

IN IGNOTIS “Into the unknown”

EVMS Internal Medicine Research Newsletter

Message

“Going into the unknown is how you expand what is known”
- Julien Smith, Author

Scholarship

Announcements

Researcher
Spotlight

Spencer Moen, MD

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 4 of our Department of Internal Medicine Research Newsletter! Our goal is to celebrate your scholarly achievements and share information about ongoing research activities within the Department. Some important announcements:

- We welcome new residents, fellows, and faculty to the Department. We are here to support your scholarly work; please do not hesitate to reach out to us.
- Now is the time to start preparing submissions for EVMS Research Day (Friday, Oct. 14, 2022)! Case report, abstract, and poster submissions will open at the end of July.
- Based on the guidance of our Internal Medicine Research Advisory Committee (IMRAC), we are working to develop a spreadsheet with pertinent [INTERNAL MEDICINE CONFERENCES](#). Please email AvilaCJ@evms.edu with conferences you would like to be considered on this spreadsheet.

PUBLICATIONS:

1. John A., Kurbanova N., Ulbing A., **Qayyum R.** “Measuring the Effectiveness of Choosing Wisely Campaign on Laboratory Testing for Hospitalized Patients.” *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*. June 2023. doi:10.1016/j.jcjq.2022.06.011 [Epub Ahead of Publication]
2. Knapp BJ, Stoner J, Lang J, Johnson R, **Fleener R**, Gathambo M. An emergency medicine based model for community-engaged learning. *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2022 Jun 20;3(3):e12752. doi: 10.1002/emp2.12752. PMID: 35769844; PMCID: PMC9208716.

Click here for the latest [RESEARCH FUNDING](#) opportunities.

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS/JOURNAL CLUB: Hof. Hall, 5th Floor Large Conference Room

Thursday, July 14 – “Retrospective Cohort Study” led by Drs. Qayyum & Gakhokidze (5-6PM)

Thursday, July 28 – “Prospective Cohort Study” led by Dr. Liza Botros (5-6PM)

Tell us a little about yourself.

I’m originally from Seattle and I moved here to Norfolk in 2015 for medical school. I met my wife, a pharmacist, in medical school and we have two kids now (a two-year-old boy and a four-month-old girl). In my free time, I’m rebuilding one of Dr. Flemmer’s old motorcycles.

You recently won an award for “Best Research” at the 41st Annual Resident Scholarship Day. What was your research about and why does it interest you?

My research study I presented at the annual research day was about glycosylated RNA and figuring out what role it plays in cancer biology. Very little is known about glycoRNA, so determining what RNAs are glycosylated and what purpose they serve has been the bulk of our interest and trying to leverage that as a potential marker of aggressive cancers. We have used prostate cancer as our initial target because there is such a huge need for differentiating aggressive vs non-aggressive cancers. I’ve always had an interest in basic science and the translation of bench science to real clinical changes, so this project fits perfectly.

How did you find your research mentor? What skills have you learned working with your PI?

Dr. Kerscher has taught me many things over the last few years and I hope to continue learning. I’m lucky to have found my way into her lab. I originally looked at her previous publications and what her areas of interest were. RNA is a very hot field which she was already working in, so it aligned with my project idea very well. She already had resources for RNA experiments, her lab already had the cell lines, and she was willing to start a new project on something completely unknown (glycoRNA).

What excites you about research? What areas do you hope to improve on?

One core aspect of research is the excitement about discovering new information. Personally, I hope to increase the amount of clinical research and exposure to larger trial design and interpretation here at EVMS.

What advice do you have for residents who wish to identify a scholarly project here at EVMS?

Ask your senior residents, your chiefs, Ms. Avila, your attendings, to identify the right person to get involved with *before* you start a project. Working on a project with the right person in the right field can have a lot of benefits beyond just a line on your resume.