

Straight Talk

Department of Internal Medicine

MAY 2019

This Issue:

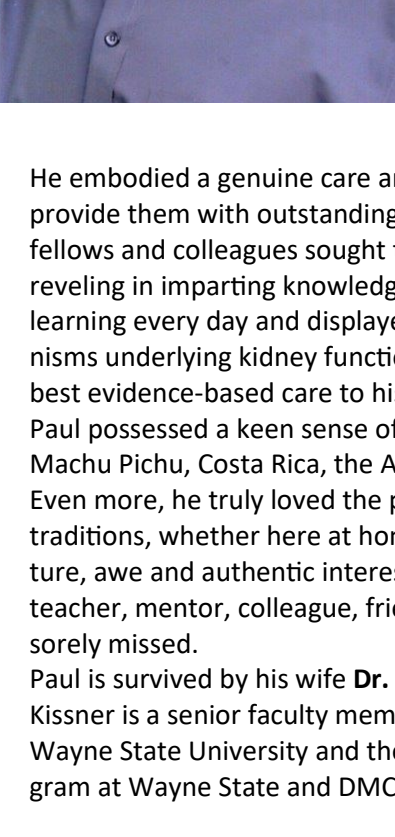
- ◆ In Memoriam of Dr. Paul Kissner
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In Memoriam

Dr. Paul Kissner

We mourn the death of Paul Kissner, MD who was a respected and much-loved member of the Division of Nephrology in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Paul received his medical degree from the University of Michigan. After one year doing a rotating internship at Philadelphia General Hospital, he became a physician member of the US Public Health Service, Peace Corps Division, and worked in Jamaica. There he spent free time working in a clinic he helped establish to serve people in the shanty towns of Kingston. Diphtheria was a common disease. A Rastafarian artist brought his young son to the clinic with neurologic symptoms. Thinking this might be leprosy, Paul did research and discovered a leprosy asylum run by a nun. He drove the undercover there, where leprosy was diagnosed and successfully treated. He returned to U of M to complete his internal medicine residency and then nephrology fellowship. He worked at the U of M Hospital and Wayne County General Hospital until 1986 when he joined the faculty of Wayne State University. Paul worked tirelessly for the betterment of healthcare for all, particularly the underprivileged and socioeconomically challenged people with kidney disease. To this end, he served on the Scientific Advisory Board and then on the Board of Trustees of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.



He embodied a genuine care and compassion for each patient and sought always to provide them with outstanding state-of-the-art care. He was a model physician that fellows and colleagues sought to emulate. He was equally devoted to teaching and reveling in imparting knowledge to learners at all levels. He himself was dedicated to learning every day and displayed an infective inquisitive desire to discover new mechanisms underlying kidney function. Even more so, he was committed to providing the best evidence-based care to his patients.

Paul possessed a keen sense of adventure and delight in traveling – Africa, Vietnam, Machu Pichu, Costa Rica, the Amazon basin, Iceland, Turkey, Bhutan, and beyond. Even more, he truly loved the peoples of the world and treasured their cultures and traditions, whether here at home or in the far reaches of the earth. His sense of adventure, awe and authentic interest extended from the cell to all people. He was a dear teacher, mentor, colleague, friend, physician and truly unique human being. He will be sorely missed.

Paul is survived by his wife **Dr. Dana Kissner** and their children Sara and Sol. Dr. Dana Kissner is a senior faculty member in the pulmonary critical care and sleep division at Wayne State University and the director of the Cystic Fibrosis and Tuberculosis program at Wayne State and DMC.

Memorial for Paul Zeldan Kissner: Friday June 7, 2019 at 3:30 PM. Ira Kaufman Chapel, 18325 W Nine Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075.

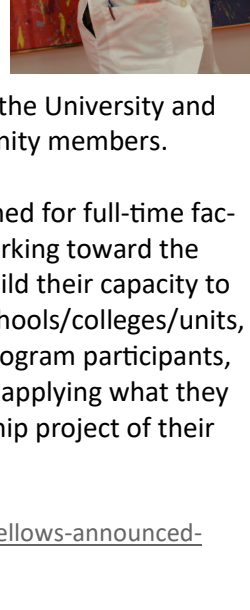
Good food and reminiscing after memorial at Paul and Dana's home, 3688 Lamplighter Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Donations: Lymphoma Research Foundation, University of Michigan Musical Society, Ann Arbor Art Center

Dr. Nnodim Accepted to WSU Inaugural Academic Leadership Academy

The Department of Internal Medicine would like to congratulate Dr. Ijeoma Nnodim Opara on her acceptance to Wayne State University's Inaugural Academic Leadership Academy.

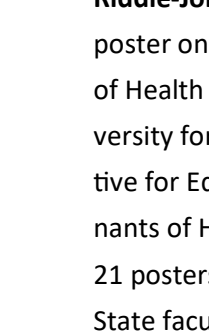
Wayne State University (WSU) is committed to developing effective academic leaders who empower others by working with them collegially to achieve common goals, build a community of scholars, teachers, and practitioners, and sustain a high level of morale and engagement. To this end, the Office of the Provost has created the Wayne State University Academic Leadership Academy (ALA) to support the development of the leadership skills and capacity of WSU faculty and academic staff. ALA aspires to increase the number and broaden the impact of skilled leaders at WSU who can contribute to the mission of the University and enhance the lives of its students, employees, and surrounding community members.



The Academic Leadership Academy (ALA) is a one-year program designed for full-time faculty and academic staff who have some knowledge and experience working toward the mission of WSU and in their areas of expertise, and are prepared to build their capacity to be more effective leaders at WSU, in their disciplines, departments, schools/colleges/units, and/or communities, in either formal and informal leadership roles. Program participants, known as ALA Fellows, will build on their emerging leadership skills by applying what they learn during the Academy to their current roles as well as to a leadership project of their choice.

<https://today.wayne.edu/news/2019/05/15/academic-leadership-academy-fellows-announced->

Alumni Spotlight

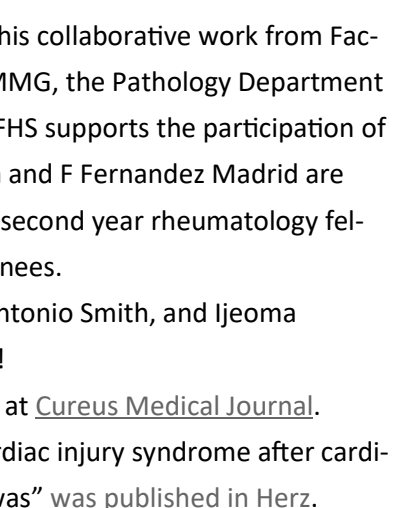
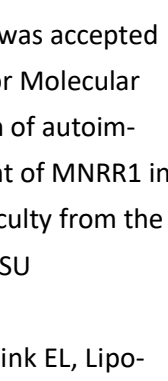
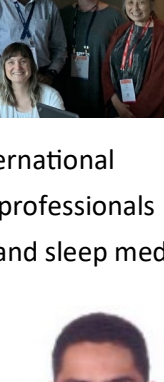
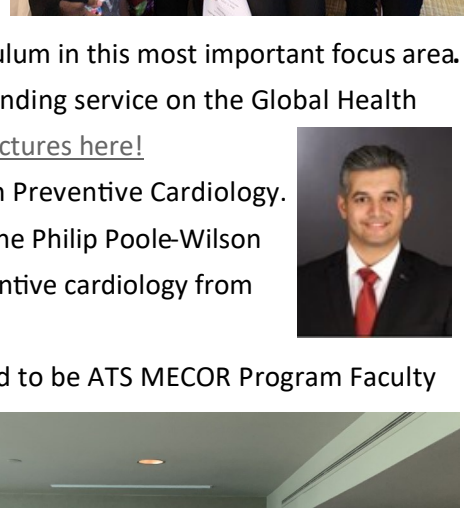


The Department of Internal Medicine would like to showcase our graduates. We would like to start by highlighting Prasad Gunasekaran MD, FACC.

Dr. Gunasekaran completed his residency training with us and went on to do a cardiology fellowship and interventional fellowship at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He recently took a faculty position at the University of Missouri with an area of focus on structural heart disease. He is an active member of numerous committees at the American College of Cardiology including the Publications and Editorial Coordination Committee.

Awards and Achievements

- ◆ [Please click here to see the pictures of our residents at the ACP 2019.](#)
- ◆ **Ijeoma Nnodim, Jenifer Mendez, Latonya Riddle-Jones, and Pranav Shah** presented poster on the innovative Social Determinants of Health curriculum at Northwestern University for the Inaugural National Collaborative for Education to Address Social Determinants of Health Conference. As one of the 21 posters accepted to the meeting, Wayne State faculty are leading innovation in curriculum in this most important focus area. **Dr. Nnodim** was also honored for her outstanding service on the Global Health Workforce Panel [Please see the rest of the pictures here!](#)
- ◆ **Omar Chehab** earned a Masters in Science in Preventive Cardiology. He graduated with distinction and received the Philip Poole-Wilson Award for outstanding achievement in preventive cardiology from Imperial College London
- ◆ **Dr. Abdulghani Sankari** was recently selected to be ATS MECOR Program Faculty Member; a global program established in 1994 to build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries through its Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) international courses. This intensive course for physicians and related health care professionals aims to increase capacity and leadership in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine research beyond its US borders and US membership.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Abdelaziz Mohammed** for joining the 2019-2020 Association of Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine Program Directors fellows working group.
- ◆ Congratulations to our CE track fellows **Shyam Ganti and Sammar Alsunaid** for receiving runner award on innovation in medical education by the ATS this year on their novel project on shock and ultrasound simulation.



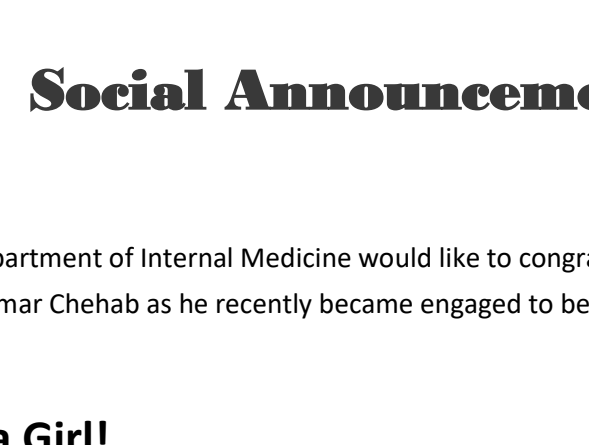
Publications/Presentations

Recent research reports from the Rheumatology Division :

- ◆ In March 2019 a manuscript by Aras S, **M-C Maroun, Song Y**, Bandyopadhyay S, Stark A, Yang Z, Long PM, Grossman LI, and **F Fernandez Madrid** -Mitochondrial autoimmunity and the role of MNRR1 in breast carcinogenesis BMC Cancer was accepted for publication. This collaborative work with Faculty from the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics of WSU and the HFHS supports the participation of autoimmunity to BC autoantigens in breast carcinogenesis and the involvement of MNRR1 in metastatic breast cancer; M-C Maroun and F Fernandez Madrid are Faculty from the Rheumatology Division and Y Song is a third year medical resident at WSU
- ◆ In May 2019 **Maroun M-C**, Chen W, **Song Y, Obaidat D, Hanif S**, Kleinbrink EL, Lipovich L, Deeporter DG, Long PM, Tait L, Stark A, Zarbo R, Polin L, Chitale D, and **F Fernandez Madrid** presented a poster on Anti-inflammatory treatment and inhibition of B-cell activation in the MCF10DCIS.com xenograft model of human breast cancer at ESMO Breast Cancer Conference, Berlin Germany. This collaborative work from Faculty from the Rheumatology Division of WSU, the CMMG, the Pathology Department of WSU, the Karmanos Cancer Institute and of the HFHS supports the participation of autoimmunity in breast carcinogenesis; M-C Maroun and F Fernandez Madrid are Faculty from the Rheumatology Division, S Hanif is a second year rheumatology fellow, Y Song and D Obaidat are Internal Medicine trainees.
- ◆ Congratulations to Kendall Bell, Ahmad Abu-Heija, Antonio Smith, and Ijeoma Nnodim for their Case report being accepted to BMJ!
- ◆ Ahmad Abu-Heija (PGY3) had a publication accepted at [Cureus Medical Journal](#).
- ◆ Chandra Ala's "Pericardial complications and postcardiac injury syndrome after cardiovascular implantable electronic device placement was" [was published in Herz](#).

[Please see the pictures of our May Publishers here!](#)

- ◆ **Ahmad Abu-Heija** (PGY3) presented two abstracts at Digestive Disease Week in San Diego. See the picture below!



Departmental Announcements

- ◆ [Please see the June Diverse Religious Observance Information Calendar](#)

Social Announcements

- ◆ The Department of Internal Medicine would like to congratulate PGY1 Omar Chehab as he recently became engaged to be married!



It is a Girl!

Congratulations to Irfan Shafi and his wife, Hasi, on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Hiba Shah on May 24th. Look at the Little Beauty!



- ◆ Family friends and colleagues from the Department of Medicine celebrated the birth of Shiv Lohia son of Shweta & Prateek Lohia. [See all the pictures here!](#)
Below : Safwan Badr, Shiv and Shweta Lohia



This is a place to share any news that you may have! Weddings, engagements, birth of children, vacations, etc. If you have something to share please email Anthony [here](#).

June Birthdays

First Name	Last Name	Birth Date	Rank
Anupama	Devara	June	6 Faculty/staff
Kenisha	Evans	June	10 PRG-2
Lawrence	Crane	June	11 Faculty/staff
Diane	Levine	June	11 Faculty/staff
Yahya	Osman	June	18 Faculty/staff
Lobelia	Samavati	June	20 Faculty/staff
Housam	Sarakbi	June	20 Faculty/staff
Salina	Faidhalla	June	20 PRG-1
Willane	Krell	June	29 Faculty/staff
Renato	Roxas	June	30 Faculty/staff

Grand Rounds

Grand Rounds is scheduled each **Friday at 12pm** in the **Green Auditorium** located on the 2nd floor of Scott Hall. Please attend and fill out an evaluation!

Date	Division	Speaker
7-Jun	Pulmonary/CC	Keoki Williams
14-Jun	Rheumatology	Russel York
21-Jun		TBD

[Suggestion Box](#)



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