Internal Medicine department is being recognized as a Health Care Hero for COVID-19 response

As COVID-19 descended upon the Wichita community, KU Wichita Internal Medicine rose to the challenge. KUWIM has hospitalist groups at Wesley and Ascension Via Christi St. Francis, and is the primary inpatient provider for the Dole VA veterans. KU physicians were at the front and center of each site’s disaster planning to respond to the influx of patients, rationed resources and quickly evolving medical information that unfolded upon the nation daily.

Additionally, KUWIM has three outpatient clinics. The staff were able to quickly mobilize to provide tent testing to community members and adopted telehealth models within one week of quarantine so patients could stay in touch with their physicians.

KUWIM promotes excellence in education and were able to continue to work with displaced medical students via online platforms and support the educational goals of the internal medicine residents by starting research projects directly related to COVID-19 care.

BREAKING NEWS
Internal Medicine joins AstraZeneca vaccine trial

KU Wichita Center for Clinical Research is partnering with the University of Kansas Medical Center and Children’s Mercy Kansas City in a nationwide clinical trial from the COVID-19 Prevention Network. The CoVPN was created by the National Institutes of Health to respond to the growing coronavirus pandemic. The collaboration will be testing the COVID-19 vaccine AZD1222, developed by Oxford University. Anticipated to launch in late August at KUSM-W, the phase 2/3 trial is funded by the National Institutes of Health and sponsored by AstraZeneca. Plans call for the recruitment of 30,000 participants nationally, with around 1,500 from the Kansas-Missouri collaboration. Adults over the age of 18 who are considered high-risk for contact with COVID-19 will be recruited into the study, and participants will be randomized to determine who receives the vaccine. Two out of every three participants will receive the vaccine, with the third receiving a placebo. Once the trial is concluded, participants receiving the placebo will be eligible to receive the vaccine. The vaccine will be available through KU Wichita Center for Clinical Research, directed by Tiffany Schwasinger-Schmidt, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Center and assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

“We are so excited to have assembled a strong partnership among researchers at KU and Children’s Mercy to offer this vaccination to Kansans,” said Dr. Schwasinger-Schmidt.

“We know that prevention through vaccination will be key in stopping the spread and devastating effects of this virus.” For more information, referring physicians or their patients can call 316-293-1833.
Neurology clerkship embraces distance learning using innovative technology

By Darcy Gray

Even amid distance learning, medical students in the neurology clerkship at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita can carefully review simulated pictures of patients’ eyes and identify the pathology of the eye. Medical students use an ophthalmoscope and OphthoSim technology to view a simulated patient’s eye, just as it would be seen by a physician in the office, explained Tiffany Schwasinger-Schmidt, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine and the neurology clerkship director at KU School of Medicine-Wichita.

“Our students have been incredibly resilient in the face of the changing curriculum and have readily adapted to the use of technology for distance education,” she said.

“Through the use of this technology, educators can help students learn how to identify key anatomical and pathological features of disease.”

Using OphthoSim, students look at simulated pictures of patients’ eyes with normal movement, such as blinking, and learn about the anatomy of the eye and key features of pathology, including macular degeneration, papilledema, ophthalmologic tumors and more. The software allows the instructor to highlight key findings on the images to help students distinguish from normal to abnormal pathology, Dr. Schwasinger-Schmidt said.

“Through innovation and technology, we are able to overcome distance and continue to train our future doctors,” said Dr. Schwasinger-Schmidt, who is also director of KU Wichita Center for Clinical Research.

“Our students are inspirational in the ways they have embraced new and innovative teaching methods by faculty, and they continue to engage in patient care and development of clinical skills despite distancing.”

The neurology clerkship’s distance learning is supported by the Department of Internal Medicine at KU School of Medicine-Wichita, as well the Medical Alumni Innovative Teaching Fund through the University of Kansas School of Medicine.
Meet our winner at the American College of Physicians 2020 Virtual ePoster Competition

Congratulations to Rami Diab, M.D., one of our graduates, on being selected as a poster winner in the Virtual e-Poster Competition with his e-Poster titled “Meta-analysis of the safety of granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.” The Virtual e-Poster Competition replaced the traditional annual poster competition at the ACP Internal Medicine Meeting.

Our department is proud to celebrate Dr. Diab’s achievement!

CLASS OF 2020 FACULTY AND RESIDENT AWARDS

Ammar al-Obaidi, M.D., PGY3, Outstanding PGY2 Award
Tanner Dean, D.O., PGY2, Outstanding PGY1 Award
Maher Bazzi, M.D., graduate, Linda L. Francisco, M.D., Resident Peer Teaching Award
Joseph Cherabie, M.D., graduate, Dean’s Award for Clinical Teaching

Kristin Constance, M.D., graduate, Student Choice Award, Outgoing Chiefs Award
Michael Grant, M.D., volunteer faculty, Volunteer Faculty Teaching Award
Yasmine Hussein Agha, M.D., PGY3, Outstanding PGY2 Award
Jennifer Jackson, M.D., faculty, Thor Jager, M.D., Award

Sean Jahansooz, M.D., faculty, Student Choice Award
Chloe McBride, M.D., graduate, Outgoing Chiefs Award
Sachin Srinivasan, M.D., chief, PGY4, W.C. (Carter) Goodpasture, M.D., Resident Performance Award, Research Award, Outgoing Chiefs Award
Where are our class of 2020 graduates now?

Anam Abbasi, M.D., hospitalist, Kansas

Daly Al-Hadeethi, M.D., hospitalist, CarePoint, Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, Kansas

Rami Atallah, M.D., hematology/oncology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Maher Bazzi, M.D., cardiology, Summa Health (NEOMED), Akron, Ohio

Kristin Constance, M.D., infectious disease, University of Texas, Houston, Texas

Rami Diab, M.D., rheumatology, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Chisom Eze, M.D., hospitalist, Kansas, Missouri and Texas (work in Kansas and Missouri for a few months before moving to Texas).

Sumaya Hammami, M.D., hospitalist, Wichita, Kansas

Sinan Khayyat, M.D., hospitalist, Sharp Health Care, San Diego, California

Chloe McBride, M.D., hospitalist, Ascension Via Christi, Wichita, Kansas

Richard Muraga, M.D., faculty, KU School of Medicine-Wichita

Sachin Srinivasan, M.D., PGY4 chief

Andrew Weaver, M.D., hospitalist, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina, Kansas

Preliminary Medicine

Erika Ekengren, M.D., diagnostic radiology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Nolan Fisher, D.O., physical medicine and rehabilitation, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

Jack Klenda, D.O., ophthalmology, Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, New York

Jordon Limsky, physical medicine and rehabilitation, Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland
Recent publications
Case Report in Kansas Journal of Medicine Vol 13, 2020

Chisom Eze, M.D.; Yasmine Hussein Agha, M.D.;
Brent Duran, D.O. Favorable Outcomes Following the Use
of Triple Therapy in a Patient with Osmotic Demyelination Syndrome

Braet C, Hussein Agha Y, Taleb A, Buess C, Millard J. Sulfonylurea-induced hypoglycemia in a patient with


IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Timothy Shaver, M.D., rheumatologist—volunteer faculty
What do you enjoy most about being a volunteer faculty member?
I enjoy expanding the knowledge base of residents who are already highly talented but have
often had limited exposure to the field of rheumatology. Most residents share with me, “
Rheumatology is my weakness.” I like to tell them, “My goal is that you will no longer be able
to say that by the end of this month.” By showing trainees a large volume of patients who
are often complex, taking them through the steps of clinical evaluation, designing a
goal-oriented treatment plan, and giving them hands-on experience with clinical decision making and
procedures, I strive to advance their skills in this discipline no matter what field they may eventually pursue.
In the end, it is very rewarding to see residents on the ward service, in the clinic or in future clinical practice
apply some of the knowledge they have gleaned on this rotation.

How many years of experience do you have in your field?
I have been in private practice for 26 years.

What are your interests, hobbies?
Outside of medicine, I love my family (wife, son, daughter, daughter-in-law) and my pets (four dogs, two
cats). I also enjoy exercising (mostly distance running), reading, and ESPECIALLY playing guitar and
collecting instruments. My “alter ego” is that I play in a band known as “The Opinions” with a group of friends
I have played with since college, and we perform and record our own music.

Luke Johnson, M.D., PGY2 resident
What drew you to a career in medicine?
Medicine is something I’ve been around my entire life. My dad is a doctor and my mom is a
nurse, so a career in medicine came very naturally for me. Watching my parents fulfill their
calling by serving others is something I’ve wanted to emulate since I was very young.

What do you enjoy most about residency?
I enjoy the camaraderie and lifelong relationships that I’ve formed with my co-residents,
my attendings and my patients. Everyone in Wichita is so kind and supportive that it’s
easy to thrive here.

What are your interests, hobbies?
My interests include spending time with my beautiful wife, Josey, playing tennis, playing video games and
watching Netflix.

This picture was
taken on the best
day of my life:
my wedding day.
The 2020 residency graduation will be a lifelong memory. This year was a bit less traditional than expected. Residents, faculty and families near and afar were able to join in a virtual celebration recognizing our 2020 graduates. Surprise flowers and hand-delivered dinner by faculty members kicked off a livestream showing of graduation acknowledgements, best wishes from family members and a photo montage of their residency experience. We wish our graduates all the best in their future endeavors.
Welcome to the team!

Meet our new full-time faculty

Richard Muraga, M.D. — The Department of Internal Medicine welcomes Richard Muraga, M.D., who joined faculty in July. He is working as a hospitalist at Ascension Via Christi and will help cover the resident clinics at KU Wichita Center for Health Care and the KU Wichita Midtown HIV clinic. Dr. Muraga graduated from the KU Wichita Internal Medicine Residency Program on June 30.

Meet our new volunteer faculty

Neelu Kalra, M.D. — Dr. Kalra is a board-certified allergist at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center and Hutchinson Clinic, and will be working with the students and residents in our department on an internal medicine rotation. Dr. Kalra joined our department April 24.

Christine Schrag, M.D. — Dr. Schrag is a hospitalist with the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and will be working with the students and residents in our department on an internal medicine rotation. Dr. Schrag joined our department Feb. 24.

Salman Hasan, M.D. — Dr. Hasan is a radiation oncologist at Ascension Via Christi and will be working with the students and residents in our department on an internal medicine rotation. Dr. Hasan joined our department March 23.

Save the date

October 22-23
Virtual ACP Kansas Chapter Meeting