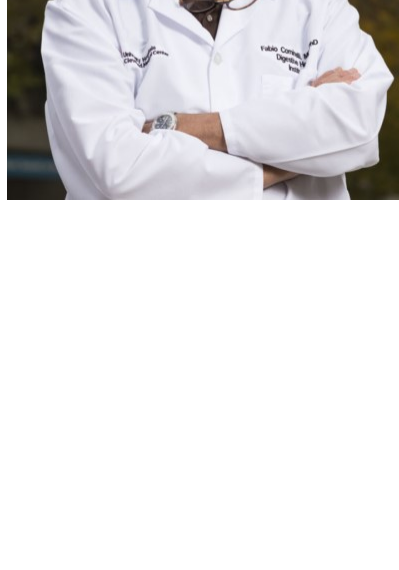




Top News



Internationally recognized researcher Fabio Cominelli named a Distinguished University Professor

Fabio Cominelli's contributions to groundbreaking research on gastrointestinal conditions, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, has helped alleviate pain and complications for tens of millions of people worldwide living with these disorders.

At Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, the internationally recognized gastroenterologist, physician and clinical scientist is also known for being an inspiring professor and dedicated mentor.

Now, **Cominelli** will be known by another title: **Distinguished University Professor**, the highest honor the university bestows on a member of its faculty.

Originally intending to become a cardiologist, **Cominelli** was swayed by the potential to make an outsized impact studying little-understood chronic digestive disorders.

"I went into medicine to help alleviate suffering and these diseases cause significant suffering to people," said **Cominelli**, professor of medicine and professor of pathology at the medical school.

"These are fascinating diseases, and in many cases, we don't know the causes and there are no cures," added **Cominelli**, director of the Digestive Health Research Institute and chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Disease at the University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. "But we can make life better for people."

[Click here to read more »](#)



Federico Perez receives CWRU School of Medicine's Faculty STAR Award.

Dr. Federico Perez, an Associate Professor of Medicine, the Program Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Joint Training Program at UH/VA/MetroHealth Medical Center, and one of our most beloved faculty members here at VANECHS, is the recipient of the **CWRU School of Medicine's prestigious Faculty STAR Award**.

The Faculty STAR Award (Supportive, Team-oriented, Authentic, and Respectful) is an award given by the School to only one faculty member per year, among the 3,400 full-time faculty on the campuses of the VANECHS, MetroHealth, University Hospitals, the Cleveland Clinic, and the School of Medicine itself.

It is—at its essence—a role model award. **Dr. Perez** is an outstanding teacher, researcher, and clinician who has won many accolades in the past, but was selected as the recipient of this award for his mentorship, his kindness, his authenticity, and his "STAR-dom," among his colleagues, trainees, students, and interdisciplinary partners.

Dr. Perez was nominated by more than ten faculty members for this Award and was recognized for this Award by the Dean at the School of Medicine's Promotions and Awards reception on September 13th.



Cindy Neczypor retires after 30 years of service

We would like to thank Cindy Neczypor for her 30 years of dedication and service in the Department of Medicine. Cindy will retire October 6, 2023.

Cindy began working at University Hospitals in the Division of Gastroenterology in 1993. Dr. Michael Sivak, Jr. was the Division chief at the time. She transferred to Medicine Education in May 2004 to work with Dr. Debra Leizman. During her time, **Cindy** has been a tremendous help to Dr. Leizman and the countless Medical Students she has worked with over the years.



Erin B. Stewart joined the Department of Medicine on August 28 to begin shadowing **Cindy Neczypor** prior to **Cindy's** retirement. **Erin** graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication and has since completed her Masters in Leadership in Higher Education. **Erin** came to us from Kent State University, where she had spent 7 years working with students in advanced academic roles. She has had experience administering working-abroad programs and participating in national conferences. We welcome **Erin** to the Department.



AI Aids in Finding Cancer during Colonoscopies

Gastroenterologists elevate colon cancer detection with Medtronic's endoscopy modules

While artificial intelligence (AI) has been in the headlines in recent months with the introduction of ChatGPT and similar applications, UH Cleveland Medical Center has been at the forefront of utilizing AI in medical applications for years.

Not only does our flagship medical center harness AI to predict prostate cancer's severity and study its role in forecasting cardiovascular disease, we also employ Medtronic's AI-powered GI Genius™ Endoscopy Modules. This cutting-edge tool helps physicians detect colorectal polyps by enhancing visualization during colonoscopies.

"Endoscopy is a field where AI truly shines because it relies on visual data," says **Gerard Isenberg, MD, MBA**, Chief Medical Quality Officer for the UH Digestive Health Institute. "A 30-minute colonoscopy produces roughly 54,000 image frames, amounting to 270 GB of data for analysis. A fleeting distraction could lead to a missed polyp.

"These AI modules serve as an invaluable secondary observer, significantly reducing the number of overlooked pre-cancerous polyps. Studies show that AI-assisted colonoscopies can improve polyp detection rates. For every 1 percent uptick in benign tumor detection rate, there's a 3 percent reduction in colorectal cancer risk. There is no other technology that achieves this level of success."

This module boasts an impressive 99.7 percent sensitivity rate with a false positive rate of under 1 percent.

[Read More »](#) (UH Internal Website)

Awards - Appointments - Publications

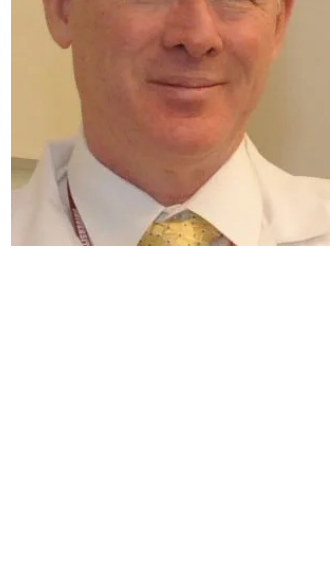


Reshmi Parameswaran Receives Commercialization Award

Reshmi Parameswaran, PhD, received a 2023 Innovation Week Commercialization Award from the Office of Research and Technology Management.

The award was bestowed at the Innovation Week luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 28 at the Tinkham Veale University Center. This award honors any member of the Case Western Reserve University community who had a technology that was newly licensed through the CWRU Tech Transfer Office during Fiscal Year 23.

Dr. Parameswaran joined Case Western Reserve University as a faculty member in September 2013. Currently, she is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Department of Hematology/Oncology. Her lab focuses on developing cell therapy methods for treating various hematological malignancies using Natural Killer (NK) cells. Dr. Parameswaran's lab is also trying to elucidate the mechanism of drug resistance in ALL patients.

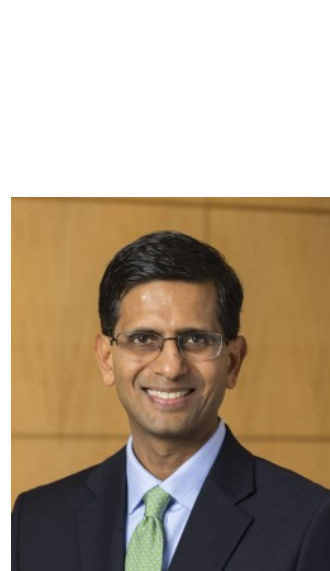


Barbara Gripshover to receive 2023 HIVMA Citation Award

Barbara Gripshover, MD, has been selected to receive the 2023 HIVMA Citation Award. The award will be presented during IDWeek 2023 in conjunction with the Smadel Lecture on Thursday, October 12 in Boston.

The HIVMA Association Awards celebrate member contributions to advancing the field across the career trajectory and research, prevention, education, and care spectrum to help make it possible to envision ending HIV as an epidemic. Members are nominated by their peers and awarded by the HIVMA Awards Committee and Board of Directors.

The HIVMA Citation Award recognizes exemplary contributions or service to HIVMA and/or in advancing efforts to end HIV as an epidemic, such as through social justice and public service.



"Machine Learning Approach for Rapid, Accurate Point-of-Care Prediction of M-Spike Values in Multiple Myeloma".

James J. Driscoll, along with co-authors Ehsan Malek, Gi-Ming Wang, Curtis Tatsuka, Jennifer Cullen, and Anant Madabhushi, were recently published in *JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics*.

Key Objective
Can machine learning (ML) integrate readily available clinical and laboratory data to predict M-spike values more accurately and more rapidly than conventional methods?

Knowledge Generated
Forty-three independent variables for patient clinical and demographic features integrated into a ML algorithm to predict patient M-spike values. Feature selection modeling revealed that only two variables—the first lagged M-spike and serum total protein—were needed to accurately predicted the M-spike.

Relevance
ML leverages real-world patient information to longitudinally monitor disease and expedite clinical decision-making.

[Click here for the full article »](#)

Media Mention
Dr. Driscoll also commented on a recent article in *Science Translation Medicine*.

[Click here to read the article »](#)

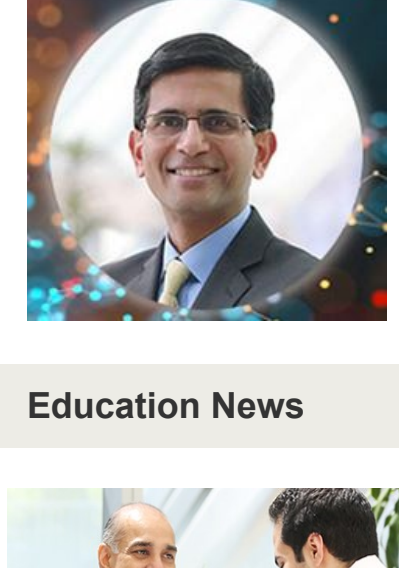


High blood pressure is the world's biggest killer. Now there's a plan to tackle it

Media Mention
Wired: **Sanjay Rajagopalan**, director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute, explained how high blood pressure is associated with urban migration because people lost access to traditional diets, weren't able to exercise safely and were exposed to fine particulates from burning fossil fuels.

[Click here to read the article »](#)

Research News



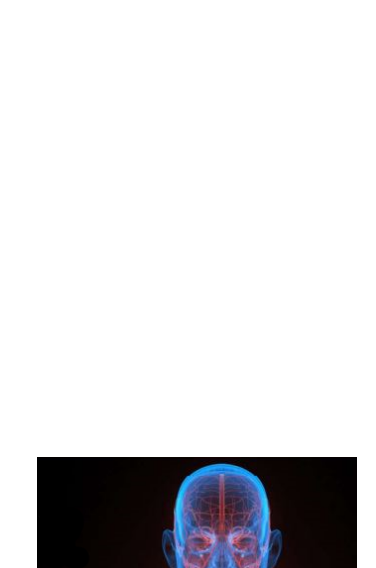
Amitab Chak and co-authors study identifying inherited gene mutation linked to esophageal cancer

Discovery could lead to possible prevention, treatment strategies

Studying genes in families with a propensity for certain diseases has led to many critical advances in medicine, including the discovery of statins in family members who suffered heart attacks at an early age.

Now, a team of researchers at Case Western Reserve University has identified an inherited mutation in a gene linked to a highly lethal cancer of what is commonly known as the food pipe, called esophageal adenocarcinoma (EAC).

[Read more »](#)

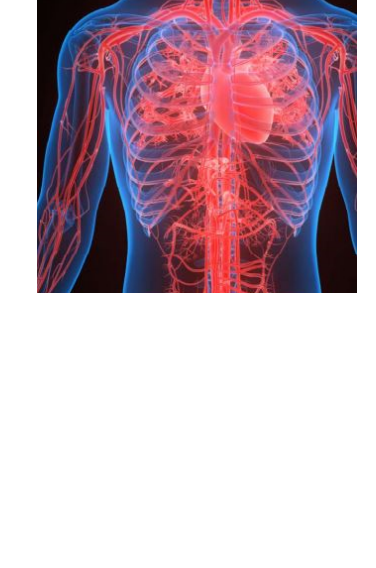


REBIRTH Study

Chantal El Amm, MD, is conducting a study to evaluate the impact of an investigational drug on myocardial recovery and clinical outcomes.

The purpose of this randomized placebo controlled research study is to evaluate the impact of the investigational drug, bromocriptine, on myocardial recovery and clinical outcomes. Given that bromocriptine prevents breastfeeding, an additional 50 women with peripartum cardiomyopathy excluded from the trial due to a desire to continue breastfeeding but meeting all other entry criteria will be followed in an observational cohort.

[Learn more about the study»](#)



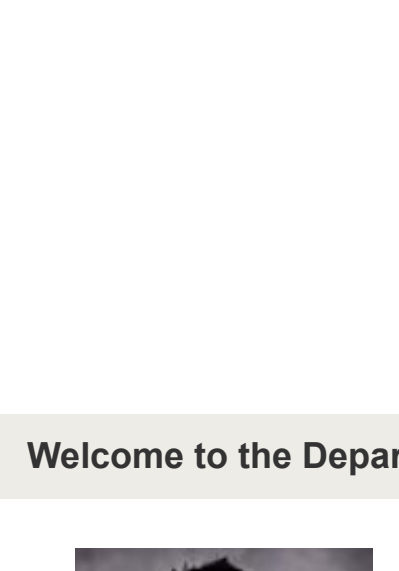
Science@UH Podcast - with host Daniel Simon, MD

Exploring the Effects of Policy and Environmental Factors on Health Outcomes

Guest: **Sanjay Rajagopalan, MD**

[Listen Now »](#)

Education News



Intern Recruitment - Interviewers Needed

Medicine and Med-Peds will continue to use a Zoom platform for interviews this year.

Medicine starts interviews 10/26/23 – 1/25/24
Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 AM.

Med-Peds starts their interviews 11/7/23 – 12/5/23
Tuesdays, both morning and afternoon times.

We appreciate your continued support this season, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. If you have only partial availability for specific dates, let us know on the form.

Please complete the availability form below and return to Deena or Regina.

[Get the availability form »](#)



16th Annual Cardiovascular Disease Update

Continuing Medical Education | CID 2802
Earn 5.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credits

Free for all UH Staff

Virtual or In-Person Event
Saturday, October 21, 2023
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

In-Person at Tinkham Veale University Center
11028 Bellflower Road
Cleveland, OH 44106
(breakfast & lunch included)

Get the latest updates to support your clinical practice:

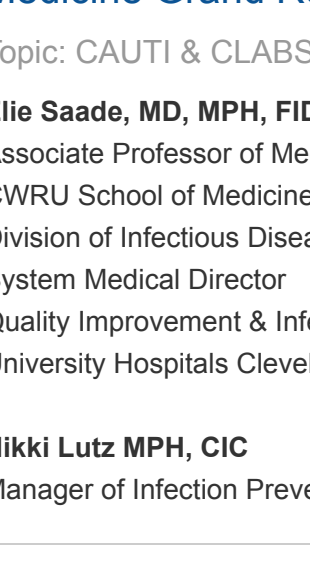
- Guideline- and evidence-based strategies to lower cardiovascular risk in patients
- Optimal diagnostic approaches to help guide cardiovascular therapies
- Emerging treatments for complex patients with structural heart disease, arrhythmias and heart failure
- Novel heart and vascular devices and technologies

PLUS: Breakout sessions during lunch for nurses and sonographers

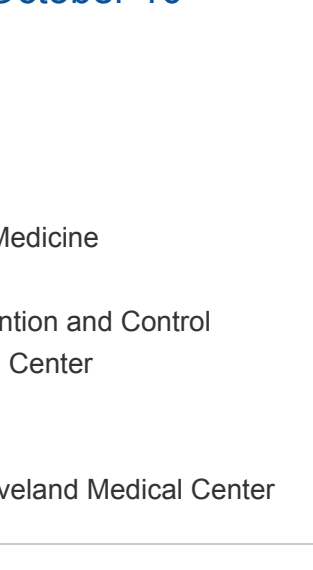
[Get the brochure »](#)

[Register Online »](#)
(UH Staff Code - CVD23UHEMP)

Welcome to the Department



Kristopher Carbone, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine



Andrew Dunachik, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

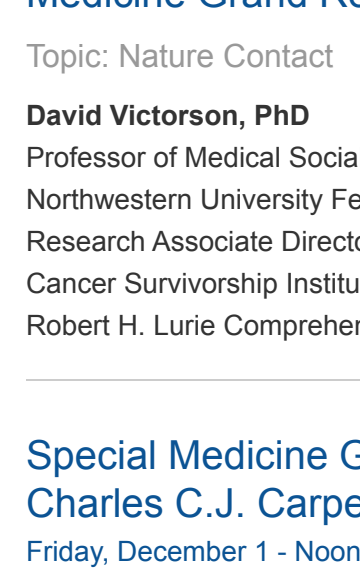


David Reznik, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine



Cody Rutledge, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Acute Medicine Service
Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC
CWRU-UH Blood, Heart, Lung, and Immunology Research Center

Cody Rutledge is an internist and basic science researcher interested in mitochondrial changes in ischemia. His current research projects focus on mitochondrial and metabolic changes related to ischemic heart disease, focusing on models of cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction. His ultimate goal is to develop mitochondrially targeted therapies to improve outcomes after ischemic injury. Cody is a Cleveland-area native and grew up in Sharon Center, OH. He attended Case Western Reserve as an undergraduate before his medical training in Chicago and Pittsburgh, and he is very excited to be home in Cleveland again.



Presious Anderson
Patient Access Supervisor

We have new Patient Access Supervisor for the Department of Medicine, Presious Anderson. She comes to us from Akron Children's hospital where she spent eight years, with her last two years spent as an Operations Supervisor. We are very excited that Presious has been using Epic at Akron Children's and has worked as a patient access rep, admin assistant, and in scheduling. Her experience, knowledge and leadership will be very valuable to us during this critical transition time into Epic. Presious will be supervising the front desk staff at Mather, Minoff and Monarch, developing relationships with our Central Scheduling leadership partners, managing schedule templates, and supporting patient access for the department.

Correction from September 2023 Newsletter - Dr. Michael Katz was incorrectly captioned as Dr. Bradley Lander.

Upcoming Events

Medicine-Pediatrics Grand Rounds - October 5 (Thursday)

Virtual - CME available - RBC Amphitheater available for viewing

No Room for Fear: The Impact of Psychological Safety in Medical Education

Justin Roesch MD, FACP
Director of Professional Practice Evaluation and Quality Committee
for Northern Colorado Hospitalist Group
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine

Medicine Grand Rounds - October 10

Topic: CAUTI & CLABSI

Elie Saade, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Associate Professor of Medicine
CWRU School of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine
System Medical Director
Quality Improvement & Infection Prevention and Control
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

Nikki Lutz MPH, CIC
Manager of Infection Prevention at Cleveland Medical Center

Medicine Grand Rounds - October 17

Topic: TBD (MP/IM)

Christopher Mundorf, MPH, PhD
Director of Data Analytics and Reporting
Better Health Partnership

Medicine Grand Rounds - October 24

Update in Travel Medicine

Keith Armitage, MD
Professor of Medicine
CWRU School of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine
CWRU, Chair, Education, Department of Medicine
Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Robert A. Salata, MD, Chair in Infectious Diseases
Distinguished Physician
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

Medicine Grand Rounds - October 31

Topic: Nature Contact

David Victorson, PhD
Professor of Medical Social Sciences
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Research Associate Director
Cancer Survivorship Institute
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University

Special Medicine Grand Rounds - Save the Date

Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD Memorial Lecture
Friday, December 1 - Noon to 1 PM - Kulas Auditorium

Keynote Speaker - Jerrold J. Ellner, MD

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 »](#)

Paul Shaniuk, MD
"Bedside Diagnosis: The Journey from Stethoscope to Point of Care Ultrasound"

[View »](#)

Janel Paukovits, MD
"Saving Lives From Sepsis (2023)"

[View »](#)

Amanda Calhoun, MD, MPH
"Anti-Black Racism in Clinical Supervision"

[View »](#)

Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, MD, DTM&H, FIDSA
"How a TED Talk saved 350,000 lives from COVID-19"

Social: [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#)

[Click here to view online](#)

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

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