

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



Top News



Personalized Treatment of Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma

Dr. Pedro Barata, MD, MSc, FACP, board-certified medical oncologist and Associate Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, joined UH last Oct 2022. Serving as the director of the clinical genitourinary medical oncology research program and co-leader of the genitourinary disease team at UHSCC, his research interests include genomic characterization of prostate and kidney tumors, and the clinical development of novel therapies including biomarker-based therapies for patients with advanced malignancies.

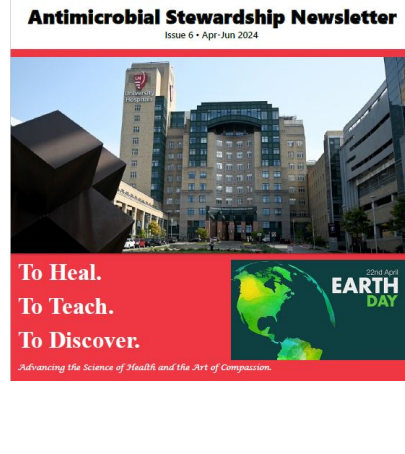
In one of his recent projects, and in an attempt to better understand the different molecular profiles of kidney tumors, **Dr. Barata** and colleagues conducted a large, comprehensive study to better elucidate the molecular profiles of renal cell carcinoma (RCC), focusing on both clear cell RCC (ccRCC) and non-clear cell variants (ncRCC). Their investigation, published in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Investigation (IF 15.9; <https://www.jci.org/articles/view/176915>), unveiled distinct transcriptomic signatures between the two subtypes with treatment implications and provides valuable insights for tailoring personalized and histology-specific therapeutic approaches for patients with advanced RCC.

This work is very important because currently, we lack a biomarker to select patients who might benefit from immunotherapy and those who might benefit from targeted therapies. This research allows us to better define the profiles of tumors and get us closer to offer a personalized approach to patients diagnosed with kidney cancer.

With efforts like this, along with the ongoing "biomarker-driven clinical trial" currently open at UHSCC (OPTIC trial, [NCT05361720](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study?term=OPTIC&rank=1)), we are personalizing the treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinomas.

Moreover, UHSCC's commitment to advancing kidney cancer research has been recognized with the inaugural Migo Family Chair in Cancer Research, appointed to **Dr. Barata**. This endowment, the result of a very generous gift from a grateful UH patient of **Dr. Barata** and **Dr. Teknos**, not only acknowledges **Dr. Barata** and the GU Medical Oncology collective contributions but also provides vital support for ongoing research initiatives aimed at combating this disease.

We will continue to work to bring novel and innovative strategies to UH. The multiple clinical trials, including early phase studies as well as novel PET imaging that can detect cancer with much more sensitivity are examples of the cutting edge technology and novel therapies available today at UHSCC.



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, noon to approximately 3:30 p.m.** at the Tinkham Veale Grand Ballroom.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the event (required for all)

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.

2024 Plenary Speakers:

- Stephen M. Carpenter, MD, PhD
- Reshmi Parameswaran, MS, PhD
- Kenneth E. Remy, MD, MHC, MSCI, FCCM

We look forward to seeing you there!

Clinical Updates and Research News



Antimicrobial Stewardship Newsletter

Issue 6 • Apr-Jun 2024

Topics in this issue:

- Climate Change and Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Decreasing Waste and Improving Sustainability
- Intravenous Antibiotic Preparation Types: Let's Consider the Waste!
- IV-to-PO Opportunities at CMC
- IV-to-PO Clinical Cases

[Read the ASP Newsletter »](#)

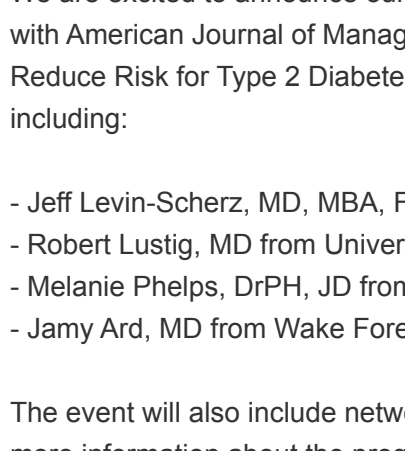


Natural Killer Cells: The Next Generation of Cellular Therapy

A research team from UH Seidman Cancer Center and Case Western Reserve University is developing a next-generation cellular immunotherapy that early results suggest could be safer, more effective, more convenient and less expensive than existing options.

Reshmi Parameswaran, PhD, a scientist in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at UH Seidman Cancer Center, and colleagues have developed BAFF CAR-NK cells, a type of natural killer cells to target three antigens expressed by B cell cancers: BCMA, TACI and BAFF-R. These BAFF CAR-NK cells can be generated from random donors, frozen and used when needed, unlike CAR T, which requires collecting, reengineering and reinfusing the patient's own T-cells.

[Read more »](#)



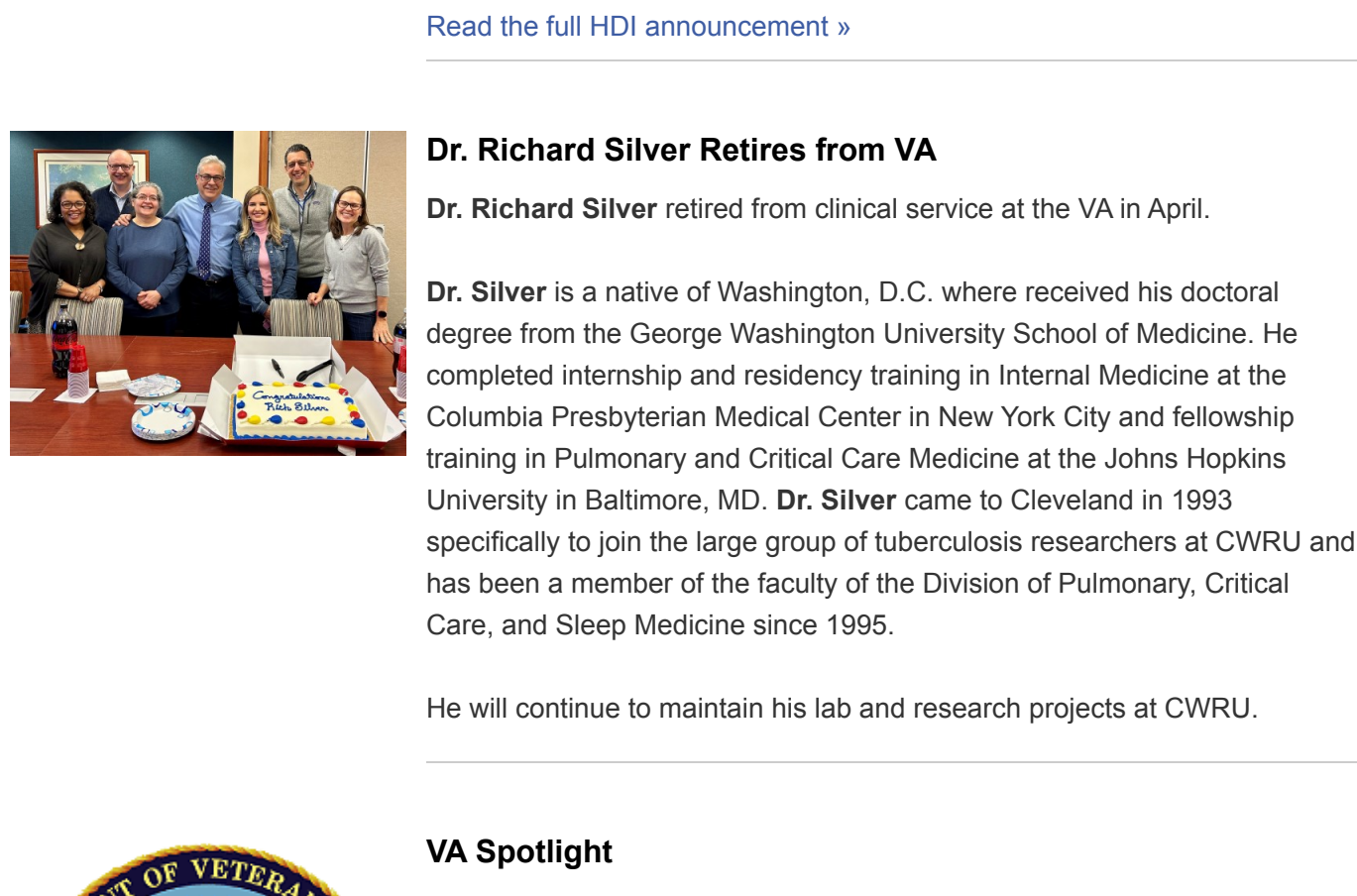
Bone Marrow Transplant Offered on Outpatient Basis

U.S. Navy veteran Tracey Lynch was grateful for the option of outpatient bone marrow transplant when her multiple myeloma diagnosis demanded it. Historically bone marrow transplant, in which UH was a pioneer nearly half a century ago, requires patients to remain in the hospital for weeks after the stem cells are transfused into the patient to reduce risk of infection. Working with pharmacy and nursing, UH established this outpatient bone marrow transplant program in a dedicated space on UH Seidman Cancer Center's second floor.

"I always tell patients it's really a trick," says **Leland Metheny, MD**, who treated Tracey. "We take a purified bag of their own blood-making stem cells, then blast the patient with a very large dose of melphalan, an effective chemotherapy against multiple myeloma. Then, after the melphalan is out of the system in a couple hours, we give them their own cells back to rescue the patient from their own hematologic toxicity."

After the initial transplant, which takes up to eight hours, the patient can leave the hospital and return daily for labs and assessment. If their blood counts go down, they are given a blood transfusion. Tracey was impressed with the caregivers on the infusion floor, who were all thorough, personable and professional, answering all her questions and ensuring her safety and comfort. Her physician, **Leland Metheny, MD**, has been pleased with her progress.

"She is an excellent patient," **Dr. Metheny** said. "She's recovered her blood counts and has no significant organ dysfunction."



We are excited to announce our 3rd Annual University Hospitals CINEMA Symposium. We have partnered with American Journal of Medicine to present, "The Latest and Greatest on Obesity Treatment to Reduce Risk for Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease." We have a group of distinguished speakers including:

- Jeff Levin-Scherz, MD, MBA, FACP from Harvard Medical School
- Robert Lustig, MD from University of California, San Francisco
- Melanie Phelps, DrPH, JD from the American Heart Association
- Jamy Ard, MD from Wake Forest University School of Medicine

The event will also include networking, cocktail hour and a panel discussion. Please click the image above for more information about the program and to register!

Awards - Appointments - Publications



Carlos Subauste, MD - 2024 Harrington Scholar-Innovator Award Recipient

Dr. Subauste received this award for his work in Small Molecule Inhibitors of CD40 for the Treatment of Inflammatory Disorders.

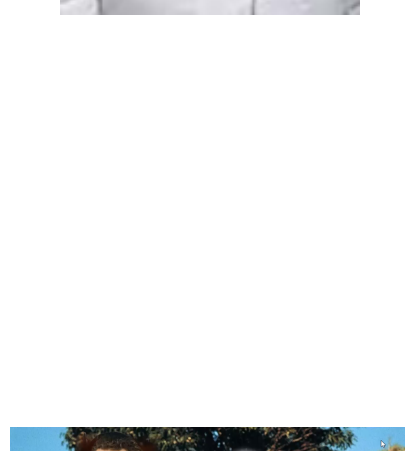
The Harrington Scholar-Innovators awards support breakthrough new treatments for heart disease, autoimmune disorders, cancer, infectious disease, inflammation, and rare diseases using small molecule, nucleic acid, vaccine, biologic, and gene therapies.

"Harrington Scholar-Innovators are accomplished physician-scientists whose research demonstrates innovation, creativity and the potential for clinical impact. In surrounding each scholar with an experienced pharma and business development team, we are maximizing the therapeutic potential of great science," said **Jonathan S. Stamler, MD**, President, Harrington Discovery Institute, Distinguished University Professor and Robert S. and Sylvia K. Reitman Family Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular Innovation at University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University.

"This extraordinary group of physician-scientists constitutes Harrington's twelfth class of Scholar-Innovators. We are excited to help them advance their discoveries towards patients in need," said **Seth Field, MD, PhD**, Director, Physician-Scientist Programs and Investigator, Harrington Discovery Institute and Becky Hennessy Endowed Master Clinician in Breast Cancer Genomics.

Congratulations Dr. Subauste!

[Read the full HDI announcement »](#)



Dr. Richard Silver Retires from VA

Dr. Richard Silver retired from clinical service at the VA in April.

Dr. Silver is a native of Washington, D.C. where received his doctoral degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine. He completed internship and residency training in Internal Medicine at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City and fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. **Dr. Silver** came to Cleveland in 1993 specifically to join the large group of tuberculosis researchers at CWRU and has been a member of the faculty of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine since 1995.

He will continue to maintain his lab and research projects at CWRU.



VA Spotlight

Congratulations for the following achievements:

- **Dr. Usha Stiefel** on Promotion to Professor, CWRU SOM.
- **Dr. Clifford Packer** will be retiring next month.
- **Dr. Ambrose Chiang** on the recent publication of his paper entitled "Depressive Symptoms and Sleep Quality Mediate the Relationship Between Race and Quality of Life Among Patients With Heart Failure: A Serial Multiple Mediator Model in the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing.

- **Dr. Attila Nemeth** on being accepted to the Harvard Macy Institute's A Systems Approach to Assessment in Health Professions Education. **Dr. Mimi Singh** is named mentor.
- **Dr. Teresa Dolinar** and **Dr. Sally Namboodiri** on their acceptance as Scholars in the Academy of Scholar Educators. This represents a significant achievement in medical education with evidence of excellence and scholarship.

- **Dr. Attila Nemeth** on his acceptance as a Master Teacher in the Academy of Scholar Educators
- **Dr. Katarina Greer** grant entitled "Nonendoscopic Screening for Barrett's Esophagus and Esophageal Cancer in At-Risk Veterans Without History of Chronic Gastroesophageal Reflux" was funded by DoD office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP).

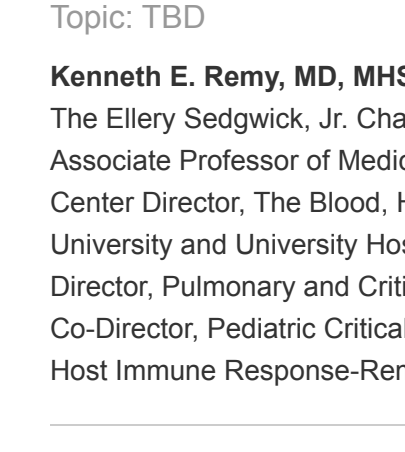
- **Dr. Nadim El Chakhtoura** is the new Rehabilitation and Extended Care Integrated Clinical Community Chair.
- **Dr. Nadim El Chakhtoura** was featured in ACP Hospitalist and his article published in Journal of the American Geriatrics Society entitled "Developing a clinical curriculum for hospitalists newly practicing in post-acute and long-term care settings: A pre-post study."

- **Dr. Khalid Dousa** was an invited presentation at the Gordon Research Conference in Ventura CA entitled *Mycobacterium abscessus: The Promise of Dual β -Lactams Therapy*, as well as the Ohio Infectious Diseases Society of Ohio Spring meeting. Also had an accepted paper in mBio entitled *Synergistic effects of sulopenem in combination with cefuroxime or durlobactam against Mycobacterium abscessus*.

- **Drs. DiFelice, Strumpf, Cuviller, Padilla, May, McKell, Shatat, and Williams** on their publication entitled *Improving Referral Patterns for Bronchoscopic Lung Volume Reduction: A Quality Improvement Initiative*. The paper was published in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases: Journal of the COPD Foundation (JCOOPD). This study was supported by the CDA award to **Dr. Anna May**.

- **Dr. Federico Perez** had his paper accepted in CID entitled *The Real Crisis in Antimicrobial Resistance: Failure to Anticipate and Respond....*
- **The Cleveland VA Clinical Research Center (Dr. Margaret Tjien), Cleveland VA Research and Education Foundation, and Dr. CJ Nock** were selected as one of four VA sites to take part in the NCI and VA Interagency Group to Accelerate Trials Enrollment (NAVIGATE) program expansion.

- **Dr. Varun Sundaram, Dr. Padmini Selvaganesan, Dr. Mohammad Karnib, Dr. Jayakumar Sahadevan , Dr. Sherry La Forest, Dr. Mohammed Najeeb Osman, and Dr. Yakov Elgudini** will be presenting at the late breaking session their abstract entitled *PRAISE HFpEF DM* at the European Heart Failure Congress 2024. This work is in collaboration with King's College London, Imperial College London, and the Mayo Clinic. The title of the study: "Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonist in obese Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction with type 2 diabetes: PRAISE-HFpEF DM" This is a clinical efficacy of GLP-1RA in veterans with obese heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.



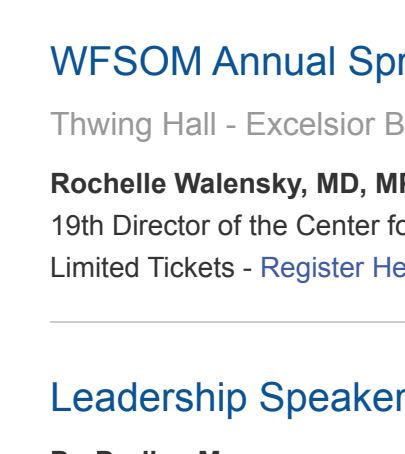
Media Mention: Ian Neeland, MD

Cardi-OH Radio's podcast: Ian Neeland of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine discussed tips for the prevention and management of heart failure on Cardi-OH Radio's podcast, "Managing Heart Failure Risk in Your Patient With Hypertension and Diabetes."

In the podcast, Neeland shared tips to predict heart failure risk and talked about treatment targets for hypertension to reduce the risk of heart failure. He also discussed medication classes with evidence for positive outcomes in patients with diabetes and heart failure. Neeland was joined by Deborah Gordish of The Ohio State University.

Case Western Reserve University is the lead institution for Cardi-OH, a statewide initiative of healthcare professionals at Ohio's seven medical schools who share knowledge to improve Medicaid patient outcomes and eliminate health disparities across Ohio.

[Listen to the podcast here »](#)

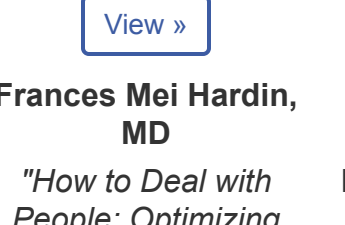


Frank Jacono, MD, and Shawn Smith Recognized for Elyria ICU Work

Frank Jacono, MD and **Shawn Smith**, Chief and administrator, respectively, of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine were recently recognized during a system leadership meeting by Brian Monter, MBA, MSN, RN, Chief Operating Officer, West Market.

This shout out was in recognition of their work for the ICU transition in Elyria. In it, Mr. Monter highlighted the shared success story of the Elyria ICU.

Congrats to you both and all who participated in this success!



Required 2024 FAR/FIS Reporting for 2023 Information

Faculty are asked to complete their review 2023 FAR ASAP. Please review and enter your publications, book chapters, and grants.

All faculty are required to complete their 2023 activity reporting.

Useful Links:

- FIS (<https://fis.case.edu/>)

- FIS 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)

Education News

UH and NEOMED Collaborate to Bring Education Programs for Professional Development to all UH Caregivers in 2024

The UH Research & Education Institute, in collaboration with NEOMED, is launching the Educational Program for Professional Development, open to all UH caregivers, free of charge.

This program offers high-quality professional development courses in Lean Six Sigma (LSS) process improvement, as well as advanced fellowships in clinical teaching, research and innovation. These initiatives are designed to equip health professionals to lead teams, optimize systems and improve healthcare.

Programs currently offered are:

- Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt/Green Belt (LSS)
- Fellowship in Academic Medicine - Clinical Education (FAME-E)
- Health and Well-Being Coaching Certificate Program (HWCCP)

For more information, click on the link below.

[UH-NEOMED Education Programs \(UH Internal Site\) »](#)

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The Undergraduate Research Office (URO) wants to post research opportunities for undergraduates on the [URO website](#).

Faculty with a CWRU network ID (abocxx@case.edu), can submit an undergraduate research position, on the [URO Website here](#) (form is on the right margin). Faculty without a CWRU network ID may submit using the Word document below.

Faculty who want more information about the centralized office for undergraduate research may contact Sheila Pedigo (sdp5@case.edu).

[Undergraduate Research Opportunity Form \(Word Doc\) »](#)

**** Please keep in mind that this is separate from Medical Student Research opportunities. To post a project for Medical Students, [please go here](#). ****

Upcoming Events

Medicine Grand Rounds - May 7

Topic: Update in Melanoma

Ankit Mangia, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
Division of Solid Tumor Oncology, Department of Medicine, UH/CMC
Co-Director, Sarcoma and Cutaneous Oncology Team, UH Seidman Cancer Center

Medicine-Pediatrics Grand Rounds - May 9

Topic: Advocacy for Gun Safety

Dr. Annie Andrews

CEO & Founder, Their Future. Our Vote.

2024 State of the Institute - May 9, 5-6 pm

Harrington Heart and Vascular Institute - State of the Institute Address

Mehdi Shishehbor, DO, MPH, PhD

President of UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute
Angela and James Hambrick Chair in Innovation

[Registration and Details](#)

2024 DOM 14th Annual Research Day - May 10

Noon to 3:30 - Tinkham-Veal University Center Grand Ballroom

Plenary Speakers: Stephen M. Carpenter, MD, PhD, Reshmi Parameswaran, MS, PhD, and Kenneth E. Remy, MD, MHC, MSCI, FCCM

Poster presentations to follow talks.

[Poster Here](#)

Medicine Grand Rounds - May 14

Topic: TBD

Kenneth E. Remy, MD, MHC, MSCI, FCCM

The Ellery Sedgwick, Jr. Chair and Distinguished Scientist in Cardiovascular Research
Associate Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, Biochemistry, and Pathology
Center Director, The Blood, Heart, Lung, and Immunology Research Center at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals of Cleveland
Director, Pulmonary and Critical Care Research
Co-Director, Pediatric Critical Care Clinical, Basic & Translational Research Program
Host Immune Response-Remy Laboratory

Medicine Grand Rounds - May 21 (Askari Lecture)

Topic: Tsukos

George C. Tsukos, MD

Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School Chief,
Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Medicine Grand Rounds - May 28

Topic: TBD

Rick A. Nishimura, MD

Mayo Clinic

Medicine Grand Rounds - June 4 (Tentative)

Topic: TBD

Nami Azar, MD

Professor, CWRU School of Medicine
Radiology-Diagnostic Radiology
Radiology-Vascular and Interventional Radiology

WFSOM Annual Spring Dinner and a Fireside Chat - June 5

Thwing Hall - Excelsior Ballroom - 5:00 to 7:30 pm

Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH

19th Director of the Center for Disease Control
[Limited Tickets - Register Here](#)

Leadership Speaker Series (CWRU SOM) - June 13

Dr. Darlynn Moyer

CEO, Executive VP
American College of Physicians
[Registration and Details](#)

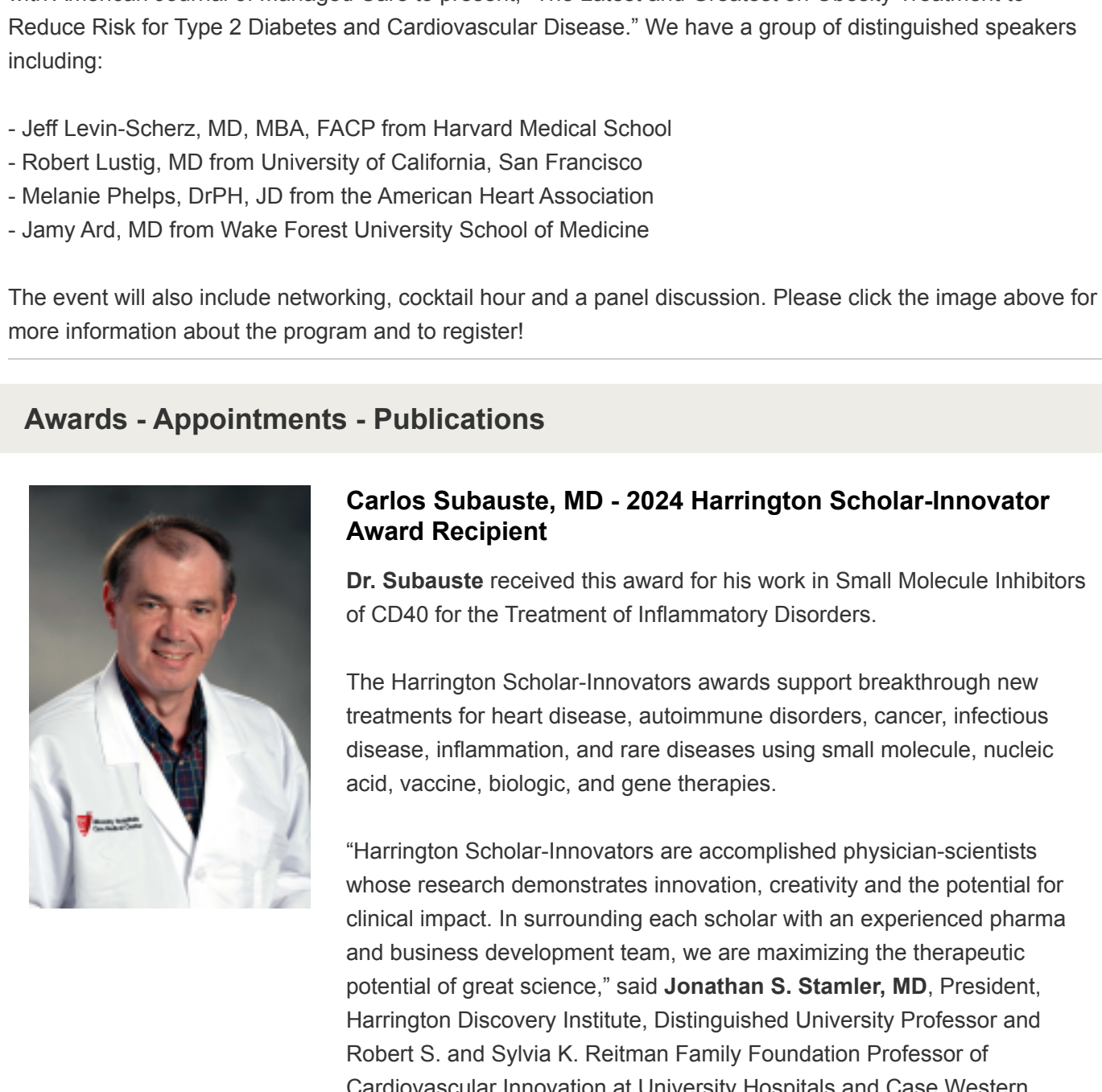
Recurring Events (Zoom information sent out weekly)

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

Wednesdays @ Noon - **VA Conference**

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

Recent Medicine Grand Rounds



Frances Mei Hardin, MD

"How to Deal with People: Optimizing Interpersonal Effectiveness"

Aparna Bole, MD

The Rebecca Platenewski Lecture in Health Justice
"Climate Solutions in Healthcare: What's Good for the Planet is Good for our Patients"

Goutham Rao, MD

"Improving Diagnosis in Primary Care: Identifying Best Practices for Value-Based Care"

Betul Hatipoglu, MD & Yumiko Tsushima, MD

"Coming Soon: Glucocorticoid-Move the Needle for Inpatient Glycemic Management"

Social:

[Click here to view online](#)

To contribute or provide feedback, email: ThwZelesnik@UHHospitals.org

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