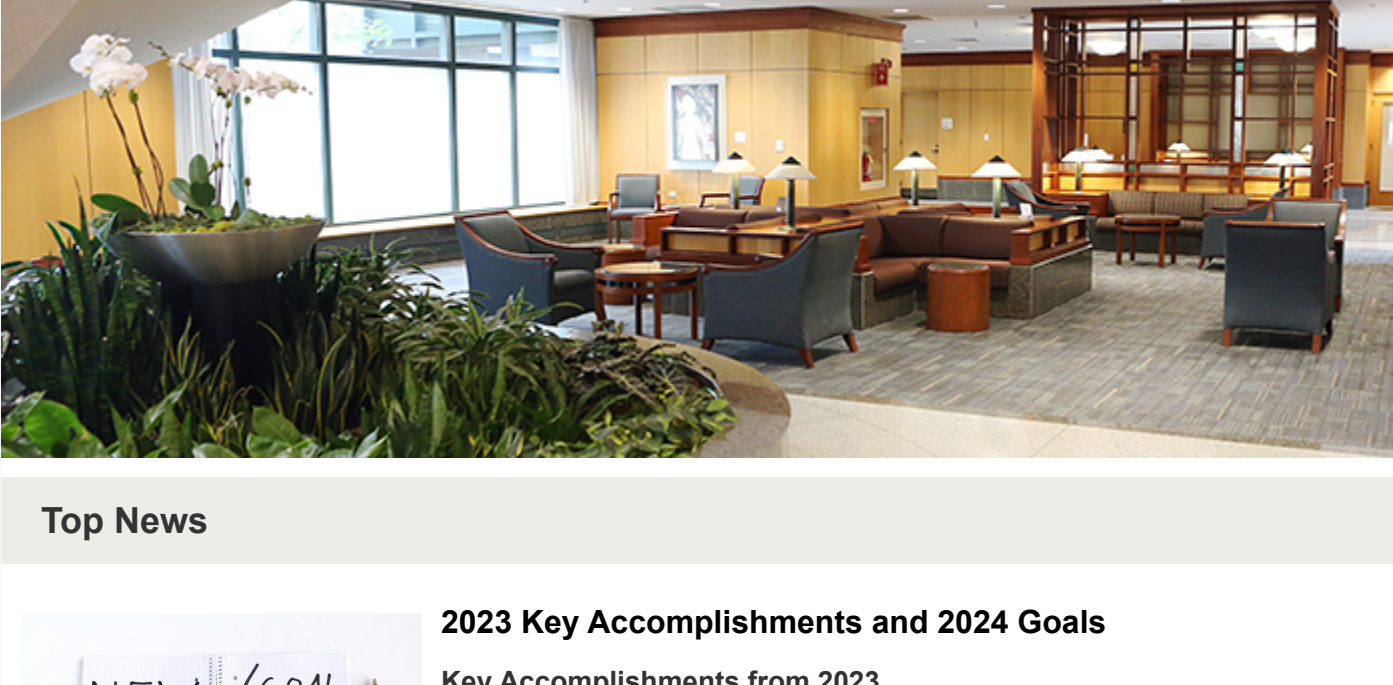


The Monthly eNewsletter for Department of Medicine of University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University, and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center



Top News



2023 Key Accomplishments and 2024 Goals

Key Accomplishments from 2023

- Successful implementation of Epic for the Department of Medicine (one month post go-live at the 78th percentile for productivity and favorable to budget)
- Appointment of new Vice Chair of Quality and Strategic Initiatives, **Heather Gornik, MD**
- Began strategic plan for the DOM with Vice Chairs, Division Chiefs and other dept leaders
- Improved MG and MP productivity year-over-year in all divisions/service lines
- 92 DOM providers named as Cleveland Magazine Best Doctors
- For the Department, Cancer ranked #39 nationally in the U.S. News report and Cardiology, Heart & Vascular Surgery, Gastroenterology & GI Surgery, Geriatrics, Nephrology, and Pulmonology & Lung Surgery all ranked as High Performing
- **Robert Salata, MD** - awarded John H. Hord Professorship in Medicine
- Four awardees from the DOM named as UH Distinguished Physicians: **Teresa L. Carman, MD, Brett E. Glotzbecker, MD, Steven J. Filby, MD, Sona S. Kirpekar, MD**
- **Amanda Lathia, MD** named Division of Geriatrics & Palliative Care Chief
- 15 senior level promotions, 1 junior level promotion

2024 Goals

- Develop DOM Strategic Plan for next 5 years, focusing on the identified strategic priorities (see article below)
- Eliminate barriers to equitable and fair compensation for faculty and staff to address engagement survey feedback
- Continue to improve efficiencies enabled by Epic implementation that include access, staff and provider documentation
- Improve clinical structure support and effectiveness of staffing models across service lines.

Thank you to all faculty and staff for your hard work and dedication to excellence in 2023. We look forward to a prosperous New Year!



Strengthening and Growing the CWRU Department of Medicine 2024-2029

The Department of Medicine within the CWRU School of Medicine incorporates multiple academic divisions and additional clinical, educational, and research programs across University Hospitals and the Cleveland Veterans Administration Health Center.

With the objective of developing a 5-year strategic plan, a series of interviews were conducted in the summer of 2023 by Dr. Heather Gornik, Vice Chair of Quality and Strategic Initiatives, with Department leaders, UH division chiefs and dyad administrators, education/training program directors, and VA leaders to discuss the current state of the Department of Medicine and vision for its future. Multiple strengths, opportunities, and ideas for future growth for the Department were identified.

Based upon these interviews, it is clear that the DOM is in a strong position for continued growth over the coming 5-years. In its current state, the central strengths of the Department were identified:

- Strong Departmental leadership (Dr. Salata, Kim Sanders)
- Department as the central academic hub with linkage to CWRU School of Medicine
- Excellence of the Department's "people" (clinical, academic, interpersonal/collaborative excellence)
- Outstanding educational and training programs

Based upon the strategic planning interviews, we have identified 5 priority areas for evolution, growth and programmatic development for the Department of Medicine during the next 5 years:

- Develop the UH Department of Medicine as the leader of adult medical care across the UH Health System
- Strengthen and grow the academic portfolio of the Department and its partnership with CWRU School of Medicine
- Make the Department a forum for faculty recruitment and development, engagement, and retention
- Strengthen the partnership of UH and the VA within the Department of Medicine
- Expand Department activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion

Working groups are currently being formed to address each of the priority areas above and will begin meeting early in 2024. A series of initiatives focused on the 5 priority areas will be forthcoming. We hope to engage many Department faculty in these initiatives, including those who have not previously participated in a Department-wide project.



Required 2024 FAR/FIS Reporting for 2023 Information

The faculty annual review for 2023 is now open and faculty are asked to complete their review by **January 31, 2024**. Please review and enter your publications, book chapters, and grants.

All faculty are required to log in now to complete their 2023 activity reporting.

Useful Links:

- FIS (<https://fis.case.edu/>)
- FAR Training Video
- Faculty User Support Documents
- Detailed FAR Guide for Faculty
- FAR Guide for SOM - Step 1
- FAR Guide for SOM - Step 2

Contact Cheryl Allis if you have any questions or access issues: (cheryl.allis@uhhospitals.org)



Save the Date - DOM Research Day

The Department of Medicine's Fourteenth Annual Research Day will be held on **Friday, May 10th** with talks and lunch starting at noon.

We are pleased to announce that our annual research day event will be held on Friday, May 10th, 2024. **Mark your calendars and save the date!**

This year's event will feature plenary talks from researchers across all divisions, as well as poster sessions and networking opportunities. We hope that you will join us for what promises to be an exciting and informative afternoon at the Tinkham Veale University Center Grand Ballroom.

Further details about the event, including the schedule and registration information, will be sent out in the coming weeks.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Faculty Senior-Level Promotion Deadlines

"Tips for Faculty from the 2022-2023 CAPT" - highlights recommendations and tips for faculty applying for senior level appointments and promotions

Non-Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective January 1, 2025

Declaration form and Packet submission dates have passed.

Non-Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective July 1, 2025

Declaration form due May 1, 2024 ([Form](#))

Packet due June 2, 2024 ([Guidelines](#))

Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective July 1, 2025

Declaration form due March 31, 2024 ([Form](#))

Packet due April 28, 2024 ([Guidelines](#))

For declaration forms or any questions, please contact Cheryl Allis: (cheryl.allis@uhhospitals.org or cheryl.allis@case.edu)

Awards - Appointments - Publications



Cleveland VA Investigators Awarded VALOR Trial

VALOR is a multicenter Phase 3 Randomized Trial of Lung Cancer Surgery or Stereotactic Radiotherapy for Operable Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. This study hopes to define the optimal treatment for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

This study in Cleveland will be lead by Drs. Kumar, Kan, and Nock.

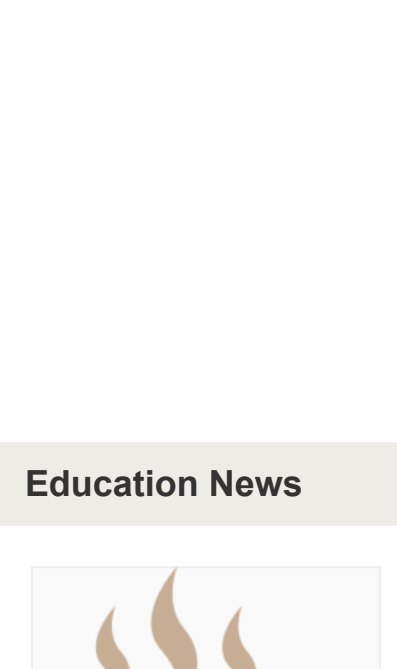
Faculty involved here are :

- **Charles Nock, MD** (Co-Local Site Investigator, Medical Oncologist)
- Aryavarta Kumar, MD, PhD (Co-Local Site Investigator, Radiation Oncologist)
- Lisa Tucker, RN (Study Coordinator)
- Doloris Merriman, RN (Study Coordinator)
- Christopher Di Felice, MD (Pulmonologist)
- Alejandro Bribiesco, MD (Thoracic Surgeon)
- Dean Schraufnagel, MD (Thoracic Surgeon)
- Andrew Feczko, MD (Thoracic Surgeon)
- Kevin Kelley, MD, PhD (Radiation Oncologist)
- Charlene Kan, MD, PhD (Radiation Oncologist)
- Ashley Sekhon, MD (Radiation Oncologist)

This is a great accomplishment for our institution and the Department!

[View the protocol here »](#)

Research News



New cause of diabetes discovered, offering potential target for new classes of drugs to treat the disease

Researchers at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals have identified an enzyme that blocks insulin produced in the body—a discovery that could provide a new target to treat diabetes.

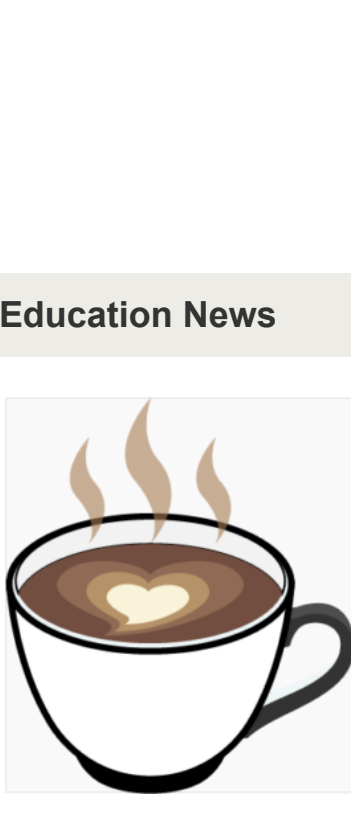
Their study, published Dec. 5 in the journal Cell, focuses on nitric oxide, a compound that dilates blood vessels, improves memory, fights infection and stimulates the release of hormones, among other functions. How nitric oxide performs these activities had long been a mystery.

The researchers discovered a novel "carrier" enzyme (called SNO-CoA-assisted nitrosylase, or SCAN) that attaches nitric oxide to proteins, including the receptor for insulin action.

They found that the SCAN enzyme was essential for normal insulin action, but also discovered heightened SCAN activity in diabetic patients and mice with diabetes. Mouse models without the SCAN enzyme appeared to be shielded from diabetes, suggesting that too much nitric oxide on proteins may be a cause of such diseases.

"We show that blocking this enzyme protects from diabetes, but the implications extend to many diseases likely caused by novel enzymes that add nitric oxide," said the study's lead researcher **Jonathan Stamler, the Robert S. and Sylvia K. Reitman Family Foundation Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Innovation at the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and president of Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals**. "Blocking this enzyme may offer a new treatment."

[Read more »](#)



New Case Western Reserve University study finds diabetes drug may reduce risk for colorectal cancer

A groundbreaking study by researchers at Case Western Reserve University suggests a class of medications used to treat type 2 diabetes may also reduce the risk of colorectal cancer (CRC).

The findings, published Dec. 7 in the journal JAMA Oncology, support the need for clinical trials to determine whether these medications could prevent one of the deadliest types of cancers. Eventually, the medications may also show promise in warding off other types of cancer associated with obesity and diabetes.

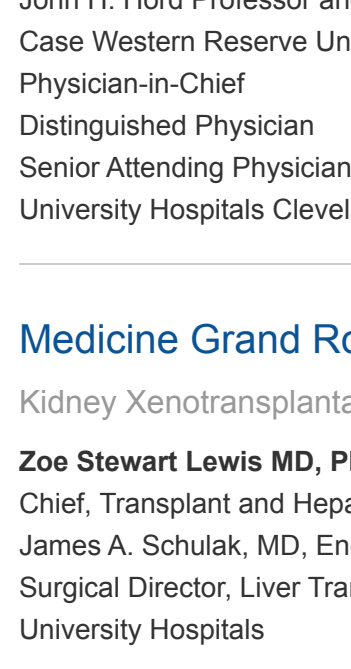
"Our results clearly demonstrate that GLP-1 RAs are significantly more effective than popular anti-diabetic drugs, such as Metformin or insulin, at preventing the development of CRC," said **Nathan Berger, the Hanna-Payne Professor of Experimental Medicine at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine** and the study's co-lead researcher.

Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists, or GLP-1 RAs, are medications to treat type 2 diabetes. Usually given by injection, they can lower blood-sugar levels, improve insulin sensitivity and help manage weight. They've also been shown to reduce the rates of major cardiovascular ailments.

Importantly the protective effect of GLP-1 RAs are noted in patients with or without overweight/obesity.

[Read more »](#)

Education News



Coffee Cudos

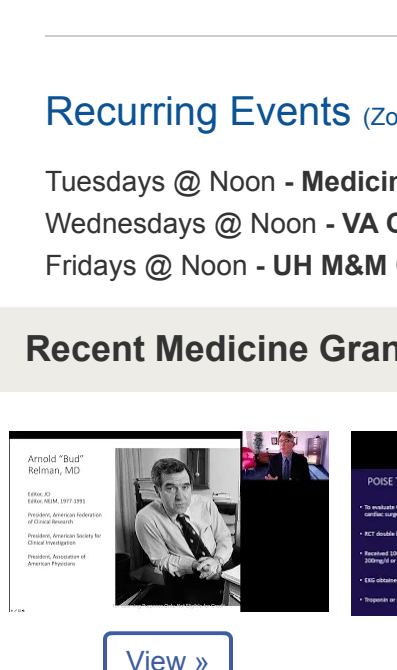
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS for teaching the medical students.

The Coffee Kudos Award is a quarterly resident teacher recognition award given to the Internal Medicine residents who went above and beyond in their teaching of 3rd year IM clerkship rotation students as selected by the 3rd year CWRU Internal Medicine clerkship students on service at UHCCMC.

Here are the honorees for the students' coffee kudos recognitions for August-November 2023:

- Omar Abushehadeh
- Gordon Abus
- Amber Hussain
- Trishna Parikh
- Daniel Perlrow
- David Rentzhaler
- Yusef Saeed
- Evie Schodowski
- Omna Sharma

Congratulations to all!



Intern Recruitment - Interviewers Still Needed

Medicine will continue to use Zoom for interviews this year.

Medicine interviews continue until 1/25/24

Mondays and Thursdays @ Noon - 10:00-11:30 AM

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.

Please email Deena if you have availability.

[Email Deena »](#)

Upcoming Events

Medicine Grand Rounds - January 9

Topic: TBD

Robert A. Salata, MD, FACP, FIDSA

STERIS Chair of Excellence in Medicine
John H. Hord Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Physician-in-Chief
Distinguished Physician
Senior Attending Physician
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

Medicine Grand Rounds - January 16

Kidney Xenotransplantation: Ready for Prime Time?

Zoe Stewart Lewis MD, PhD, MPH

Chief, Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery
James A. Schulak, MD, Endowed Director, Transplant Institute
Surgical Director, Liver Transplant Program
University Hospitals

Medicine Grand Rounds - January 23

Topic: Workplace Violence Awareness

Karen Snyder

Principal Project Manager, Quality Institute
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

Medicine Grand Rounds - January 30

Topic: Heme/Onc - GI Malignancy

Melissa Lumish, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Hematology and Oncology
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

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 »](#)

Gregory A. Plotnikoff, MD, MTS, FACP

"Optimal Patient Outcomes: Our Metaphors Matter"

[View »](#)

Vasu Sidagam, MD

"Myocardial Injury after Non Cardiac Surgery- Moving from Risk Prediction to Surveillance"

[View »](#)

Jerrold Elif, MD

Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD

Memorial Lecture

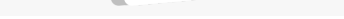
"Tuberculosis 2023 – The Known Knowns and Known Unknowns"

[View »](#)

Betul Hatipoglu, MD, Julia Blanchette, PhD RN, and Natalie Bellini, DNP APRN-CNP

"Diabetes in 2023"

Social:



[Click here to view online](#)

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

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