American cardiologist in the state of Maryland in 1965. He was also integral in abolishing segregated hospital wards at what was then University Hospital (now the University of Maryland Medical Center).



### DEAN'S MESSAGE

Just last month our country, and this University, celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a time to reflect on the incredibly important work that still needs to be done on achieving racial equity across the United States. With Dr. King's vision in mind, I am focused on the School of Medicine's efforts to continually seek opportunities to enhance equity and diversity across our campus. We know that creating an inclusive workforce only strengthens the quality of both the health care we provide and the biomedical research which underpins all our clinical endeavors, while addressing the needs of our increasingly diverse population.

We have been working on this transformation holistically, recognizing that real change can only come when our entire community becomes advocates for diverse leadership, equitable compensation and promotion practices, meaningful partnerships with the communities we serve, and a combined effort to eliminate communications that are intentionally or unintentionally disrespectful. We know that collaboration and coordination between the UMSOM, the University of Maryland Medical Center, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is essential to creating the safe and accountable culture that we desire, and we are pleased that our partners have been active participants in this effort. We must celebrate the successful strides and accomplishments that result from that commitment.

The School of Medicine is strongly committed to the recruitment and retention of talented, ethnically diverse faculty, staff, trainees, and students. Currently, the School of Medicine's faculty is comprised of more than 3,100 individuals. Of that number, 41 percent are women and 11 percent are underrepresented minority faculty. In addition, our medical student body is comprised of 62 percent women and 21 percent underrepresented minority students.

A robust scholarship program is critical to creating and maintaining a diverse, dynamic, and scholarly academic community. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the School of Medicine awarded more than \$5 million in direct financial

### What's on My Mind...



...is the dramatic progress we have made as an academic medical community in our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

support to students. Of that total, \$2 million was awarded in the form of diversity scholarships to 70 medical students. We are exceedingly proud of this level of investment that we make every year.

While the School of Medicine has much to celebrate with regards to diversity, equity and inclusion, there is still much introspection to be done. As historic institutions, medicine and science have some ignoble roots in perpetuating some of the inequalities that continue to persist today. Changing the framework of how we approach diverse communities does not happen overnight or through a few efforts. Every day we must reaffirm our commitment to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion. However, we are a strong academic medical community, and we pride ourselves with taking on the toughest challenges. We know the spirit of our School of Medicine community, and our committed to creating an inclusive, equitable and diverse environment that will support our very best work and exceptional studies.

In the relentless pursuit of excellence, I am  
Sincerely Yours,

*E. Albert Reece*

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA  
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore  
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and  
Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

**"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance."**

Verna Myers

## Interprofessional Telemedicine Education Symposium 2022

Monday, March 7, 2022

11:30 am to 5:30 pm

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

CME and MOC credit available

Sponsored by University of Maryland Medicine and Johns Hopkins Medicine with the Hopkins Business of Health Initiative

Continued on page 8

SOMnews is your source for all news and information regarding the University of Maryland School of Medicine, including Clinical Care, Research, Education, Community Outreach, and its Culture Transformation Initiative.

- 2 Researcher Link New Gene Variant in Amish Population to Lower Risk of Heart Disease
- 3 UMSOM Investiture Ceremony Honoring Dr. Alexander Sasha Krupnick
- 4 Thomas Scalea, MD - Celebrating 25 Years
- 6 Nationally-Recognized Physician-Scientist Dr. Phuoc Tran Joins UMSOM
- 7 Dr. Alice S. Ryan Named Associate Director for Translational Science in the Center for Research on Aging

UM School of Medicine Researchers Link

# New Gene Variant to Lower Risk of Heart Disease

## Discovery Continues Unique UMSOM Research in Amish Community

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) researchers, working with scientists from the **Regeneron Genetics Center (RGC)**, discovered a new gene variant associated with lower levels of heart-damaging LDL cholesterol and a blood clotting protein called fibrinogen that appears to significantly lower a person's risk of heart disease. While the gene variant is extremely rare in the general population (less than 1 in 10,000), it is found in about 12 percent of those living in the Lancaster county, Pennsylvania Amish community, according to the study published last December in the journal *Science*.

Researchers have long known about gene mutations linked to cholesterol levels. This is the first time, however, they have found a gene variant that can significantly reduce the level of two heart disease risk factors and subsequently reduce a person's risk of heart disease. The finding could potentially lead to novel treatments that may help prevent clogged arteries, blood clots, and cardiovascular disease.



May Montasser, PhD

*“Leveraging data from more than 500,000 from the general population, it was found that those who carried this variant had a 35 percent lower risk of heart disease compared to those who did not,”* said study leader **May Montasser, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine at UMSOM and a member of UMSOM's Program for Personalized and Genomic Medicine. *“The genetic variant appears to either control the synthesis of cholesterol and fibrinogen or accelerate their clearance from the blood, which protects the heart. This finding could lead to targeted drugs that mimic the action of this variant to keep arteries free of plaque and clots.”*

Genetic sequencing of samples from nearly 7,000 Amish study participants who have been participating in genetic research with UMSOM since 1995 was performed at the RGC. The researchers found a genetic variant in the gene B4GALT1 was associated with a nearly 14 mg/dL lower LDL cholesterol and nearly 30 mg/dL lower fibrinogen. After the variant was identified, they tested its effects in mice that were genetically modified to express the variant.

*“The mouse model, encoding for this gene mutation, also showed decreased levels of LDL cholesterol and fibrinogen, confirming the effect of this variant,”* said **Giusy Della Gatta, PhD**, study senior co-author and RGC senior staff scientist. *“This model represents an invaluable tool*

*to unravel the molecular mechanisms that help protect against cardiovascular disease.”*

The Amish community is ideal for genetic studies due to its common



Alan Shuldiner, MD

lineage and homogeneous lifestyle that makes finding novel links between genes and health easier for scientists. Study senior co-author **Alan Shuldiner, MD**, John L. Whitehurst Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for **Personalized & Genomic Medicine at UMSOM**, founded the **Amish Research Clinic** in Lancaster, PA. The clinic's research has discovered genes playing a role in type 2 diabetes and heart disease, as well as a gene that plays a role in determining why some people don't respond to the anticlotting medicine Plavix.




Simeon I. Taylor, MD, PhD

Dr. Shuldiner is also a Vice President at the Regeneron Genetics Center. Other UMSOM co-authors include: **Simeon I. Taylor, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine; **Jeffrey O'Connell, PhD**, Associate Professor of Medicine; **Elizabeth A. Streeten, MD**, Professor of Medicine; **Braxton Mitchell, PhD**, Professor of Medicine; **James A. Perry, PhD** Assistant Professor of Medicine, and **Kathleen A. Ryan, MPH, MS**, Statistician. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and the Regeneron Genetics Center.



Jeffrey O'Connell, PhD

*“This is a ground-breaking finding and would not have been possible without the participation and partnership of the Amish community,”* said **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine. *“We are so grateful for their continuing commitment to research and advancement of precision medicine.”* 



UMSOM INVESTITURE CEREMONY HONORING

Dr. Alexander Sasha Krupnick

Distinguished Professorship Paves the Way for Advancements in Thoracic Surgery

Alexander S. Krupnick, MD, Professor of Surgery, Vice Chief of Thoracic Surgery, and Director of the Lung Transplant Program in the Department of Surgery, was recently installed as the **Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor of Surgery** at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). The endowed professorship has been afforded by the generosity of **Peter G. Angelos**, prominent Maryland-based attorney for more than 50 years and majority owner of the Baltimore Orioles major league baseball team.

Mr. Angelos has devoted his professional life to representing those who have suffered from personal injury and medical malpractice. He has been a passionate advocate and a tireless champion for Baltimore, his hometown. In addition to serving as an Emeritus Board Member of the University of Maryland School of Medicine Board of Visitors, Mr. Angelos has served as a board member for numerous colleges, hospitals, and civic organizations and has been widely honored for his commitment to higher education and civic causes.



Peter Angelos

**“Today, we honor Dr. Alexander Sasha Krupnik on the occasion of his investiture; we also recognize the generosity of Peter Angelos for the creation of this endowed professorship,”** said UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA** in his brief opening remarks. **“This endowed professorship will support and advance clinical care and research in surgery through the work of Dr. Krupnik.”**

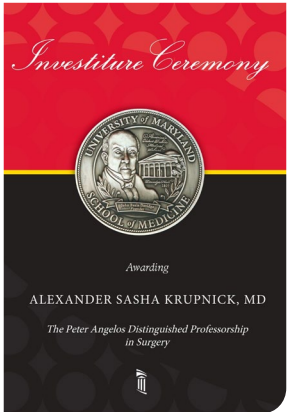
**Christine L. Lau, MD, MBA**, The Dr. Robert W. Buxton Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at UMSOM and Surgeon-in-Chief at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), served as master of ceremonies and signaled the start of the event by sharing a few sentiments about Dr. Krupnik, referred to as “Sasha” by his professional peers and friends.

**“We were general thoracic track fellows together at Washington University in St. Louis. I was ahead of him in training, but I learned significantly from him nonetheless,”** said Dr. Lau. **“Sasha has boundless energy and enthusiasm, and he is a joy to partner with.”**

The ceremony featured three of Dr. Krupnick’s former colleagues. Each expressed their deep admiration for Dr. Krupnik and highlighted his successes over the years.

**“I had the distinction of participating in Sasha’s surgical education during his residency at the University of Pennsylvania. I observed his maturity not only as a surgeon but also as an outstanding researcher,”** said **Larry Kaiser, MD, FACS**, Professor of Thoracic Medicine and Surgery at Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University. **“What he achieved in his research years working with his colleagues and mentor was truly outstanding; I know I speak for many of my former colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania who have watched with great pride as Sasha has advanced in his career becoming a true triple threat, of which there are very few.”**

**Ankit Bharat, MBBS**, The Harold L. and Margaret N. Method Research Professor of Surgery, Chief of Thoracic Surgery, and



Director of Lung Transplantation at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, emphasized Dr. Krupnik’s unparalleled mentorship when he trained as his intern nearly 18 years ago.

**“Sasha is the epitome of what a surgeon-scientist should be. I’ve never received more autonomy and supervised opportunities to develop my skills other than working with him,”** said Dr. Bharat. **“When Sasha was operating, we all wanted to scrub in with him because of the autonomy. He always motivated us in the operating room and constantly encouraged us to find solutions to complex surgical problems.”**

**Eric Lazear, PhD**, Senior Principal Scientist, Director of Protein Therapeutics at Valo Health, recalled his first meeting with Dr. Krupnik back in 2013 when they discussed their idea for a start-up biotech company, which was eventually acquired by Valo Health in 2020. **“I immediately thought to myself, he is so passionate and energetic,”** said Dr. Lazear.

Over the years, Dr. Lazear was a witness to how Dr. Krupnik flawlessly balanced his responsibilities as a surgeon and remained a dedicated mentor to his fellows. **“Just as he cares for his fellows, he is very dedicated to his trainees,”** said Dr. Lazear. **“There were countless times I had been in his lab and seen him come in between surgeries, or before going on patient rounds, just to check in with everyone to make sure they had what they needed.”**

Alexander Krupnik was then presented with the Investiture Medallion and shared his gratitude and appreciation.

**“I specifically want to thank Peter Angelos and his family for this wonderful opportunity,”** he said. **“Their generous support will allow me to build a better team and make a dent in lung cancer, as well as in lung transplantation survival.”**

With a profound sense of humility, Dr. Krupnik credited much of his success to four basic rules he learned from his very own mentor, Dr. Clyde F. Barker, during his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: *Pick a good mentor, Work with a partner, Build teams to succeed, and Be lucky.*

Dr. Krupnik concluded with, **“Now, it’s time to get back to work,”** a merited remark for a surgeon who gives 100 percent of his attention to the task at hand: curing lung cancer.

A Long Career in Thoracic Surgery

**Alexander “Sasha” Krupnick, MD**, joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2020. Prior to joining the University of Maryland, he was Professor of Surgery at the University of Virginia. Dr. Krupnick completed his medical degree at the University of Michigan, his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and his fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis.

His academic and clinical focus is on the treatment of end-stage lung failure and cancer. His laboratory has made seminal contributions towards understanding lung transplant immunology, including developing the world’s first model of vascularized lung transplantation in mice. In addition to work on transplantation, he has focused extensive efforts on understanding and reversing immunological dysfunction associated with cancer. 🏠



## Thomas Scalea, MD, has Pioneered Significant Advances in Trauma Care at Helm of the Premier R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center

As the Honorable Francis X. Kelly Distinguished Professor of Trauma Surgery and Director of the Program in Trauma at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) and Physician-in-Chief of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), **Thomas M. Scalea, MD, FACS, MCCM**, has pioneered advances to trauma care for patients in the United States and around the world.

On January 4, Dr. Scalea marked his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the leader of the **Shock Trauma Center** at the **University of Maryland Medical Center** and the **Program in Trauma** at the **University of Maryland School of Medicine**. The Program in Trauma at UMSOM is the only multidisciplinary dedicated physician group practice that cares for injury in the United States. The goals of the program go well beyond that of patient care, with education and research at the cornerstone of its mission. The goal is to save lives, advance science and educate all types of healthcare professionals from many disciplines.

***“When I look at what we have been able to accomplish over the past 25 years, I can truly say that we changed the face of injury care in the world,”*** said Dr. Scalea, who is also System Chief of Critical Care Services for the 12-hospital **University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS)**. ***“I am very proud that we have been at the tip of the spear for many advances, with a lot of innovation coming through our long partnership with the U.S. military — all for the benefit of patients.”***

As part of the Program in Trauma, Dr. Scalea has played an instrumental role in the leadership of the **Shock, Trauma and Anesthesiology Research (STAR) Center**, a world-class multidisciplinary research and educational center focusing on critical care and organ support, resuscitation, surgical outcomes, patient safety and injury prevention.



Thomas M. Scalea, MD

Dr. Scalea came to Maryland from New York City, where he served as Chief of Critical Care and Trauma and Founding Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Kings County Hospital/SUNY Brooklyn. ***“I planned to live and die in New York City and didn’t really plan to move to Baltimore,”*** he recalled. ***“But when I got the opportunity, I hesitated zero seconds and said, ‘Yes.’ Because it’s Shock Trauma. It’s as good as it gets. When you do what I do, this is the best job in the country, maybe the world.”***

Shock Trauma — Maryland’s only primary adult trauma resource center (PARC), which is at the heart of Maryland’s unique Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System — has grown tremendously under Dr. Scalea’s leadership. He has been instrumental in creating or developing many key programs and units, including:

- **C-STARs** (Center for the Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills) program to train U.S. Air Force personnel
- **Trauma Resuscitation Unit (TRU)**, a specialized unit to quickly evaluate patients and begin lifesaving treatment, and the **Critical Care Resuscitation Unit (CCRU)**, the only unit in the country designated for rapid evaluation and treatment of critically ill patients transferred from another institution
- **Violence Prevention Program** to help victims of violence avoid becoming victims again
- **Shock Trauma Go Team**, a physician-led team which travels to the scene to treat severely injured patients
- **Lung Rescue Unit (LRU)**, launched in 2015, one of the busiest units in the U.S. to provide prolonged cardiac and respiratory support with ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation)
- **STAR** organized research center, which opened in 2009, for the prevention and treatment of trauma
- **Shock Trauma Surgical Critical Care Fellowship**, which is the largest and one of the most prestigious programs to train physician leaders in trauma and critical care medicine of its kind
- **Critical Care and Trauma Simulation Center**, a state-of-the-art simulation lab for training medical staff, located in the new Shock Trauma Critical Care Tower, which was built in 2013



***“Although Dr. Scalea is widely known and regarded, both nationally and internationally, for his incredible expertise as a trauma surgeon and physician-scientist who has made enormous contributions to trauma research, those who have worked with him or trained under him will tell that you that Dr. Scalea is an equally gifted leader and mentor,”*** said **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, Vice President of Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and the John Z. and Akiko Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean of UMSOM. ***“He is carrying the torch of Dr. Cowley’s original mission to provide cutting-edge care to ensure the survival of the critically ill and injured.”***



Bert W. O’Malley, Jr., MD

***He and his team always bring their ‘A’ game and have saved thousands of lives over the last 25 years, developing new procedures and techniques that have been adopted by other trauma specialists. He is a dedicated, selfless public servant.”***

Dr. O’Malley noted that Shock Trauma has been at the forefront of UMMC’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for the sickest patients, many of whom required treatment with ECMO.

**Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH**, Executive Director of the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), said, ***“For the past 25 years, Dr. Tom Scalea hasn’t just led the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, he has***



E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

***devoted himself to the care of injured people throughout Maryland. The value of his expertise and commitment to Maryland’s statewide emergency medical services system and its abilities to treat trauma patients is immeasurable.”***

Dr. Scalea observed that trauma care has changed dramatically over the years, with a much shorter evaluation process, staging of surgeries over the course of several days, earlier blood and plasma transfusions, and more advanced imaging. There have also been innovations in critical care, including the use of ventilators and ECMO, which oxygenates a patient’s blood outside of the body.

***“It’s very exciting to create solutions for patients not helped by standard therapies — to innovate on the fly,”*** Dr. Scalea said. ***“My team and I put our heads together and say, ‘Let’s try this,’” whether it be an operative technique, a procedure in the intensive care unit, or a philosophic approach. I love that process. I have been practicing medicine for 40 years, and that’s still an incredibly energizing experience.”***

Dr. Scalea is a member of a host of trauma organizations and served as President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the Western Trauma Association and Executive Director of the Pan American Trauma Society. He is a member of the American Trauma Society and the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. He was featured in two TV programs about Shock Trauma — “The Critical Hour: Shock Trauma” in 2004 and “Shock Trauma: Edge of Life” in 2015.

He credits his mother, Anne Scalea, with instilling in him a deep-seated desire to serve. ***“When I was a kid, my mama said to me 10,000 times, ‘You do for others before you do for yourself.’ It was the motto in my house. It’s how I have lived my life,”*** he said.

Dr. Scalea, who still performs about 600 surgeries a year, said he loves his job and has no plans to retire. ***“It’s who I am, it’s what I do, it’s the only life I know,”*** he said. ***“It’s what I will do until I can’t do it anymore.”*** 🏠



Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH

# Nationally-Recognized Physician-Scientist **Dr. Phuoc Tran** Joins University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Radiation Oncology



**Dr. Tran Will Help to Advance Precision Medicine in Radiation Oncology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM)**

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Department of Radiation Oncology Chair **William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO**, along with UMSOM Dean **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**, announced today that **Phuoc T. Tran, MD, PhD**, previously Professor of Radiation Oncology and Molecular Radiation Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, has joined the Department of Radiation Oncology at



**William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO**

the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) as Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department. Dr. Tran succeeds **Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD**, who is now an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Tran, who officially joined the UMSOM faculty on December 6, 2021, is a nationally-recognized physician-scientist whose career in radiation treatment and translational research has spanned more than 20 years. His research focuses on the improvement of clinical radiotherapy for the treatment of patients

with prostate, adrenal, bladder, urethral, testicular and penile cancer, as well as patients with oligometastatic disease.

***“Dr. Tran has already become familiar with our research programs and met with key faculty members to develop an ambitious and well-codified vision for advancing precision medicine across our 3 divisions focusing on clinical, physics, and biology translating research into practice,”*** said Dr. Regine. ***“He has targeted near-term program grants from federal agencies and enthusiastically engaged coinvestigators from our own faculty and from other disciplines at UMSOM. I am confident that these efforts will result in new research opportunities, enhanced funding, and benefits to our patients.”***

As director of an active clinical trial program, Dr. Tran conducted interventional and translational investigator-initiated studies. Over the last decade, his laboratory group has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private foundations to study tumor cell dynamics and implications for tumorigenesis, metastasis, metabolism, cancer treatment resistance, and radiation-induced fibrosis. His research utilizes a variety of transgenic mouse models and non-invasive

imaging, as well as traditional molecular, biochemical, and cell biology approaches. Dr. Tran has also advanced the use of inducible mouse models to simulate molecularly targeted therapies for malignancies and radiation-induced late effects.

***“My goal is to make the University of Maryland an international leader in precision radiation medicine,”*** said Dr. Tran. ***“Our primary goals will be to advance the frontiers of radiation oncology in precision medicine by incorporating genomics, radiomics, liquid biopsies, and machine learning.”***

Before joining the University of Maryland, Dr. Tran served as on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University, reaching the level of tenured professor. He joined the Radiation Oncology faculty of Johns Hopkins University in 2009, where he served as Clinical Director in radiation oncology from 2015 to 2017. He also served as Co-Director of the Cancer Invasion and Metastasis Program in the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, with co-appointments in Medical Oncology, the James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute, the Cellular and Molecular Medicine Program, and the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program.



**E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA**

Dr. Tran received his MD and PhD Degrees from the Oregon Health and Science University and completed radiation oncology residency and a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his research and clinical work from major professional organizations and was voted a Top Doctor in *Baltimore* magazine. He also serves as a senior editor/editorial board member for *Cancer Research* and the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

***“Dr. Tran is a phenomenally talented clinician, educator, and researcher who is widely recognized as a top leader in precision radiation medicine. We are elated to have him here as part of the faculty and are fully confident that his work will drive future advancements in clinical radiotherapy for cancer patients,”*** said Dean Reece, who is also Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor. 🏢

UM School of Medicine Names  
**DR. ALICE S. RYAN**  
as the Associate Director for  
**Translational Science in the Center  
for Research on Aging**

**J**ay S. Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, and Director for the Center for Research on Aging, announced today that **Alice S. Ryan, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, has been appointed to serve as the Associate Director for Translational Science in the Center for Research on Aging, effective immediately.



Jay S. Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg

***“Dr. Ryan is an ideal person to lead our efforts to strengthen scientific advancements connecting basic and clinical scientists affiliated with the Center for Research on Aging. She is one of the Principal Investigators of our Claude D. Pepper***

***Older Americans Independence Center and has a long history of federally-sponsored research in aging,”*** said Dr. Magaziner.

**Stephen Davis, MBBS, FRCP, FACE, MACP**, Chair and Professor, Department of Medicine at UMSOM, and Director, Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and Vice-President of Clinical Translational Sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), commented: ***“We are delighted that Dr. Alice Ryan will serve as Associate Director of the Center for Research on Aging. She is an internationally-renowned researcher in the field of physiology, geriatrics, and clinical research. She is also a wonderful mentor to faculty, trainees, and students. Her many skills will unquestionably help the interdisciplinary mission of the Center.”***



Stephen N. Davis, MBBS, FRCP, FACE, MACP

Dr. Ryan’s research is focused in aging, while developing and testing exercise and nutritional interventions to restore function, minimize disability, and prevent declines related to serious chronic diseases. Her work also aims to advance our understanding of the mechanisms by which exercise and rehabilitation interventions affect body systems and tissues.

**Dr. Ryan will drive Center’s mission of fostering new multi-disciplinary collaborations amongst University of Maryland researchers**



In her new role, she will be instrumental in facilitating ties between basic and clinical scientists to expand interdisciplinary research in gerontology.

***“I look forward to the opportunity to further promote innovative aging research on campus. The Center of Aging provides the platform to foster new multi-disciplinary collaborations bringing ‘aging’ to the forefront of research endeavors,”*** said Dr. Ryan.

Dr. Ryan’s appointment is the first step of many in expanding the Center’s leadership roles, specifically in the areas of Biology of Aging and Population Health and Aging. The Center will continue to work towards its goal of securing new funding and continuing its recruitment efforts.

***“A terrific multidisciplinary collaborator, Dr. Ryan’s innovative research, fostering innovation and discovery, has had a significant impact on the field of aging. Her long-standing excellence in mentoring young investigators***

***is truly inspiring,”*** said **Raya E. Kheirbek, MD, MPH, FACP**, Professor of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at UMSOM. ***“I am confident that Dr. Ryan will bring continued vigor and unprecedented scientific success to our community’s research activities.”***

Currently, the Center has expanded membership to 151 affiliates including 19 leaders from all schools across the University of Maryland system and the Baltimore VA Medical Center. Last year, affiliates received nearly \$70 million in extramural funds. The Center remains committed to providing opportunities that deepen the understanding of disease origins and progression, such as Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, and will continue to pursue interdisciplinary research that has been the hallmark of research in aging since its inception as a field of study. 🏛️



Raya E. Kheirbek, MD, MPH, FACP

## Interprofessional Telemedicine Education Symposium 2022

*Continued from page 1*

The University of Maryland, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Offices of Telemedicine and Education and Johns Hopkins University, are pleased to announce an interprofessional telemedicine education symposium, **“Telemedicine in Primary and Ambulatory Care: Preparing Our Healthcare Workforce for the Future”** on **Monday, March 7, 2022** from **11:30 am to 5:30 pm**.

Join an exciting virtual program with interactive discussions, learning activities, and virtual networking. This conference will be of interest to medical educators, nursing educators, prescribers, nurses, staff and leaders who are working to increase efficiency, effectiveness and patient experience of telemedicine, particularly in ambulatory and primary care.

Students, residents, fellows, nurses, and non-clinical staff **may attend for free**.

For more information regarding registration, please visit the [Telemedicine Symposium website](#). CME and MOC credit are available. 🏛️



### Help Support Women in **Medicine** and **Science**!

Women in Medicine and Science (WIMS) are powerful women committed to helping others. Together, they spur ideas, research, and innovation. When you donate to UMSOM's **Women in Medicine and Science Fund**, you are supporting the School of Medicine's outstanding faculty, researchers, and medical professionals through WIMS lectures, events, and missions that enrich their professional and academic success. You can strengthen this program by making your secure donation [HERE](#). You can also mail your donation directly to the **UMSOM Office of Development** with a check made out to **UMBF, Inc./WIMS fund** and send it to:

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