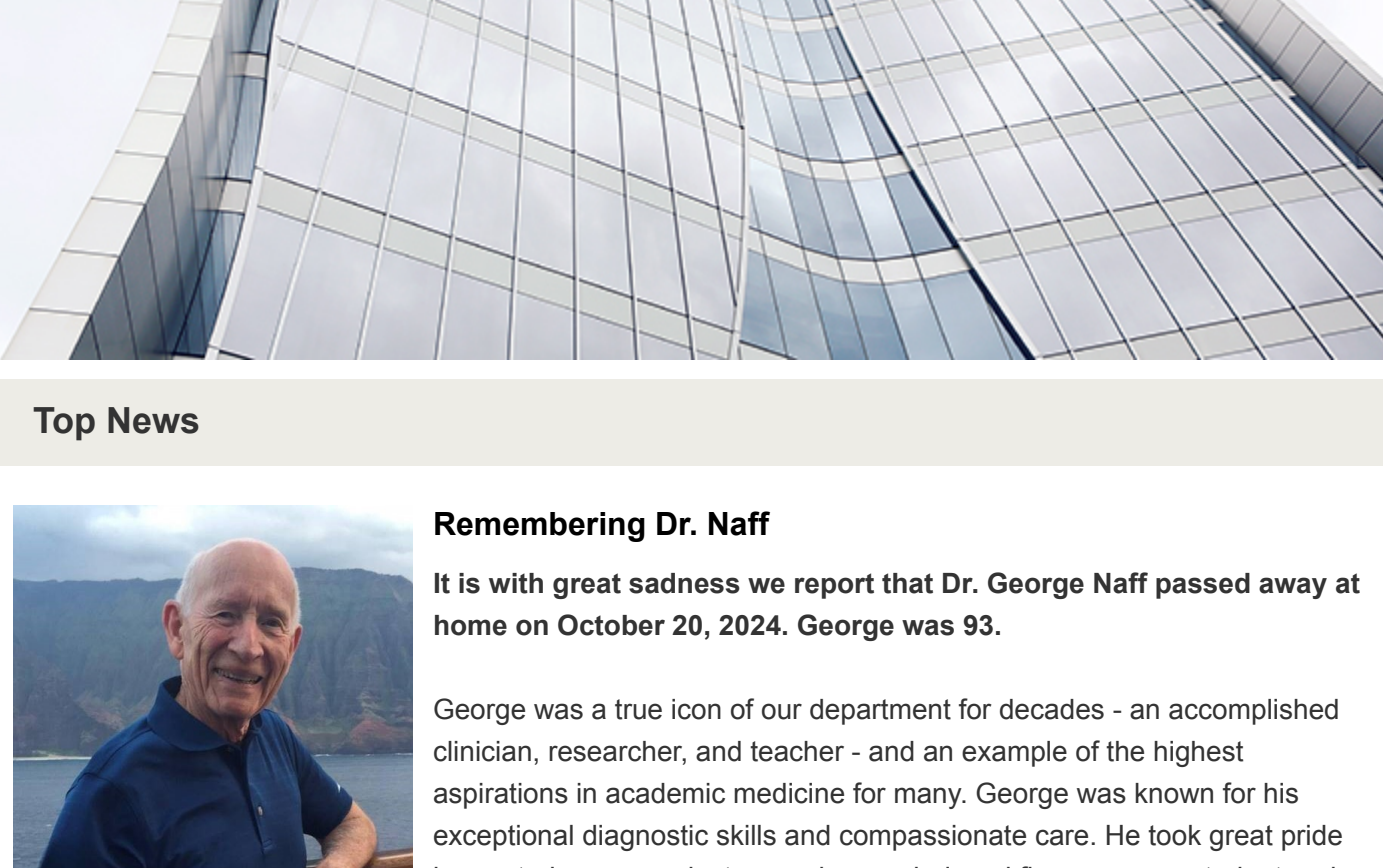




Top News



Remembering Dr. Naff

It is with great sadness we report that Dr. George Naff passed away at home on October 20, 2024. George was 93.

George was a true icon of our department for decades - an accomplished clinician, researcher, and teacher - and an example of the highest aspirations in academic medicine for many. George was known for his exceptional diagnostic skills and compassionate care. He took great pride in mentoring young doctors and was a beloved figure among student and residents, always taking the time to listen and provide support. Dr. Naff will be remembered for his kindness, integrity, and unwavering dedication to always doing what is right and best for patients. George's contributions to both University Hospitals and the Cleveland VA were immeasurable, and he will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

George received his MD from the University of Virginia in 1957 (and always loved interviewing UVA intern applicants) and came to CWRU/UH/VA after graduation. After residency and research fellowships George joined the faculty here in 1964. He achieved tenure (1975) and full professorship (1979). George joined the staff at the VA in 1979. He twice served as the Acting Chief of Medicine at the VA and served as Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine for Academic Affairs from 1991-2002. George switched to emeritus status in 2002 – but remained highly involved in the Department's Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure, and with student teaching and intern applicant interviews and selection. George was an active and engaged participant in our "match meeting" last February. More than a full generation of CWRU medical students benefited from his teaching and mentorship.

A member of our CWRU/UH/VA Department of Medicine family for sixty-seven years!!!

He was respected by all and loved by so many. He will be greatly missed.

- Keith Armitage, MD

[View Dr. Naff's Obituary »](#)

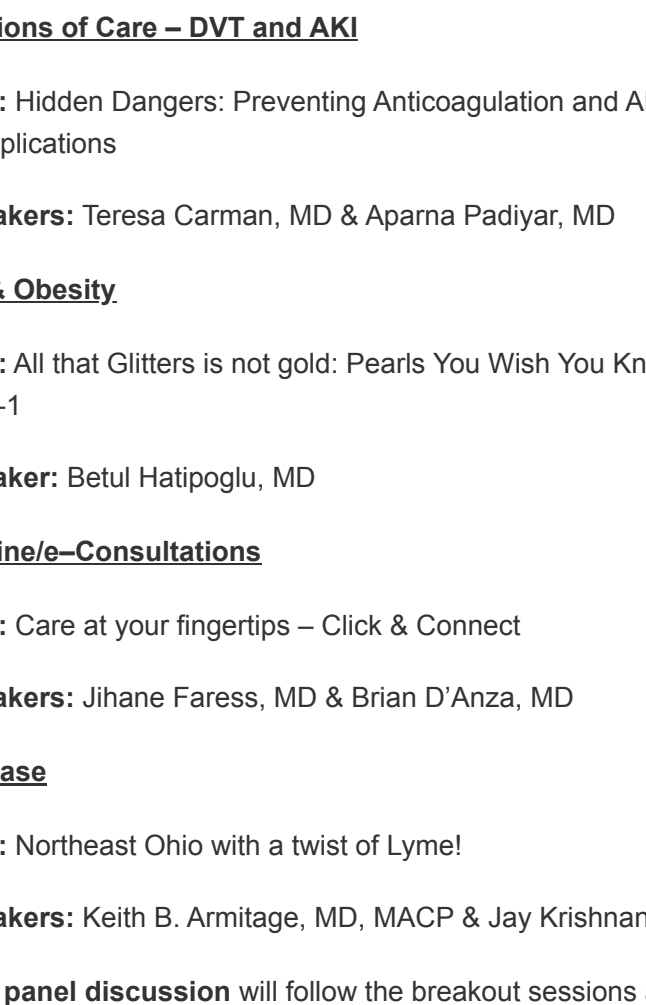


Dr. Robert Bonomo Delivered the Maxwell Finland Lecture at the 2024 IDSA

Dr. Robert Bonomo delivered the Maxwell Finland Lecture at the Infectious Diseases Society of America meeting in Los Angeles in mid-October. The Finland Lecture is the most prestigious invited lecture of the IDSA Conference.

Maxwell Finland, MD, DSci, served as the first president of IDSA. His prestigious medical career spanned more than 50 years at Harvard University and Boston City Hospital. He was internationally recognized for his study of the incidence and character of infectious diseases and their specific treatments. He is credited with influencing the pioneering of studies of antibiotic therapy and establishing early identification of new infectious hazards. The Maxwell Finland Lecture, which bears his name, was first given in 1972 by Theodore E. Woodward, MD.

Dr. Bonomo also used the occasion to pay tribute to Dr. Salata.



Interviewers Needed!

Interviewers are still needed for the Internal Medicine Residency program.

Every year, the Department interviews over 600 candidates for all of the various tracks in the residency program. Faculty availability to help support the interview process is critical. We can't be successful in this process without you!

Please contact Deena Segal (Deena.Segal@uhhospitals.org) for specific times and dates that are still needed.

Thank you for your continued support!



The 2024 Robert A. Salata Memorial Medicine Quality Summit: Leveraging Communication for Zero Harm

More details available! Save the Date!

When: Saturday, December 7, 2024, 7:30am-12:00pm

Where: Tinkham-Veale University Center Grand Ballroom
(A light breakfast will be served at 7:00am)

Keynote Speaker: Michael A Rosen, PhD
Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety & Quality, Johns Hopkins University

- Topic: *"Communication and Transition of Care in Hospital Setting: Leverage Epic in regards to Communication among physicians/providers"*

Breakout Session Topics: (Choice of 2)

Complications of Care – DVT and AKI

- **Title:** Hidden Dangers: Preventing Anticoagulation and AKI Complications
- **Speakers:** Teresa Carman, MD & Aparna Padiyar, MD

Diabetes & Obesity

- **Title:** All that Glitters is not gold: Pearls You Wish You Knew about GLP-1
- **Speaker:** Betul Hatipoglu, MD

Telemedicine-Consultations

- **Title:** Care at your fingertips – Click & Connect
- **Speakers:** Jihane Farees, MD & Brian D'Anza, MD

Lyme Disease

- **Title:** Northeast Ohio with a twist of Lyme!
- **Speakers:** Keith B. Armitage, MD, MACP & Jay Krishnan, MD MPH

A **wrap-up panel discussion** will follow the breakout sessions and conclude the Summit.

This event is free but will require registration. A virtual option will be available.

Stay tuned for registration links soon!



**CASE
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Faculty Promotions - Important Dates

Faculty Senior-Level Promotion Deadlines

[Non-Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective January 1, 2026](#)

- Declaration form due January 6, 2025
- Packet due February 28, 2025

[Non-Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective July 1, 2026](#)

- Declaration form due May 1, 2025
- Packet due June 2, 2025

[Tenure Track Senior-Level Promotions effective July 1, 2026](#)

- Declaration form due March 31, 2025
- Packet due April 28, 2025

Faculty Junior-Level Promotion Deadlines

- For promotions to be made effective July 1, the date for submission is February 28.
- For promotions to be made effective January 1, the deadline for submission is September 30.

Emeritus/Emerita Appointment Deadlines

- For emeritus/emerita appointments to be made effective July 1, the deadline for submission is February 28.
- For emeritus/emerita appointments to be made effective January 1, the deadline for submission is September 30.

Please contact Cheryl Allis at
cheryl.allis@uhhospitals.org or cheryl.allis@case.edu
for additional information.



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Clinical Updates and Research News



Dr. Saade Presents Flu Data at IDSA

Dr. Saade gave a presentation at the Infectious Diseases Society of America annual meeting this past October titled, "Black Individuals Less Often Vaccinated Against Influenza, SARS-CoV-2, RSV Than Whites."

Finding from the study presented include:

- The neighborhood environment is a social determinant of health: people living in disadvantaged neighborhoods are less likely to be vaccinated for influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and respiratory syncytial virus.
- Black individuals are less likely to be vaccinated for influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and RSV than White individuals, even when they live in similarly disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Black individuals represented 37% of the most vulnerable group, but only 3.2% of the least vulnerable, despite making up 14% of the study population.
- The findings underscore the need for tailored interventions to address disparities in preventive care for acute respiratory infections.

[Read more here »](#)



Case Western Reserve University awarded \$2.6M to study impact of high blood-pressure medications on chronic kidney disease patients

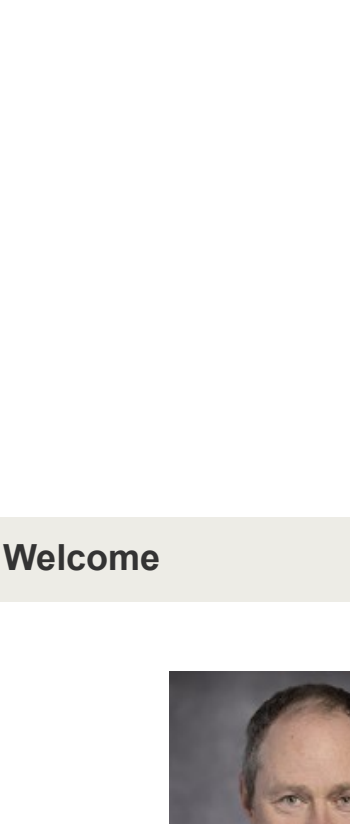
The National Institutes of Health awarded a four-year, \$2.6 million grant to researchers at Case Western Reserve University to study how high blood-pressure drugs affect patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

More specifically, they want to study whether such medications increase the risk of kidney and cardiovascular disease in CKD patients.

More than one in seven Americans suffer from CKD, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CKD is a condition where the kidneys gradually lose their capacity to filter blood efficiently. It can cause chronic inflammation and lead to other complications, including heart disease and kidney failure.

Ming Wang and **Mahboob Rahman, MD** are co-principal investigators on this study

[Read more here »](#)

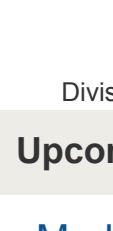


Mona Gupta, MD to give Lecture at Inaugural Symposium

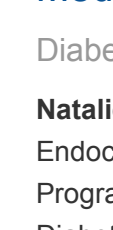
Dr. **Mona Gupta** will be giving presentation in India at the inaugural Jla Nandedkar Memorial Hybrid Symposium on Evidence Based Palliative Care as co-chair for palliative care for the Indo-American Cancer Association.

The Indo-American Cancer Association (IACA) is an organization of cancer specialists of Indian subcontinent heritage with a mission to advance cancer care wherever its members live and work and to look after the needs and interests of its members. It also acts to maintain the identity of this group of professionals, be a conduit for interchange of ideas and goodwill, and provide a forum for scientific, educational, cultural, charitable and social interaction among them.

This one-day hybrid symposium is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sandhya J. Nandedkar, who bravely battled breast cancer. Her journey inspires our continued efforts to advance palliative care through rigorous research and compassionate application. This year's symposium focuses on the latest advancements and research in palliative care, a field that is crucial for improving the quality of life for patients with serious illnesses. The event promises to be an enriching experience, offering insights into cutting-edge practices and evidence-based approaches that enhance patient care and support.



University Hospitals



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY School of Medicine

University Hospitals 2024 Outstanding Research Mentors

UH faculty members play vital roles in shaping medical students' career paths and futures. We want to thank our University Hospitals faculty who contributed to the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine's research curriculum for medical students. Your dedication in offering students the opportunity to engage in research activities is greatly appreciated and invaluable.

Congratulations to the following Department of Medicine faculty members who were specifically recognized by one or more medical students over the past two years (class of 2024 and class of 2026) as outstanding mentors.

Department of Medicine

- Amitabh Chak, MD
- Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD
- Linda Cummings, MD
- Qian Wang, MD, MPH



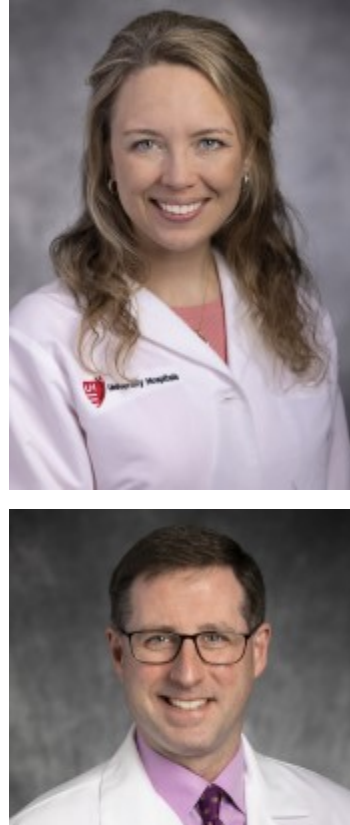
Dr. Chaudhary receives Emerging Investigator Excellence Award from ACR

Dr. Chaudhary has been selected to receive the newly established "Emerging Investigator Excellence Award" for the Spondyloarthritis Including Psoriatic Arthritis – Treatment category for the abstract titled "Sex-related Differences in Efficacy of Biologics in Axial Spondyloarthritis: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis".

The Emerging Investigator Excellence Award recognizes outstanding abstracts presented by investigators at an early stage of their career. Only one award is given per abstract category.

Dr. Chaudhary will present this abstract at the ACR Convergence 2024 annual meeting in Washington, DC in mid-November.

[Read more about the conference here »](#)



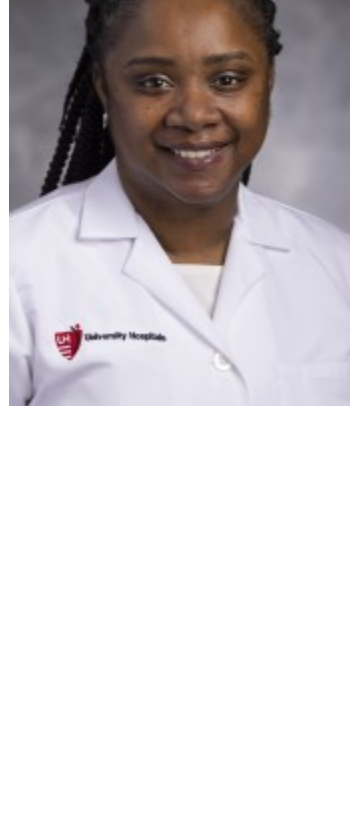
Maureen McCormick (pulmonary disease) receives Clinical APP Award

Maureen was the first APP to join the outpatient pulmonary practice and has paved the way for APPs who joined the practice after her. She is part of the interventional pulmonology team where she has facilitated its growth and expansion. Maureen is active on the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) admission team, COPD system of excellence team, and the COPD transitional care clinics.

Maureen is passionate about improving COPD care. She was the driving force in creation of the COPD clinical practice guidelines that assist both primary care providers and pulmonologists in the management of this disease. Since the introduction of these guidelines, there has been a decrease in COPD readmissions.

Maureen also worked on improving care from the patients' perspective by overhauling the patient education workbook to help patients take an active role in disease management as well. The updated version of the COPD workbook that she and her team developed is currently being used in pulmonary practices system-wide.

[Read more here \(UH internal link\) »](#)



Katherine Bruening Wajda, MD, and Alex Gifford, MD, Publish Editorial on Cystic Fibrosis Care Model

The article titled, "Room to breathe: The promise of a more flexible cystic fibrosis care model" was published in the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis*.

Here is a snippet from the introduction:

Innovation and iteration: a brief history of the established CF care model

The cystic fibrosis (CF) care model to which clinicians and people with CF (pwCF) are accustomed has its roots in the era shortly after Dr. Dorothy Andersen's seminal post-mortem descriptions of the pancreatic manifestations of the disease and Dr. Paul di Sant' Agnese's prescient observation of abnormally high sodium and chloride concentrations in the sweat of infants with CF who became markedly dehydrated during a heat wave that gripped New York City in 1948. In 1964, a visionary group of physicians in Cleveland, Ohio, led by Drs. LeRoy W. Matthews and Carl F. Doershuk, described their application of a multimodal therapeutic regimen that emphasized early and aggressive nutritional support, alleviation of airway obstruction by mucus, and use of antibiotics against infections. Clinical benefits from this regimen were profound. Establishing accreditation and peer benchmarking standards and leveraging a patient data registry for quality improvement have improved outcomes across the CF Foundation Care Center Network.

The article further discusses:

- The case for a new CF care model predicated on shared decision-making
- Enshrining principles of triage and self-determination in a new CF care model
- Maintaining a deep bench on the CF care team

[View the article here »](#)



Ama Nuamah, MD accepted into CWRU FLEX Program

Dr. Ama Nuamah has been accepted into the FLEX 2024-2025 program!

Dr. Nuamah has been invaluable to the Division in Geriatrics and Palliative Care over the last 1.5 years. Her hard work, knowledge, leadership, and passion for geriatric medicine has helped to greatly expand the inpatient consult service at Cleveland Medical Center.

CWRU's FLEX program began in 2012 when Deean R. Davis, Dean of the School of Medicine, endorsed a grass-roots concept of empowerment to potentially facilitate a culture change within the university faculty. Using focus groups to determine the barriers to achieve such a goal, members of the Steering Committee of Women Faculty School of Medicine (WFSOM) proposed a program to address the disparities in the number of women entering the field of health sciences as compared to the proportion of women in leadership positions in their field. Since FLEX1 (2012-13) during which 8 women faculty were included, ten subsequent cohorts have experienced this program. Over 139 women faculty have participated, uniformly moved closer to their personal and professional goals, and facilitated opportunities to mentor and sponsor all colleagues, including women.

[Read more about the FLEX program here »](#)

Education News



Coffee Kudos

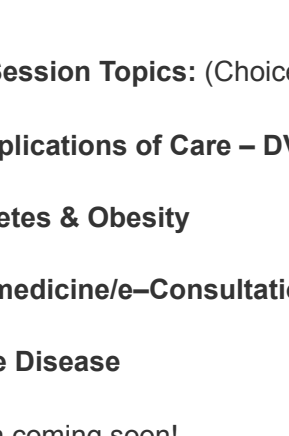
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS for teaching the medical students.

The Coffee Kudos Award is a quarterly resident teacher recognition award. The awards are 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 July - October 2024:

- Shlok Sarin
- Marianna Frey
- Sean Kirk
- Maya Lubarsky
- Gordon Hong
- Chad Jaenke
- Kyra Deep
- Chaim Domb
- Sami Mesgun
- Elizabeth Akpan-Smart
- Melchizedek Myers

Welcome



Charles Bark, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine



Mohamed Swedeh, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

Upcoming Events

Medicine Grand Rounds - November 5

Diabetes/Glycemic Grand Rounds

Natalie Bellini, DNP, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, CDCES

Endocrine Nurse Practitioner,
Program Director of Technology,
Diabetes & Metabolic Care Center
University Hospitals

Medicine Grand Rounds - November 12

Update on HIV

Puja VanEpps, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Division of Infectious Diseases,
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, GRECC

Medicine Grand Rounds - November 19

Antibiotic Awareness Week

Valerie Vaughn, DNP, MSc, SFHM, FACP
Associate Professor of Medicine
Bertram H. and Janet M. Schaap Presidential Endowed Chair
Director of Clinical Research for the Department of Internal Medicine
University of Utah

Medicine Grand Rounds - November 26

Holiday - No Grand Rounds

Medicine Grand Rounds - December 3

Topic: Palliative Care/Hospice

Cory Chevalier, MD, FACP, FAHPM

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University
Section of Geriatrics, Hospice and Palliative Care
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

2024 Robert A. Salata Memorial Medicine Quality Summit - December 7

Leveraging Communication for Zero Harm

Tinkham-Veale University Center Grand Ballroom - 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Michael A Rosen, PhD

Breakout Session Topics: (Choice of 2)

- **Complications of Care – DVT and AKI**
- **Diabetes & Obesity**
- **Telemedicine-Consultations**
- **Lyme Disease**

Registration coming soon!

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 »](#)

Mackenzie Cater, MD & Bridget Hass, PhD

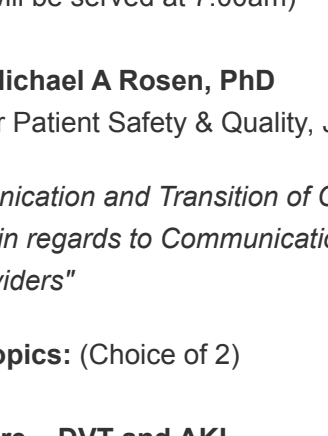
"Advocacy Through Asylum Medicine: The Case Western Human Rights Initiative"



[View »](#)

Daniel Brennan, MD, FACP

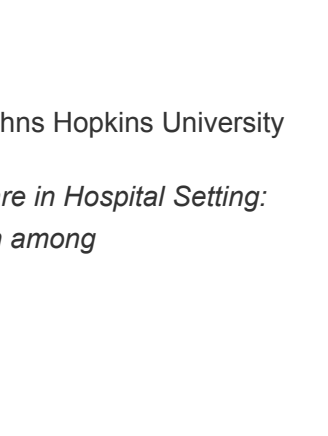
"Teacher, Treater, and Achieving the Triple Threat in Academic Medicine"



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Jay Krishnan, MD, MPH & Nikki Lutz, MPH, CIC

"From Pathogen to Prevention: Hand Hygiene's Impact on Patient Safety and Multidrug Resistant Organisms"

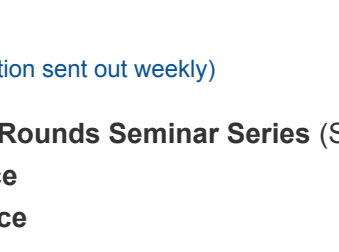


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Layla Sankari, MD

"Sepsis as an Emergency: How We Can Save Lives from Sepsis"

Social:



[Click here to view online](#)

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

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