

The Department of Medicine of University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Monthly eNewsletter



Top News



University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University research teams receive Collaborative Science Pilot awards

Projects to cover brain tumor, cerebral edema and gastroesophageal cancer research

Three University Hospitals (UH) and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine research teams recently received Collaborative Science Pilot Awards. The teams each received \$50,000, funded by both institutions. If substantial progress is accomplished and milestones are achieved, an additional year of funding will be considered.

"Supported by the UH-CWRU Joint Strategic Leadership Committee, the Collaborative Science Pilot Awards aim to inspire innovative and interdisciplinary research projects between the two institutions," said **Daniel I. Simon**, president, and academic external affairs and chief scientific officer at UH and the Ernie and Patti Novak Distinguished Chair in Healthcare Leadership. "Since our new affiliation agreement enacted in 2021, there has been the formation of research working groups between UH Clinical Chairs and the School of Medicine's Basic Science Chairs. We are excited to work together to help teams develop research projects and increase their competitiveness and capacity for major external funding opportunities."

"In alignment with strategic research priorities and strength, the two institutions jointly formed five groups focused on five key research areas: infection, immune response and immunotherapy; cancer; brain health; genetics, genomic, genetic therapeutics; and health services research," said **Robert A. Salata**, the John H. Hord Professor and Chairman at the School of Medicine and the UH Physician-in-Chief at the UH Cleveland Medical Center. "Each group is chaired by leaders in the clinical and basic sciences departments in order to help guide and support research."

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UH Wellness Retreat

Dr. Betul Hatipoglu, Medical Director for the UH Diabetes & Metabolic Care Center and her team are hosting free, one-day Wellness Retreats for individuals with metabolic conditions including pre-diabetes, diabetes, and obesity. The retreat will be staffed by doctors and educators from University Hospitals, as well as other experts from our community including fitness and wellness coaches.

The retreat program is built around four pillars for optimizing health and wellness:

- Body: Nourishing your body through nutrition and exercise.
- Mind: Empowering your mind through relaxation and sleep.
- Soul: Getting in tune with your emotions, thoughts, and perspectives.
- Life: Looking after your family and financial well-being.

Registration is currently open for the following retreat sessions:

- Friday, August 18th from 8am-5pm
- Saturday, August 19th from 8am-5pm
- Sunday, August 20th from 8am-5pm
- Monday, August 21st from 8am-5pm

Retreat Location: Family Life Center | 6349 Chillicothe Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Additional retreat locations and dates will be scheduled in the future. Participants may register to join the waitlist and will be contacted by the UH Wellness Team once more sessions become available.

For more information

Visit: UHhospitals.org/BeWell

Text: "WELL" to 216-777-4700

Email: WellnessTeam@UHhospitals.org

Watch: [UH Diabetes and Wellness Care Retreat](#)

Awards - Appointments - Publications



Clinical Trial Charts New Path for Advanced Melanoma Patients

Patients undergoing surgery for Stage III or Stage IV melanoma have significantly better outcomes if they receive the immunotherapy checkpoint inhibitor pembrolizumab (Keytruda) both before and after surgery, according to the results of a Phase 2 clinical trial recently published in **The New England Journal of Medicine** and co-authored by oncologists **Ankit Mangla, MD**, and **Amy M. Reese, MD**. They indicate that these findings have the potential to change the standard of care for these patients and add to the growing body of knowledge supporting the use of neoadjuvant therapy in oncology.

"Among patients with resectable Stage III or IV melanoma, event-free survival was significantly longer among those who received pembrolizumab both before and after surgery than among those who received adjuvant pembrolizumab alone," **Dr. Mangla** says. "No new toxic effects were identified."

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Dr. Patil on task force to revise the International Classification of Sleep Disorders

Dr. Susheel Patil was one of 4 individuals on the task force that revised The International Classification of Sleep Disorders (ICSD). This is the premiere clinical text for the diagnosis of sleep disorders.

Sleep disorders are grouped into six major categories in the ICSD-3-TR.

- Insomnia Disorders
- Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders
- Central Disorders of Hypersomnolence
- Circadian Rhythm Sleep-Wake Disorders
- Parasomnias
- Sleep-Related Movement Disorders

In addition, there is information about sleep-related medical and neurological disorders and ICD-10 and ICD-11 diagnosis codes in the appendices. ICSD-3-TR is an essential reference for all clinicians and researchers for accurately diagnosing sleep disorders.

This revision was released in June 2023 and was based on an extensive review of the current literature and features new and updated information on the approach to the diagnosis of sleep disorders.

[The ICSD can be found here »](#)



Mona Gupta, MD, wins Global Community Leadership Award

Mona Gupta, MD, won the Global Community Leadership Award at the prestigious John Carroll Global Entrepreneurship Center Launch. This award is presented to an individual who is a leader and decision-maker and has proven abilities in shaping the future of organizations and the region. Monte Ahuja was the keynote speaker at the event.



Dr. Montero presents at CWRU for Women's History Month

Alberto Montero, MD, MBA, CPHQ, presented at CWRU for Women's History Month to shine a light on the progression in breast cancer research. In addition, Dr. Montero shared his background and what led him to be interested in this field of research. This event was hosted by Sigma Lambda Gamma and the American Cancer Society.



Dr. Mohamed serves as Course Director for NET Regional Education Conference

Neuroendocrine Tumor medical experts from around the country met recently in Cleveland for the NET Regional educational conference, hosted in partnership with UH Seidman Cancer Center, CWRU and the North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS). **Amr Mohamed, MD**, served as Course Director for the program and was joined by a diverse faculty for a full day of educational programming.

Research News



Oncologist with Largest SCLC Database In US Identifies Subgroup

A research team led by thoracic oncology specialist **Afshin Dowlati, MD**, has identified a previously undescribed subgroup of small cell lung cancer (SCLC) – one of the most aggressive solid tumors, which affects more Americans than either pancreatic cancer or ovarian cancer – and has pinpointed a treatment approach that appears to hold promise for patients. Until now, SCLC has been a cancer that exhibits no currently targetable genetic mutations. The group recently published its findings in the journal Molecular Cancer Therapeutics.

"SCLC represents approximately 10-15 percent of all lung cancers and is characterized by a high growth fraction, propensity for early metastases and poor survival," says **Dr. Dowlati**. "Although about 70 percent of SCLC tumors respond to chemotherapy, relapse rates are high."

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Dr. Dowlati also was the guest of the UH Research & Education Institute's From Bench to Bedside podcast. The topic of the podcast is "Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Discovery Creates Hope."

[Listen Here »](#)

Education News



Did you attend Research Day 2023?

Please help us out by providing feedback on your experience.

Click the link below to fill out the 4-question survey. Thank you for your input!

[Research Day Survey »](#)

Welcome to the Department



Cailey Miller, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical
Care and Sleep Medicine



Victoria Sandoval, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of General Internal
Medicine



Katherine Wajda, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical
Care and Sleep Medicine

Upcoming Events

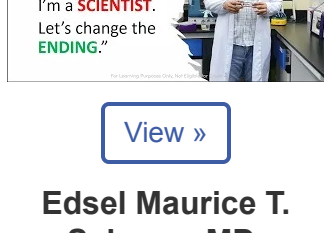
Recurring Events [\(Zoom information sent out weekly\)](#)

Tuesdays @ Noon - **Medicine Grand Rounds Seminar Series** (September - May)

Wednesdays @ Noon - **VA Conference**

Fridays @ Noon - **UH M&M Conference**

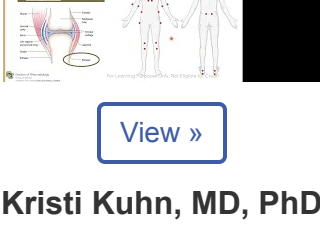
Recent Medicine Grand Rounds



[View »](#)

Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, MD, DTM&H, FIDSA

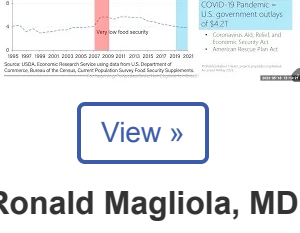
"How a TED Talk saved 350,000 lives from COVID-19"



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Kristi Kuhn, MD, PhD

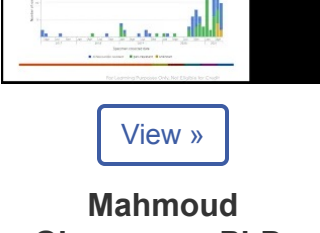
"(Mucosal) Barriers for Understanding Axial Spondyloarthritis"



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Ronald Magliola, MD

"How Can We Be Both: The Hunger Obesity-Paradox"



[View »](#)

Mahmoud Ghannoum, PhD, MBA, FAAM, FIDSA, ESCMID Fellow

"Candida Auris: A Global Emerging Multidrug Resistant Pathogen"

Social:



[Click here to view online](#)

To contribute or provide feedback, email: Matthew.Zelesnik@UHhospitals.org

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