

The DOM Insider

The official newsletter of the Department of Medicine



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Letter from the Chair



Dear colleagues and friends,

Now into our eighth month of COVID, I find myself continually awed by the resilience of our faculty, trainees and staff in managing the pandemic. Across all aspects of our missions, by providing exceptional patient care, research, and educating students, residents and fellows, your skills as clinicians, researchers, and educators have been tested as never before and are beyond measure. I greatly appreciate your perseverance, work ethic and compassion through these challenging times. I believe our collective and collaborative

response to this pandemic will make us stronger so that we can cope with what lies ahead.

In this issue, we cover the latest news from the Department of Medicine and the innovative ways we have adapted to continue our clinical, research and educational missions despite the challenges of COVID-19. Our faculty, trainees and staff have demonstrated tremendous accomplishments and creativity over the past several months. In this issue we celebrate the incredible talent across the department.

We are in the midst of recruitment season for faculty, fellows, residents, medical and graduate students. Many of you have been involved in transitioning the recruitment process to creative on-line interactions for your division. Thank you for your efforts to personalize this process and create meaningful virtual interactions for our faculty, trainees and applicants. Please take a moment to view the new recruitment videos developed by several divisions, showcasing all that we have to offer candidates considering their future training in the Department of Medicine.

In September, we mourned the passing of Chancellor Emeritus William H. Danforth, MD, who served as chancellor for 24 of his more than 65 years of service to Washington University. Many of his years at WashU were spent here at the School of Medicine where his contributions and leadership were instrumental in developing this institution into one of the world's best medical schools and a top ranked national research university. Let us all take strength from his legacy as we navigate this pandemic and carry on our tradition of excellence.

Please continue to remain in touch with one another by sharing your stories and supporting those around you. There is no limit to what we can do if we continue to collaborate, learn and encourage each other. I remain grateful for your ongoing support and dedication. As always, thank you for all you do on the behalf of the Department of Medicine.

Best Regards,

Victoria J. Fraser, MD
Adolphus Busch Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine



*Scene from new Internal Medicine recruitment video.
Watch full video below.*

Spotlight on Recruitment

COVID-19 has dramatically altered the ways we do everything, including recruitment for the Department of Medicine. In light of the pandemic, traditional ways of recruitment had to be revamped, replacing in-person visits with virtual tours and interviews. Many of the divisions have worked tirelessly to modify their recruitment efforts, including updating their videos to accommodate this change to virtual recruitment.

Check out the new videos below showcasing the outstanding training programs the Department of Medicine has to offer:

- **Cardiology:**

Produced a series of new videos. View the overall training program video [here](#), and clips from the cardiology fellowship directors and current fellows [here](#).

- **Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipid Research:**

Produced a total of five short videos. View them [here](#).

- [Hematology-Oncology Fellowship Program](#)

- [Infectious Diseases](#)

- [Internal Medicine](#)

- [Nephrology](#)

- [Pulmonology](#)

- [Rheumatology](#)

Research News

• Washington University Develops COVID-19 Saliva Test

Department of Medicine ID participants:

- William Powderly, MD
- Jane O'Halloran, MD, PhD
- Clay Dunagan, MD
- Michael Klebert, PhD
- Lisa Kessels, Nurse Manager, Clinical Research Coordinator, ID-CRU and ACTU
- AJ Winingham, Community Outreach Coordinator

[Read more.](#)



Washington University has developed a saliva-based test for COVID-19 that is faster and easier than the swab tests currently in use. Chris Sawyer, Lab Manager, and Lauren Burcea, Clinical Lab Manager, work on the program at the Genome Technology Access Center in Cortex One.
Photographer - Matt Miller

• ID-CRU Launches Novel Clinical Trial to Test Multiple Therapeutics to Treat COVID-19

"This study aims to evaluate treatments that can be given in the outpatient setting to prevent people with COVID-19 from developing advanced disease that requires hospitalization," said [Rachel Presti, MD, PhD](#), associate professor of medicine and director of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Unit.

[Read more.](#)

• Nasal Vaccine Against COVID-19 Prevents Infection in Mice

[Michael S. Diamond, MD, PhD](#), senior author on [study](#) published in *Cell*. [Read more.](#)

• WUSM Scientists Create a Safer Version of Virus to Speed Research

"I've never had this many requests for a scientific material in such a short period of time," said co-senior author Sean Whelan, PhD. "Even before we published, people heard that we were working on this and started requesting the material." [Read more.](#)

• Holtzman Lab is published in *The Journal of Immunology*

"Group 2 Innate Lymphoid Cells Must Partner with the Myeloid-Macrophage Lineage for Long-Term Postviral Lung Disease". [Read the article.](#) More details on this research available on the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine's website [here.](#)

• \$10 Million in Grants Aimed at Preventing Organ Rejection after Transplantation

Researchers to study how immune cells respond after lung, heart transplants. [Read more.](#)

- [Maya Jerath, MD, PhD](#) and team have submitted to the [Big Ideas Competition](#) a proposal for a pilot study that will look at whether or not particulate matter that an asthmatic patient is exposed to in their local environment correlates to asthma symptoms. Patients will wear a device developed at WashU that measures particulate matter over time and the data will be recorded and stored. Patients will then log their symptoms (shortness of breath, cough, wheezing) as they have them and the team will try to correlate the two.

- [William Powderly, MD](#) is featured on the School of Medicine, "Show Me the Science" podcast, "Where does life in the U.S. stand six months into the pandemic?" [Read more/listen to the podcast here](#)



William Powderly, MD



Education News

- ID fellows, [Nathan Nolan, MD, MPH](#) and [Miguel Chavez, MD, MSc](#) launched ID Fellows Network (#ID_fellows), an educational space for fellows by fellows. This is a collaborative approach to promote ID clinical reasoning for fellows. [Read more.](#)



- **Advanced Training in Clinical Investigation**
The [Clinical Research Training Center \(CRTC\)](#) is accepting applications for programs providing advanced training in Clinical Investigation! Additionally, the CRTC is now offering a new concentration in Dissemination & Implementation Research (D&I).

Postdocs, Fellows, Faculty, Jr. Faculty, and Instructors are encouraged to apply for MTPCI and MSCI.

Mentored Training Program in Clinical Investigation (MTPCI)

- 17 credit hour training program
- 2-3 years to complete
- US citizen or permanent residency required
- *May enroll in additional coursework to complete MSCI degree!*

Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI)

- 33 credit hour master's degree
- 1 to 5 years to complete
- No citizenship requirements

Programs are eligible for the Washington University faculty/staff [tuition benefit!](#)

Applications due November 1, 2020.

To apply, visit crtc.wustl.edu.

For more information, contact crtcmsci@wustl.edu.

- Recordings of Grand Rounds are available on the Department of Medicine website following the presentations every Thursday morning at 8 am. Access previous Grand Rounds presentations [here](#).
- **2021 Dean's Scholars Program Cycle is Open!**
The Dean's Scholars program supports outstanding individuals committed to a career as a physician-scientist. This program alleviates the scholar's financial stress and provides them with mentorship, institutional support, and the protected time necessary to generate data and publications. [Learn more and apply.](#)
- Congratulations to all the students and residents who presented posters for the virtual meeting of the Missouri Chapter of the American College of Physicians! All of the Washington University posters were outstanding and many were recognized for awards.

More details regarding the virtual Missouri Chapter meeting are [here](#).



- Resident Clinical vignette 1st place – Zain Raza, An Unusual Case of Chronic Cough: Broncho-Esophageal Fistula
- Resident Clinical vignette 2nd place – Steve Zhang, "Symptomatic" Pauses on Cardiac Telemetry
- Resident Research 1st place – Abbye Clark, Rura Urban Differences in Antibiotic Prescribing for Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infection
- Resident Patient Safety / Quality Improvement 2nd place – Luis Hernandez, Calling Attention to Hepatic Steatosis in a CT Scan Impression is Associated with Increased Recognition of NAFLD in Primary Care
- Student Research 1st place – Sukruth Shashikumar W3, The Impact of Accounting for Poverty on Financial Penalties in a Federal Value-Based Payment Program
- Student Research 2nd place – Gopika Hari W2, Neurological Outcomes in Cardiac Arrest Patients with Non-shockable vs. Shockable Rhythm Treated with Targeted Temperature Management



Clinical News

- Washington University, St. Louis County collaborate on COVID-19 survey. [Read more.](#)
- **Managing COVID-19 with In-Home Monitoring**
A collaboration between BJC Medical Group and Washington University School of Medicine made possible an in-home monitoring program for those sick with COVID-19. Department of Medicine's own Jennifer Schmidt, MD was instrumental in helping to organize the program. [Read more.](#)



Jennifer Schmidt, MD

- [Jennifer Alexander-Brett, MD, PhD](#) was quoted in a story in St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Pregnant Mother of Two Shares her Story of Nearly Dying from Covid-19". [Read full article.](#)
- Heart Transplant just completed a milestone of 1,000 heart transplants. [View video.](#)
- The team with the [Center for Valvular Heart Disease](#) team recently completed their first transcatheter tricuspid valve replacement via a transfemoral approach.



New Faculty Leadership



[Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH](#): Named new associate program director role in DEI for Cardiology.



[Kara Sternhell Blackwell, MD](#): Recently stepped down as OUTmed director and is now the associate program director for the Dermatology residency.



[Philip R.O. Payne, PhD](#): Named associate dean for health information and data science, and chief data scientist for the School of Medicine. [Read more.](#)

Division Faculty, Trainee & Staff Updates

Kristy Bingaman: New Nephrology Fellowship Program Coordinator. [Read more.](#)

Andy Chuu, MD: Former renal fellow joins WashU Nephrology faculty. [Read more.](#)

Joseph Kenzora, MD: Retired from Cardiology division on October 2nd.

Wut Yi Hninn, MD: Joins WashU Nephrology Transplant Training Program. [Read more.](#)

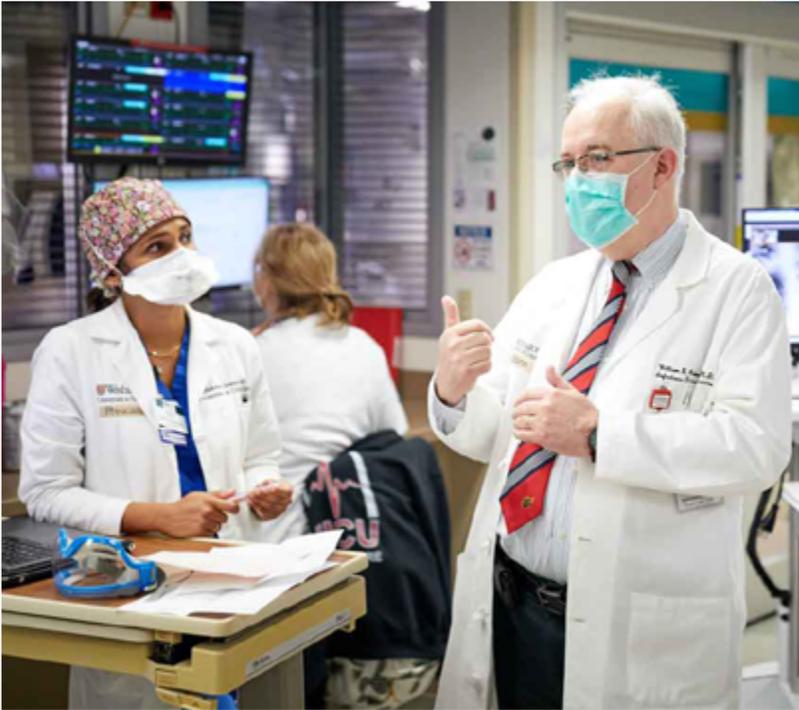
Munis Mattu, MD: Joins WashU Nephrology Transplant Training Program. [Read more.](#)

Massini Merzkani, MD: Joins WashU Transplant Nephrology Team. [Read more.](#)

Rheumatology welcomes two new faculty, Aisha Shaikh, MD from the SSM Medical Group and Nicole Droz, MD from the Cleveland Clinic.

Obituary: Jesse Yates, Thirty-year Retired Veteran of WashU Nephrology. [Read more.](#)

IN THE NEWS



Photographer - Matt Miller

[William G. Powderly, MD](#), discusses patient care with Maanasi Samant, MD, in the intensive care unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Powderly, director of the Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, is protocol chair of an international phase 3 clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to investigate the potential of three drugs for the treatment of COVID-19. The drugs were chosen for their potential to tame a dangerous inflammatory response experienced by some patients with the virus. [Read more.](#)

[Mati Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, MPH](#), Instructor of Medicine and ID fellow alumnae 2018, was invited by CNN to participate in a podcast along with infectious diseases specialist and CNN medical analyst, Dr. Celine Gounde to discuss COVID.

[Read more.](#)

Dr. Hlatshwayo Davis, also shared her opinion in a Newsweek Op-Ed on "Rushing a COVID-19 Vaccine Risks Leaving Behind the People Most at Risk" Read the entire [Newsweek Op-Ed.](#) [View more](#) of Dr. Hlatshwayo Davis' recent media appearances.



Photographer - Matt Miller

[Victoria Fraser, MD](#) is featured in an op-ed in STLtoday, "Missouri has much to show our lawmakers about our coronavirus needs". [Read more.](#)

A CLOSER LOOK

A redesign of the Department of Medicine website launched on October 19th.

[Check out](#) the website redesign.



Drs. [Victoria Fraser, MD](#); [Rakhee Bhayani, MD](#) and [Dominique Cosco, MD](#), wear face masks promoting the #HerTimeIsNow campaign, a program dedicated to ending gender workforce disparities.

[Learn more](#) about the campaign.

Awards/Grants/Honors

Special honors by Division

Cardiology

Cardiology was strongly represented at the [Northwestern Cardiovascular Young Investigators Forum](#), September 10-12 by [Ali Javaheri, MD, PhD](#) and [Chien-Jung Lin, MD, PhD](#). Dr. Javaheri received the first place award in the Junior Faculty Basic Science Category and Dr. Lin placed 3rd in the Fellows Basic Science section. [William Balke, MD](#) served on the judges panel.



Endocrinology

Barnes-Jewish/Washington University Diabetes & Endocrinology is ranked #8 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. [Read more.](#)



Rheumatology

Rheumatology established the [Benjamin D. Schwartz, MD, PhD](#) Distinguished Fellow Award in Rheumatology. It was made possible by a generous endowment from Drs. Andrew and Mary Chan, former Barnes Housestaff and WashU Faculty.

[Adam Anderson, MD](#): Received a grant from BJC, "Development of a Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital Sarcoidosis Center of Excellence Registry". [Read more.](#)

[Megan Baldrige, MD, PhD](#): Has been named an Investigator in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Diseases by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Each awardee receives \$500,000 over five years to support research projects that hold the potential to significantly advance understanding of how pathogens interact with the human body and how health is maintained. [Read more.](#)



*Megan Baldrige, MD, PhD
Photographer - Jerry Naunheim Jr.*

[Thomas J. Baranski, MD, PhD](#): Received an NIH R01 award. This is a mutual PI award with **Mike Provence, PhD** and **Heather Lawson, PhD** in the Department of Genetics. The researchers will use a high-throughput method to manipulate hundreds of suspected genes to hone in on the biology behind the human findings, which could lead to new therapies and prevention approaches for obesity. (\$1,281,798) [Read more.](#)

[Alan C. Braverman, MD](#): Study "Clinical Features and Outcomes of Pregnancy-Related Acute Aortic Dissection" featured in October 14th issue of *JAMA Cardiology*.

[Paulina Cruz Bravo, MD](#): Received a Partnership Development & Sustainability Support (PDSS) from the [ICTS](#). This mechanism provides ICTS investigators and their community partner(s) with up to \$10,000 over a one-year period to develop the trust, infrastructure, capacity, and skills needed to support future collaborative grant opportunities. (\$10,000) [Read more.](#)

Awards/Grants/Honors cont.

[Ying Maggie Chen, MD, PhD](#): Awarded NU GoKidney Grant. [Read more](#).

[Michael J. Durkin, MD, MPH \(Main PI\)](#); [Stephen Y. Liang, MD, MPHS](#); [Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI](#): Received an NIH/NIDCR X01 award for “Quantifying and Reducing Aerosol Generation in Dental Settings”

[Obi L. Griffith, PhD](#): Received a supplement for a U24 award. Award is part of the NCI CCDI (Childhood Cancer Data Initiative) with a goal to expand characterization of clinically relevant cancer variants with a specific focus on childhood malignancies.

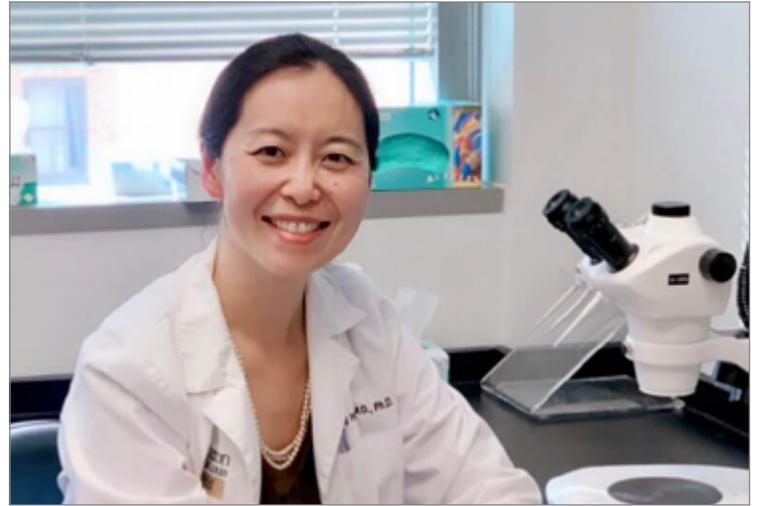


*Obi Griffith, PhD, (left) and Malachi Griffith, PhD
Photographer - Matt Miller*

[Jeffrey P. Henderson, MD, PhD](#): Received a grant from the Longer Life Foundation, a cooperative effort between the School of Medicine and the Reinsurance Group of America (RGA, Inc.), to help fund his research, which has pivoted in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. His project is titled “Prognostic biomarkers of severe disease in COVID-19 patients”. Dr. Henderson is working on developing methods of prognosticating severity of illness to help prioritize use of antiviral agents to those most likely to benefit. Learn more about the [Longer Life Foundation](#).

[Michael J. Holtzman, MD](#): Received a Technology/Therapeutic Development Award (TTDA) from the Department of Defense for “Preclinical Development of a New Kinase Inhibitor for COPD”. The 3-year award for \$3,928,669 will focus on progressive post-viral lung disease, especially relevant to current public health problems with respiratory viral infections including COVID-19, influenza, and other common pathogens. The funding will provide for final preclinical development of a lead compound to achieve approval for clinical trials in human patients. [Read more](#).

[Jing Hughes, MD, PhD](#): Received an NIH K08 supplement for career development. (\$50,000) In addition, she received an investigator award from the Diabetes Research Connection, a private foundation that supports innovative research in type 1 diabetes. (\$50,000) [Read more](#).



Jing Hughes, MD, PhD

[Eirini Kefalogianni, PhD](#), and [Monica Chang-Panesso, MD](#): Received Career Development Awards. [Read more](#).

[Alfred Kim, MD, PhD](#): Named to the Rheumatology Research Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Council for a three-year term.

[Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI](#): Received a NIH/NCATS LRP award for “The Fecal Microbiome as a Reservoir for Antibiotic Resistance Genes in Patients with Urinary Tract Infections Due to Multidrug Resistant Organisms”.

[Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI \(Main PI\)](#); [Gautam Dantas, PhD](#); [Carey-Ann Burnham, PhD](#): Received an AHRQ R01 award for “Environmental hygiene strategies to decrease the burden of antibiotic-resistant organisms in Intensive Care Unit SINKs (ICU SINK)”.

[Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI \(Main PI\)](#); [Michael J. Durkin, MD, MPH](#); [Stephen Y. Liang, MD, MPHS](#): Received an NIH/NIDCR X01 for “Evaluating and Improving Personal Protective Equipment Use in Dental Settings”.

[Deborah Lenschow, MD, PhD](#): Named Co-Director of the Immunology Graduate Program. Dr. Lenschow also received the 2020 ICTS/FBJH COVID-19 Research Funding Program Award for her proposal titled “Evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 Papain-like Protease Inhibitors as a Novel Treatment for COVID-19”.

Awards/Grants/Honors cont.

Thomas Maddox, MD, MSc: Has been selected as a trustee for the national cardiology professional society, the American College of Cardiology. [Read more.](#)

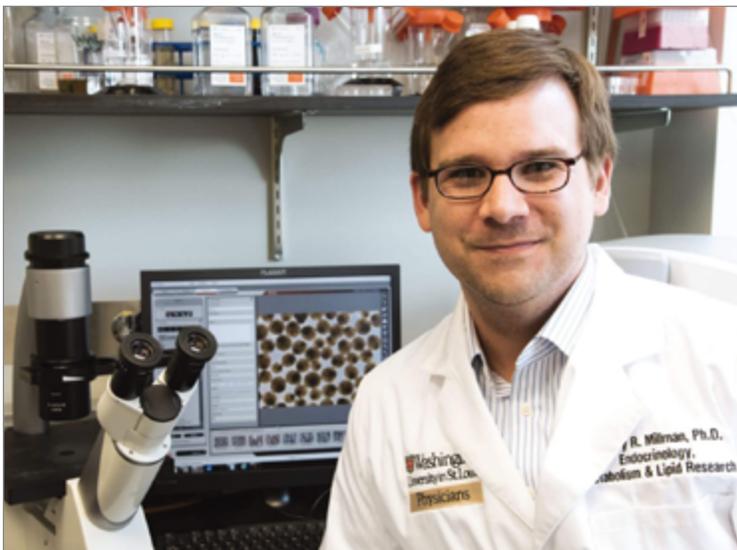


Thomas Maddox, MD, MSc

Janet B. McGill, MD, MA, FACE: Received funding from Jaeb Center for Health Research Foundation to study the insulin-only bionic pancreas hybrid closed loop system. (\$279,490) [Read more.](#)

Manasa Metireddy, MD: is the new Medical Director of WashU Nephrology Home Modalities Program

Jeffrey R. Millman, PhD: Received the WU & BJHF Grant Funding for Research in Transplantation. The research team will be evaluating the effects of several key transplantation parameters on the effectiveness of insulin-producing islets derived from stem cells to cure diabetes. (\$50,000) [Read more.](#)



*Jeffrey Millman, PhD
Photographer - Robert J. Boston*

Brian Muegge, MD, PhD: has received a VA Career Development Award. This award supports Dr. Muegge's research program studying the development and response of intestinal endocrine cells to injury and disease. (\$1,145,420) [Read more.](#)

Blessing Osondu, MD: Osondu, a second-year Nephrology fellow, was accepted into the Critical Care Medicine Fellowship offered through the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care. [Read more.](#)

Rachel Presti, MD, PhD: IDSA honors Rachel Presti, MD, PhD, among distinguished physicians, scientists with FIDSA Designation. [Read more.](#)



Rachel Presti, MD, PhD

Maria Remedi, PhD: has received an NIH R01. Reduction of pancreatic insulin-containing cells and therefore antidiabetic drug responsiveness are key events in the pathogenesis and progression of diabetes. The main goal of this proposal seeks to understand the mechanisms underlying loss of insulin-containing cells in diabetes, and to explore novel approaches to prevent this loss and therefore restore antidiabetic drug responsiveness. The outcomes of this grant will have direct relevance to the progression and therapy of human diabetes. (\$1,000,000) [Read more.](#)

Leonardo Velazco-Cruz: Received an NIH F31 Fellowship award.

Anitha Vijayan, MD: Was named to the ASN Kidney News Editorial board.

Lisa Zickuhr, MD: was appointed the Associate Clerkship Director for Internal Medicine. Dr. Zickuhr is also the 2021 recipient of the Rheumatology Research Foundation Clinician Scholar Educator Award, which proposes to design and evaluate a telerheumatology curriculum.

Forum for Women in Medicine

WUSM-CRE² Grand Rounds Partnership: [Rakhee K. Bhayani, MD](#) is part of this new initiative that connects colleagues interested in health, race and/or ethnicity across specialties, disciplines, and schools. [Learn more](#) about the initiative. The committee is currently working to schedule a speaker for DOM.



The Department of Medicine announces a new program, Advancing Women in Academic Medicine (AWAM), established to enhance the professional advancement of women fellows and faculty. The program's mission is to actively identify and provide guidance to women fellows and faculty within the Department of Medicine to achieve leadership opportunities on institutional, local, national and international levels with the intention of achieving representation, professional rank, and compensation equal to that of their male counterparts.

Please join us for a series of town hall meetings to introduce this new program and to help us learn directly from you about potential barriers and what support would be most helpful to you for your academic career advancement.

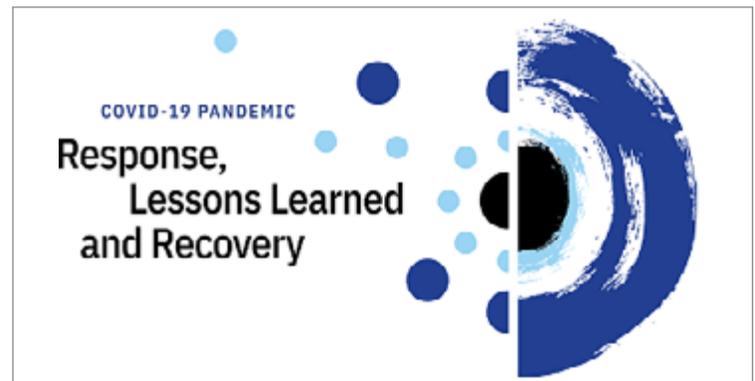
- 10/28: 5 - 6 pm (For junior and new women faculty)
- 10/30: 8 - 9 am (For mid-career faculty)
- 11/11: 5 - 6 pm (early or mid-level women faculty)

[View here](#) for information and to register.

Upcoming Events and Symposia

- **Washington University Institute of Public Health Hosts Hybrid 13th Annual Conference, October 29**
How prepared were we as a local/state/global community for the COVID-19 pandemic and how are we doing? What are the hidden costs of the pandemic? How can effective outreach and communication in the workforce, in schools, and among the public help? These are the issues before us all as we continue to work through unprecedented times heading toward the hope of a healthier future.

The Institute for Public Health will address these high-impact issues at its 13th Annual Conference, [COVID-19 Pandemic: Response, Lessons Learned and Recovery](#), presented as a hybrid event (in person for a limited audience and virtual for all.) On October 28 from 12-1 pm, the Institute will present a virtual poster session and the daylong conference starts at 8:30 am on October 29. [Learn more and register.](#)



- **Diabetes Day Symposium 2020**
November 12, 2020, guest speaker: Jeffrey E. Pessin, PhD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, virtual event, times to be announced.
- [Michael J. Holtzman, MD](#) will be a featured scientific organizer at the #eSymposia event, "Asthma: New Discoveries and Therapies in the Age of COVID", December 1 - 2. [For more details/to register.](#)
- **CRTC Career Development Virtual Seminar – November 10th from 3:30-5:00pm. "Submitting a K Grant: What to Know When You Apply"**
Speakers: Christina Gurnett, MD, PhD; Nandini Raghuraman, MD, MS and Laneshia Tague, MD, MSCI
Free and open to all. [For more details/to register.](#)

Wellness Resources

Washington University Department of Human Resources has a variety of resources to help manage the work-life balance, including a new online portal that outlines the scope of the university's employee benefits and includes links to information about child care, elder care and self-care. [Learn more](#) about these family care resources. Review the online COVID-19 employee well-being support portal [here](#).



Epic Update

Please reference the most recent EPIC Action Report found [here](#). This report, distributed bi-monthly, provides valuable updates on EPIC.



Contact the DOM Insider

Please contact us with questions, ideas and suggestions!

The DOM Insider:

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