

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Matt Alexander, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

Division of Clinical Pharmacology

Previous Institution: University of Virginia School of Medicine

Previous Role/Title: Medical Scientist (MD/PhD) Trainee

Specialty: Cardiovascular Medicine/Hypertension

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Virginia School of Medicine

Hometown: Kernersville, NC

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Alexander is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology. He completed undergraduate studies at Duke University and received his MD and PhD in the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Matt subsequently joined the Physician Scientist Training Program (Harrison Society) at VUMC through which he completed internal medicine residency and cardiovascular medicine fellowship. During his fellowship, he conducted postdoctoral research with Meena Madhur on the role of adaptive immune cells in the pathogenesis of hypertension. He developed expertise in animal models of hypertension, use of human genetics to interrogate candidate molecular mediators of disease, and single cell approaches to identify novel immune cell subsets in human hypertension. In combination with his collaborators and mentors, Dr. Alexander has developed a research program focused on identifying and understanding the roles of regulatory T cell subsets in hypertension, with the goal of therapeutically manipulating these cells as novel therapies. He will see patients as a general cardiologist with a particular focus on advanced hypertension.



Juan Arroyo Ornelas, MD, PhD

Instructor

Division of Nephrology and Hypertension

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Instructor in Medicine

Specialty: Internal Medicine/Nephrology

Education/Training: M.D. - Universidad La Salle

Ph.D. - UNAM, México

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Arroyo's research focuses on how the kidney regulates fluids and electrolytes. His PhD and postdoctoral work focused on the regulation of the thiazide-sensitive salt cotransporter in the distal nephron. This has led him to study other pathways that regulate renal and cardiovascular function. He is now particularly interested in the hormone vasopressin and the role that vasopressin plays in health and disease. He completed his internal medicine and nephrology training at Vanderbilt where he also served as chief medicine resident from 2018 to 2019.

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Sameer Avasarala, MBBS Instructor Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University Specialty: Internal Medicine Interventional Pulmonology Education/Training: M.B.B.S. - Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences Hometown: Columbia, PA Interests/Achievements: Dr. Sameer Avasarala is an Instructor in Medicine in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine and is also a fellow in the interventional pulmonology training program under the direction of Dr. Otis Rickman. During his training as a fellow at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio (an affiliate of Case Western University) in pulmonary and critical care medicine, Dr. Avasarala gained exposure to the management of patients with pulmonary hypertension, advanced lung disease (pre and post-transplant), and patients supported by extracorporeal life support. Through his pulmonary and critical care fellowship, he has performed over 300 bronchoscopies, including over 100 transbronchial biopsies and over 100 endobronchial ultrasound needle aspirations. Dr. Avasarala's research centers around peripheral bronchoscopy and the management of major airway diseases. He also has an interest in patient safety and workflow design within interventional pulmonology. Dr. Sameer Avasarala received his medical degree in 2011 from Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences in the State of Telangana, India. This private medical school is highly ranked and is located about 50 miles from Hyderabad, India. He subsequently began a residency in internal medicine at Henry Ford Hospital (Wayne State University) in Detroit after obtaining his MBBS; he became chief resident in July of 2016 prior to entering his fellowship program at Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Avasarala is actively involved in education within pulmonary and critical care medicine. He is a member of the pleural disease subcommittee for the American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology 2020 conference.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Postdoctoral Fellow in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine</p>
<p>Ruben Barricarte, PhD Assistant Professor Division of Genetic Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Rockefeller University Specialty: Immunogenetics Education/Training: Ph.D. - Complutense University of Madrid Hometown: Pamplona, Navarra, Spain Interests/Achievements: Ruben Martinez-Barricarte's work lies at the crossroads of human genetics, biochemistry, immunology, and infectious diseases. For the past decade, he has worked on the genetic study of monogenic human immune diseases. His graduate studies involved the genetic dissection of two very severe kidney diseases: atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS) and dense deposit disease (DDD). By discovering and functionally characterizing mutations in the C3 gene in patients suffering from aHUS and DDD, he established how dysregulations in the complement system cause these two disorders, thus providing useful information for their treatment. His postdoctoral studies focused on the genetic dissection of Mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial disease (MSMD). Patients suffering from this condition develop severe disease when exposed to weakly virulent mycobacteria such as environmental mycobacteria. By next-generation sequencing MSMD patients, and in collaboration with other colleagues, he discovered human SPPL2a, IL-12RB2, and IL-23R complete deficiencies. The in-depth molecular and immunological characterization of these new genetic diseases provided fundamental knowledge of how the immune system fights mycobacteria. In addition, he has also discovered and functionally characterized disease-causing mutations in other diseases such as CFHR5 nephropathy, chronic granulomatous disease, and combined immunodeficiency. Using his skills in the genetic and immunological dissection of monogenic inborn errors of immunity, his lab investigates nocardiosis and blastomycosis. Though exposure to Nocardia spp. and Blastomyces dermatitidis is common, only a small fraction of individuals develop severe disease. Therefore, his research program focuses on understanding the genetic and immunological factors that account for this interindividual variability.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Research Associate</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Miles Basil, MD Assistant Professor Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center Specialty: Gastroenterology Education/Training: M.D. - State University of New York Hometown: Syracuse, NY Interests/Achievements: Dr. Basil completed medical school at the State University of New York at Buffalo at which time he was awarded the Merck Academic Achievement Award, which is awarded to a medical student at graduation who displays outstanding academics coupled with noteworthy humanism and leadership. From there, Dr. Basil moved to Boston to complete internal medicine internship and residency at Boston University Medical Center prior to moving to Nashville to complete a clinical gastroenterology fellowship at Vanderbilt University. Initially finding his passion for gastroenterology as an internal medicine resident, Dr. Basil has long had an interest in general gastroenterology and hepatology. Additionally, Dr. Basil has a long-held interest in medical student and post-graduate education. His research interests range from the study of stigma associated with inflammatory bowel disease, the potential use of social media in medicine, and most recently, the potential use of mucosal integrity testing (MIT) for evaluating inflammatory bowel disease.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow</p>
<p>Alexander Bick, MD, PhD Assistant Professor Division of Genetic Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Harvard Medical School Specialty: Internal Medicine Education/Training: M.D. - Harvard Medical School Harvard Medical School Ph.D. - Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Hometown: New York, NY Interests/Achievements: Dr. Bick is a physician-scientist working in the field of human genomics. His scientific observations have advanced our understanding of the genetic basis for cardiovascular disease, characterized molecular disease mechanisms, and identified both the promise and limitations of translating genomic findings into routine medical practice. He has a particular interest in understanding how the interplay between inherited germline genetic factors and acquired somatic mutations contributes to disease. His approach has been highly collaborative and multidisciplinary – combining human genomics and statistical genetics with in vitro and in vivo characterization of model systems and human samples. Dr Bick's current scientific focus is on clonal hematopoiesis, a unifying feature of aging diseases as diverse as cardiovascular disease and cancer. He has recently demonstrated that clonal hematopoiesis is virtually absent in adults under 40 but found in >10% of adults over 70 and confers a 10-fold increased risk of blood cancers, 2-fold increased risk of heart attack, and 1.5-fold increased risk of death. Dr. Bick is focused on identifying the causes and consequences of clonal hematopoiesis with a goal of developing new treatments targeting clonal hematopoiesis. In parallel with his research, Dr. Bick completed a clinical residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital with a specialization in genomic medicine. He looks forward to seeing patients in the Vanderbilt Genomics and Therapeutics Clinic and aims to translate what is learned from his research studies back to the care of his patients.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident in Medicine, MGH; Research Fellow</p>

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<p>Emily Brown, MD Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Naval Hospital Pensacola Specialty: Internal Medicine Education/Training: M.D. - University of Alabama School of Medicine Hometown: Mobile, AL Interests/Achievements: Dr. Emily Brown grew up in Mobile, Alabama. She attended Millsaps College and graduated magna cum laude with honors in biochemistry. She attended the University of Alabama School of Medicine (MD, 2013) on a Health Professions Scholarship with the United States Navy. She entered active duty as a Lieutenant in 2013 and completed her residency in internal medicine at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 2019. She separated from active duty in 2020. After residency, she was stationed as an internist at Naval Hospital Pensacola where she served as the Associate Director for Medical Services, Department Head of Internal Medicine and Specialty Clinics, and Senior Medical Officer for Internal Medicine. She is a board-certified physician in internal medicine with clinical interest in diabetes and obesity management through the whole health approach. Her other clinical interest is in high quality medical care and continuous process improvement, having earned her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification. Her military decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, and Global War on Terror Medal. She is excited to join the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health and move to Nashville with her husband (ER physician) and two Weimaraners, Dory and Quinn.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Associate Director For Medical Services</p>
<p>Jeeyeon Cha, MD, PhD Instructor Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center Specialty: Endocrinology Education/Training: M.D. - University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Ph.D. - Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation Hometown: Fort Thomas, KY Interests/Achievements: Jeeyeon was born in Seoul, South Korea and spent her early years in Chicago, Illinois and Morgantown, West Virginia. She was accepted to the University of Cincinnati's BS/MD Dual Admissions Program in biomedical engineering and medicine. As an undergraduate, she was fortunate to work as a lab tech in the renowned joint lab of Chris Wylie and Janet Heasman at Cincinnati Children's studying Xenopus embryogenesis, resulting in a first-authored publication. They were instrumental in nurturing a love for basic science to understand clinical disease, so she pursued joint MSTP training at UC and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Her interest in reproductive endocrinology led to productive doctoral training with esteemed reproductive biologist Sudhansu K. (S.K.) Dey studying early pregnancy defects resulting in a spectrum of abnormal pregnancy outcomes. She then joined Vanderbilt's ABIM Physician-Scientist Training Program and completed clinical training in internal medicine and adult endocrinology. During clinical training, she developed a keen interest in diabetes and is now pursuing postdoctoral work with Roland Stein, an internationally recognized authority in pancreatic islet transcriptional programming. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter and experiencing the growing Nashville food scene.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Matthews Chacko, MD

Assistant Professor

**Division of Cardiovascular
Medicine**

Previous Institution: Johns Hopkins University

Previous Role/Title: Director of Peripheral Vascular Interventions,
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty: Interventional Cardiology

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Kansas School of Medicine

Hometown: Wichita, KS

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Chacko's clinical and research interests include coronary, carotid, renal, and peripheral artery disease management and treatment, TAVR, renal denervation, chronic total coronary occlusions, trans-radial catheterization, atherectomy, circulatory support devices, pre-operative cardiac evaluation for liver and kidney transplant, and critical care cardiology. His general interests include program building and providing clinical and procedural education and mentorship for medical students, medical residents, and cardiology fellows. His achievements include membership on the Cardiac and Renal Drug Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration.



Christopher Coe, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Hospital Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Boston University School of Medicine,

Hometown: Washington D.C.

Interests/Achievements: Christopher Coe received his BA from Middlebury College in Vermont. There, he studied Arabic, molecular biology, and biochemistry. After graduation he moved to Boston to study medicine at Boston University. He met his fiancée in medical school, and they moved together to Vanderbilt for residency. Christopher completed his internal medicine training at Vanderbilt in 2020 and was thrilled to stay on as a hospitalist. He has a special interest in GI diseases but enjoys practicing general medicine. His fiancée is an OB/GYN interested in maternal-fetal medicine. When not at work, Christopher enjoys reading, playing the piano, and traveling.

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Titus Daniels, MD, MPH

Associate Professor

Division of Infectious Diseases

Previous Institution: University of Chicago Biological Sciences Division

Specialty: Infectious Diseases

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Kansas School of Medicine

M.P.H. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Hometown: Goodland, KS

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Daniels is an infectious diseases physician with expertise in health care epidemiology antimicrobial stewardship. He also has a strong interest in the administration of health care. Clinical interests include the treatment of a wide variety of infectious disease with a focus on orthopaedic-related infections, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis. Dr. Daniels began a successful ID consult service and infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship program at Williamson Medical Center in Franklin, Tennessee, driving central-line associated blood stream infections and ventilator-associated complications to zero for more than one year. While serving as the physician executive for health information management at VUMC, Dr. Daniels led physician engagement in the design and development of a peer-based clinical documentation improvement program. While serving as the inaugural Ambulatory Chief Medical Officer for the University of Chicago Medicine Health System, Dr. Daniels oversaw the start of a 100,000 square-foot multi-specialty ambulatory clinic, transformation of the physician leadership structure for ambulatory services, and enhanced performance of the call center. In collaboration with the Chief Nursing Officer, Dr. Daniels led the integration of the first executive director for ambulatory nursing.

Previous Role/Title: Associate Professor; Chief Ambulatory Medical Officer; Chief Medical Officer, CHHD



Giovanni Davogusto, MD

Instructor

**Division of Cardiovascular
Medicine**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Specialty: Cardiovascular Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Universidad Central de Venezuela

Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Davogusto is a general cardiologist with a special interest in genetic and metabolic determinants of arrhythmias and cardiomyopathies. He completed his medical school training at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, graduating magna cum laude. He then pursued internal medicine training at the McGovern Medical School of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and cardiovascular medicine fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Previous Role/Title: Cardiovascular Medicine Fellow

During his training in internal medicine he received the "outstanding intern of the year" and "outstanding resident in ambulatory medicine" awards. He was also inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. In fellowship, he was awarded the Cardiovascular Medicine Rhode's Award for scholarly activity and was selected to be a chief fellow.

He is thrilled to stay at Vanderbilt to start his career as faculty, where he will be involved in clinical education and research in arrhythmia mechanisms.

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: _____ Previous Role/Title: _____
 Specialty: _____
 Education/Training: Ph.D. - Spanish National Cancer Research Centre
 Hometown: _____
 Interests/Achievements: _____

Aguirre de Cubas, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology



Andrew DeFilippis, MD, MSc
Associate Professor
**Division of Cardiovascular
 Medicine**

Previous Institution: University of Louisville School of Medicine, Kentucky Previous Role/Title: Director- Cardiovascular Intensive Care; Interim Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine
 Specialty: Cardiovascular Disease
 Education/Training: M.D. - Georgetown University School of Medicine
 Hometown: Maplewood, NJ
 Interests/Achievements: Dr. DeFilippis is a translational researcher leveraging his expertise in cohort development, clinical cardiology, cardiovascular epidemiology, and acute myocardial infarction (MI) to better understand, diagnose, and predict the full spectrum of myocardial injury events, specifically subtypes of MI. Dr. DeFilippis is a board-certified cardiologist and Medical Director of the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt. Dr. DeFilippis has significant experience evaluating cardiovascular risk prediction in the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) and serves on the MESA Project and Publication Committee. Dr. DeFilippis also has significant experience in acute MI diagnosis, treatment, and research. He serves on the steering committee for the NIH-sponsored multicenter Myocardial Ischemia and Transfusion (MINT) trial. Dr. DeFilippis has adjudicated over 800 cases for presence of acute MI as part of a diagnostic of a point of care troponin assay seeking FDA approval. Dr. DeFilippis' work has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals, including Annals of Internal Medicine, The Lancet, and Journal of the American College of Cardiology. He recently published an invited Viewpoint in Circulation Research, "Myocardial Infarction as a Clinical Endpoint in Research—What Are We Really Talking About?" and a White Paper in Circulation, "Assessment and Treatment of Patients with Type 2 Myocardial Infarction and Acute Non-Ischemic Myocardial Injury." Dr. DeFilippis is the principal investigator on NIH, foundation, and industry grants and works with an international team of collaborators on innovative projects to advance our ability to more effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat cardiovascular disease.

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Jeffrey Dendy, MD Assistant Professor Division of Cardiovascular Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of South Carolina School of Medicine Specialty: Cardiology Education/Training: M.D. - Vanderbilt University Hometown: Greenville, SC Interests/Achievements: Dr. Dendy is a native of Greenville, South Carolina, and completed all of his training at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine to include internship and residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine (2003-2007), also serving as chief cardiovascular medicine fellow and cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging fellow. He served as Medical Director of Cardiovascular Imaging at Greenville Health Systems (2011-2018), Medical Director of Cardiovascular Therapeutics Undergraduate Training at Clemson University and Greenville Health Systems (2013-2018), and Co-Medical Director of the Cardio-Oncology Patient Care Program at Greenville Health Systems (2014-2020). He was responsible for attaining and maintaining accreditation of the echocardiography clinical laboratories, and he also standardized imaging protocols and acquisition across the system. In addition, Dr. Dendy introduced three-dimensional transthoracic echocardiography and strain imaging to the outpatient echocardiography laboratories at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine- Greenville. He was involved with research in cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging during his time at Vanderbilt. He developed techniques for small animal cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging, and he explored the biophysical basis behind Blood Oxygenation Level Dependent (BOLD) imaging in the myocardium. He was also involved in work examining subendocardial perfusion abnormalities in patients with nonischemic cardiomyopathy.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Assistant Professor</p>
<p>Nanette Dendy, MD Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Prisma Health/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Specialty: Internal Medicine Education/Training: M.D. - University of Tennessee College of Medicine Hometown: Nashville, TN Interests/Achievements: Dr. Nanette Dendy is Nashville native, a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis and a 2004 graduate of the Internal Medicine Residency program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She practiced with the Hillsboro Medical Group at Vanderbilt from 2004-2010. She moved with her family to Greenville, South Carolina, and in the years between 2010-2020 has continued the practice of primary care internal medicine with a focus on teaching. She has served as the Internal Medicine Clerkship Director and as the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director for the Prisma Health/University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Greenville. Dr. Dendy has been voted the Most Outstanding Faculty Member, the Most Outstanding Outpatient Faculty Member, and has been awarded the Pryor Society Beacon Award at the University of South Carolina. Her interests include preventive medicine, diabetes, and women's health. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, a Fellow in the American College of Physicians, and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Dendy is very excited to return with her family to her hometown of Nashville, to her roots at VUMC, and to the Hillsboro Medical Group at Vanderbilt.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Internal Medicine Residency Program Director; Assistant Professor of Medicine</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Osama El Shamy, MD

Assistant Professor

**Division of Nephrology and
Hypertension**

Previous Institution: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Previous Role/Title: Home dialysis fellow

Specialty: Nephrology

Education/Training: M.D. - Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Hometown: Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

Interests/Achievements: Dr. El Shamy is a nephrologist with a special interest in the field of home dialysis (peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis). He attended Rutgers New Jersey Medical School before completing his internal medicine residency at Temple University Hospital. After completing his nephrology fellowship training at the Mount Sinai Hospital, he spent an additional year as the inaugural home dialysis fellow. He is involved in multiple research projects in the field of home dialysis including one that involved a novel peritoneal dialysis machine, as well as many qualitative clinical research projects. He has also presented at many large nephrology conferences including the American Society of Nephrology, the National Kidney Foundation, and the American Transplant Congress. Dr. El Shamy is a major proponent of home dialysis training for fellows. He was an integral part of revamping the home dialysis training program for fellows at his institution. He was an invited speaker at Mount Sinai's Advances in Peritoneal Dialysis annual symposium in 2019, delivering a talk on the importance of home dialysis training for fellows. He is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) and was the recipient of the GHHS award for his graduating class in medical school for his focus on improving patient education with his project titled "Knowledge is Gold." Finally, he is also interested in studying healthcare disparities in patients with CKD and was the recipient of a research career development award, which culminated in the publication of a paper, "Consent for Genetic Biobanking in a Diverse Multi-Site Chronic Kidney Disease Cohort."



Curtis Gabriel, MD, PhD

Instructor

**Division of Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Fellow, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Specialty: Gastroenterology

Education/Training: M.D. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Ph.D. - Vanderbilt University

Hometown: Antigo, WI

Interests/Achievements: Curtis completed his MD and PhD as part of the Vanderbilt University Medical Scientist Training Program. During graduate school, he worked with Amy S. Major to study the pathogenesis of fatty liver disease and diabetes in a mouse model of systemic lupus erythematosus. After medical school, he stayed at Vanderbilt for his internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship in the Harrison Society. His current research focuses on the mechanisms that give rise to fatty liver disease and cirrhosis in people living with HIV.

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: Atlantic Health System

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Family Medicine

Education/Training: D.O. - Lake Erie College Of Osteopathic Medicine

Hometown: Iselin, NJ

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Morli Gandhi is a family medicine doctor who studied at Lake Erie College of Medicine and completed her residency at Overlook Hospital in New Jersey. She was born and raised in New Jersey and went to college at Rutgers University. She worked with the Roots and Wings organization focused on providing primary care to young adults aged out of foster care. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with family, traveling, cooking, reading, swimming, and dancing.

Morli Gandhi, DO

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: Massachusetts General Hospital

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Hometown: Oxford, MS

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Gispen recently joined the Vanderbilt Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health as a hospitalist after completing her internal medicine residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She grew up in Oxford, Mississippi before venturing out to Stanford for college and graduate school, where she completed an undergraduate degree in human biology, a master's degree in management science and engineering, and swam on the women's swim team. She then spent a summer in San Diego studying philosophy and becoming a yoga instructor before moving to Baltimore for medical school at Johns Hopkins. She was initially drawn to psychiatry and joined the MGH McLean psychiatry residency, but during her intern year, she became fascinated by the breadth and diagnostic challenge of internal medicine and switched into medicine residency her second year. Her interests within internal medicine include interdisciplinary medical education and the overlap of psychiatric and medical disease. Outside of the hospital, she loves all water sports, live music, playing the piano and guitar, practicing and teaching yoga, and great food. She is thrilled to join the Vanderbilt hospitalist group and return to her roots in the South.

Fiona Gispen, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Jason Gokey, PhD Research Instructor Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Cincinnati Specialty: Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Education/Training: Ph.D. - State University of New York (SUNY) Hometown: Lisbon, New York Interests/Achievements: Dr. Jason J. Gokey is an Instructor in Medicine on the research track at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, joining the faculty after completing his fellowship training. Dr. Gokey earned his baccalaureate degree in biology and chemistry at State University of New York (SUNY), Potsdam, New York in 2009. He then entered a PhD program in cellular and developmental biology at that same institution, completing his degree in 2015. From 2015 to June 2020, Dr. Gokey was enrolled in a postdoctoral fellowship training program in pulmonary biology at the Cincinnati Children's Medical Center (University of Cincinnati), in Cincinnati, Ohio, under the mentorship of Dr. Jeffrey Whitsett. Dr. Gokey's research has focused strongly on the abnormal epithelial cell signaling associated with the progression of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a disease associated with abnormal epithelial cell differentiation, failure to repair after injury, and poor prognosis. It is Dr. Gokey's continuing endeavor to unravel the underlying mechanisms of this disease. He has shown a consistent and passionate interest in IPF throughout his recent academic career and is dedicated to furthering original research in this area going forward. Dr. Gokey is affiliated with the laboratory of Dr. Jonathan Kropski at VUMC.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Postdoctoral Fellow</p>
<p>Zhanna Grinchuk, MD Instructor in Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Virginia Tech Carilion Clinic Specialty: Family Medicine Education/Training: M.D. - Ross University School of Medicine Hometown: North Port, FL Interests/Achievements: Dr. Grinchuk's interests include primary care, women's health, adolescent medicine, and mental health.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident Physician</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Previous Institution: University of Kentucky</p> <p>Specialty: Hospital Medicine</p> <p>Education/Training: M.D. - University of Louisville School of Medicine</p> <p>Hometown: Livermore, KY</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Heflin joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in July 2020. After growing up in rural Western Kentucky, he completed his undergraduate training at the University of Kentucky receiving a BSc in biology and psychology. He went on to complete medical school at the University of Louisville and then returned to the University of Kentucky for his internal medicine residency. His primary interests include medical student education, point of care ultrasound, and clinical decision making. When away from work, he enjoys traveling to new US National Parks, watching and playing sports, and playing strategic board games.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident- Internal Medicine</p>
<p>McKinley Heflin, MD</p> <p>Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine</p> <p>Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	
<p>Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Specialty: Hospital Medicine</p> <p>Education/Training: M.D. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine</p> <p>Hometown: Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Michelle was born in Los Angeles, California, but she grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, where her family moved when she was three. She attended Emory University for her undergraduate studies where she received a double major in biology and chemistry. She went on to study medicine at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She completed residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. In addition to medicine, she is deeply devoted to creative writing and wrote her first novel when she was eleven. She won first place in the national 2016 Gold-Hope Tang Humanism in Medicine essay contest, and her medical creative writing has been published in journals including Annals of Internal Medicine, Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, Journal of General Internal Medicine, Academic Medicine, and Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident</p>
<p>Michelle Izmaylov, MD</p> <p>Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine</p> <p>Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Ming Jiang, MD, PhD Research Assistant Professor Division of Nephrology and Hypertension</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Kentucky College of Medicine Specialty: Nuclear receptor signaling pathways Education/Training: M.D. - Nantong Medical College Ph.D. - Shanghai Medical University Hometown: Nantong, Jiangsu, China Interests/Achievements: Dr. Jiang is a biomedical research scientist with extensive expertise in establishment and characterization of primary culture cells, immortalized cell lines, 3D-organoid culture, patient-derived xenografting (PDX), and tissue recombination-xenografting (TRX) models in prostate, bladder, colorectal, and lung organs. His research interests are focused on three main topics: 1) cross-talk of the Arachidonic Acid/COXs/LOXs/PPARgamma signaling pathways in pathogenesis and carcinogenesis; 2) functional remodeling of human normal, benign, and cancerous glandular tissues in a combination of 3D-organoid culture and tissue recombination-xenografting (TRX) mouse models based on epithelial-stromal interactions, tumor microenvironment, and immuno-oncology; and 3) establishment of a spontaneous human cancer-mouse multi-organ including bone metastases model. Dr. Jiang's general interests include functional dissection of nuclear receptor signaling pathways in pathogenesis, carcinogenesis, and cancer progression using novel in vitro and in vivo translational preclinical research models. Dr. Jiang's major contributions to science include 1) establishment and characterization of both inducible transgenic mouse lines PSA-Cre-ERT2, aP2-Cre-ERT2 and aAT-Cre-ERT, and translational preclinical research models NHPRE1, BHPRE1, BHPRS1 and iHDME1 cell lines and their regenerated tissue recombination-xenografts; 2) deciphering molecular mechanisms of nuclear receptor PPARgamma1/2 signaling pathway in prostate carcinogenesis and cancer progression using both transgenic knockout mouse lines and translational human-mouse TRX models; and 3) investigation of the effects of dietary magnesium (Mg) and calcium (Ca) on risks of common chronic disease.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Professional Non-Administration (Scientist III)</p>
<p>Emmanuel Johnson, MD Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Specialty: Internal Medicine Education/Training: M.D. - Meharry Medical College Hometown: Carrollton, GA Interests/Achievements: Dr. Johnson recently joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health. After growing up in Carrollton, Georgia, he attended the University of West Georgia. He completed medical school at Meharry Medical College where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He completed residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. His wife, Keshia, is a physical therapist, and they have a fluffy labradoodle named Dallas. When away from work, he enjoys exercising, watching and attending sporting events, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident Physician</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Basil Kahwash, MD Assistant Professor Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Ohio State University College of Medicine Specialty: Allergy and Immunology Education/Training: M.D. - University of Toledo College of Medicine Hometown: Albany, NY</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Basil Kahwash is an Assistant Professor of Medicine on the Clinical Educator track in the School of Medicine. He earned his baccalaureate degree in molecular biology, with a minor in statistics, from Kenyon College in 2010. He entered the College of Medicine and Life Sciences at the University of Toledo in 2011, earning his MD degree in 2015. Dr. Kahwash matched for residency at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis and completed that program in 2018. Upon completing his residency, he entered a fellowship program in allergy and immunology at The Ohio State College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio.</p> <p>Dr. Kahwash's primary interest is in healthcare quality improvement with a focus on provider-patient communication and patient health literacy. Health literacy gaps are often under-recognized in medicine, particularly as pertaining to complex diagnoses like asthma, and often lead to sub-optimal treatment and outcomes. An important part of Dr. Kahwash's role as a physician has been to recognize and bridge these gaps.</p> <p>Dr. Kawash is fluent in Arabic and Spanish. He has received honors and awards throughout his academic career, most recently a travel scholarship from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. Dr. Kawash is a member of the American Academic of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; the American Medical Association; the Clinical Immunology Society; and the World Allergy Organization. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and in Advanced Cardiac Life Support by the American Heart Association.</p>
<p>Laura Kennedy, MD, PhD Assistant Professor Division of Hematology/Oncology</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Specialty: Medical Oncology, Breast Cancer Education/Training: M.D. - Baylor College of Medicine Ph.D. - Rice University Hometown: Perry Hall, MD</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Kennedy's initial training was as a chemical engineer, and she planned to do biomedical research in pharmaceuticals. As she progressed through her studies, she realized that she wanted to achieve a more personal connection with the people that she was trying to help through her research. She applied and matriculated to the MD/PhD program at Baylor College of Medicine. During her time in graduate school at Rice University, she focused on how technology such as gold nanoparticles could help patients with cancer. After completing her MD/PhD, she continued her focus on cancer care by doing the clinical training needed to become a medical oncologist. During her time as an oncology fellow at the University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, she became interested in how the immune system can influence breast cancer response to therapy. She is currently working on minimally invasive strategies to predict tumor microenvironment response to immune treatments such as trastuzumab, and she has received an ASCO/CCF Young Investigator Award in Breast Cancer to support her work in this area. Her goal is to improve the lives of patients with breast cancer by creating tools that will let doctors choose the most efficacious therapy for an individual patient. Dr. Kennedy will be seeing patients at the Vanderbilt Breast Center and developing clinical trials to identify biomarkers of breast cancer immune response.</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Eric Kerchberger, MD

Instructor

**Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and
Critical Care Medicine**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Previous Role/Title: Postdoctoral Fellow

Specialty: Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Emory University School of Medicine

Hometown: Barrington, IL

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Vern "Eric" Kerchberger earned his baccalaureate degree from Yale University in chemistry in 2008. Upon graduation he entered medical school at Emory University, completing his MD degree in 2012. Eric did his internship and residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia University Medical Center) from July of 2013 through June 2015 and immediately entered the fellowship program at Vanderbilt in pulmonary and critical care medicine. In August of 2018 he began a master's degree program at Vanderbilt University in biomedical informatics, with graduation anticipated in 2020. Upon completion of his fellowship in July 2020, he took up his role as Instructor in Medicine on the Vanderbilt faculty. Dr. Kerchberger is actively engaged in clinical and translational research, with a focus on using large electronic health record databases for critical illness phenotyping and to study the role of genetic variation in critical illness syndromes including the acute respiratory distress syndrome. His research reaches across multiple disciplines and has fostered collaborative efforts with faculty in the Department of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Informatics, and Vanderbilt Genetics Institute. Dr. Kerchberger has consistently demonstrated a passion for teaching during his clinical fellowship. He received the Hugh Jackson Morgan Teaching Award for Best Fellow Teacher during his first year of fellowship training in recognition of his commitment to teaching from the internal medicine residency program. He is a member of the American Thoracic Society, the American Medical Informatics Association, and the American Society of Human Genetics.

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow

Specialty: Nephrology

Education/Training: D.O. - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Interests/Achievements: Guneet Kochar, DO, completed his internal medicine residency and served as chief resident at the University of Kansas prior to starting general nephrology and hypertension training at VUMC. He is completing training in transplant nephrology and has an interest in optimizing care for patients with failing kidney transplants.

Guneet Kochar, DO

Instructor

**Division of Nephrology and
Hypertension**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Duke University

Hometown: Hacienda Heights, CA

Interests/Achievements: Peter recently joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Section of Hospital Medicine. He completed a BSE in chemical engineering at Princeton University, research fellowship at the NIH, MD at Duke University, and internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins University. His research has been in the fields of machine learning, medical image processing, signal processing of cardiac tracings, and clinical research in cardiovascular medicine. His interests also include clinical reasoning and point of care ultrasound.

Peter Liu, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: Johns Hopkins Hospital

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

Education/Training: M.D. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

M.P.H. - Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Hometown: Sewanee, TN

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Cooper Lloyd recently joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health with a clinical interest in primary care across the age spectrum and a broader interest in health equity. After growing up in Boston, she completed medical school at Vanderbilt, residency in the Urban Health Med-Peds program at Johns Hopkins, and an MPH at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Lloyd is now on the clinician educator track. Her primary interests are in trauma and trauma-informed care, medical education related to health equity, and the unique health needs of underserved populations. Her family now lives in Sewanee, TN, and she is thrilled about returning to Vanderbilt and living closer to the Cumberland Plateau. When away from work, she enjoys running, hiking, trying new restaurants, playing and listening to live music, and spending time with her family.

Cooper Lloyd, MD, MPH

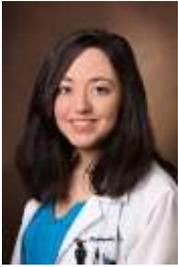
Assistant Professor

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Nicholas Markham, MD, PhD</p> <p>Instructor</p> <p>Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Specialty: Gastroenterology</p> <p>Education/Training: M.D. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Ph.D. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine</p> <p>Hometown: Carmel, IN</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Markham is committed to improving gastrointestinal health as a physician and scientist. In medical school, he was selected for the Canby Robinson Scholarship within the Vanderbilt Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD). During his graduate training, his publications related to understanding how cell-cell junction proteins contribute to development and disease by altering cytoskeletal and growth factor signaling pathways. Stemming from these projects, he became interested in <i>C. difficile</i>, because its toxins bind growth factor receptors and interfere with cytoskeletal dynamics. He stayed at VUMC to complete a gastroenterology fellowship and was a Harrison Society Scholar. He was selected for postdoctoral funding through the Division of Gastroenterology T32 training program. During fellowship, he published studies on growth factor signaling and gastrointestinal biology. He has given oral presentations at Digestive Disease Week and the VU Single Cell Biology Symposium. He was awarded a Vanderbilt Digestive Disease Research Center Pilot Project grant to develop a novel technology for studying microbial toxins and their effect on human cells. He was selected to present his investigations on the interaction between the microbiome and colon cancer to the NCI Human Tumor Atlas Network. Dr. Markham is excited to join the faculty and enhance our understanding of <i>C. difficile</i> infection and colon cancer.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Gastroenterology Fellow</p>
<p>Concepcion Martinez, MD</p> <p>Instructor in Clinical Medicine</p> <p>Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Meharry Medical College/Meharry Medical Group</p> <p>Specialty: Family Medicine</p> <p>Education/Training: M.D. - University of Texas Health Science Center</p> <p>Hometown: Plano, TX</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Martinez is currently a physician with 28 years of clinical experience in family medicine and teaching. She is interested in caring for a wide variety of patients in areas such as acute care, procedures, ultrasound, and women's health. She is particularly interested in international health and has participated in and supervised several medical missions (Medical Brigades) to Honduras and Kenya. She plans on continuing to participate in others as often as possible. As a family medicine physician, she is comfortable caring for all people and very much enjoys a variety of age, socioeconomic status, and ethnic differences in her patients.</p> <p>General Interests are centered around home and family. Dr. Martinez has three Eagle Scouts and is still very active in the Scouts of America. She also has a small farm with goats and a large garden. She enjoys sewing, needlepoint, crochet, spinning, and fiber work.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Assistant Professor/Medical Director</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Mona Mashayekhi, MD, PhD
Instructor
**Division of Diabetes,
Endocrinology, and Metabolism**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow

Specialty: Endocrinology

Education/Training: M.D. - Washington University

Ph.D. - Washington University

Hometown: Fort Lee, NJ

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Mona Mashayekhi graduated with an MD/PhD in immunology from Washington University in St Louis. She then pursued clinical training in internal medicine and endocrinology at Vanderbilt University and served as chief resident in internal medicine at the Nashville VA. Dr. Mashayekhi is interested in the tissue-specific immune responses in obesity, specifically investigating obese adipose tissue T cells.

Previous Institution: Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

Education/Training: M.D. - Pennsylvania State University College of
Medicine

Hometown: Irwin, PA

Interests/Achievements: Dr. McCann recently joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health with a focus on hospitalist medicine. After growing up in the greater Pittsburgh area, he went on to graduate from Allegheny College where he also played collegiate soccer. He then completed medical school at Penn State University College of Medicine and residency at Penn State Health in combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics. His primary academic interests include health systems science, medical education, transition care of pediatric patients to the adult care model, complex care, and hospitalist medicine. His wife, Brittany, will be starting her anesthesiology critical care medicine fellowship in July 2020. When away from work, he enjoys running, hiking, eating, and cooking.

Michael McCann, MD
**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**
**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Resident Physician

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - The University of Kansas School of Medicine

Hometown: Olathe, KS

Interests/Achievements: Robert completed his medical school training at the University of Kansas prior to starting his residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt. His research interests are in medical education with an emphasis in medical humanities.

Robert McKnight, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: University of Colorado

Previous Role/Title: Fellow in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Specialty: Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Indiana University School of Medicine

Hometown: North Vernon, IN

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Katie McPherson is an Assistant Professor of Medicine on the clinician educator track at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She earned her baccalaureate degree (2009) at Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana in chemistry and ethics. During her time at Hanover, she studied philosophy and theology with international content experts at Katolieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium. While there, Dr. McPherson went on to earn her medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis in 2013 and remained to complete her internal medicine training in 2016. She then served as chief resident (2016-2017) at Indiana Universities' affiliate, Methodist Hospital. Prior to joining the Vanderbilt faculty, Dr. McPherson completed a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine in the Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado in Aurora (Anschutz Campus). During her fellowship, Dr. McPherson enrolled in the University of Colorado's Teaching Scholars Program where she gained expertise in adult educational theory and scholarship in medical education. During her third year, she developed additional clinical expertise in the area of lung transplantation. Also during fellowship, Dr. McPherson realized her passion for medical education and development of learning climate. She focused her primary scholarship on curricula development, including a MICU curriculum and a "Fellow as Educator" curriculum that was awarded the 2020 American Thoracic Society (ATS) Innovations in Fellowship Education program's top abstract. In addition to her clinical duties in pulmonary and critical care medicine, Dr. McPherson currently serves on the Lung Transplant/Advanced Lung Disease service at Vanderbilt.

Katie McPherson, MD

Assistant Professor

**Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and
Critical Care Medicine**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: University of Michigan Health System

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: Hospital Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Washington School of Medicine

Hometown: Great Falls, MT

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Miller recently joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Section of Hospital Medicine and plans to expand upon her interests of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety as a member of the Vanderbilt faculty. Following her upbringing in Montana, she received her BS from the University of Notre Dame. She completed medical school at the University of Washington and her Internal Medicine residency at the University of Michigan. Throughout residency, she was involved in resident education and hopes to broaden her experience to incorporate medical education and curriculum development.

Catherine Miller, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center Wilson County,
St. Thomas Midtown Hospital

Previous Role/Title: Active Medical Staff, GI rotations St. Thomas
Internal Medicine Residency

Specialty: Gastroenterology

Education/Training: M.D. - Temple University

Hometown: Wilkes Barre, PA

Interests/Achievements:

Mark Miller, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Michael J Neuss, MD, PhD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Resident

Specialty: General Internal Medicine, Hospital Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - Duke University

Ph.D. - Columbia University

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Michael J. Neuss is thrilled to join the faculty of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health, with a focus on hospital medicine. He completed medical school at Duke University and residency at Vanderbilt University. Prior to medical school, he took a PhD in history at Columbia University. Specific areas of interest were the history of science and medicine, as well as early modern European history. A Richard Hofstadter fellowship supported his doctoral studies. The focus of his dissertation was William Harvey's description of the systemic circulation of blood (ca. 1620s). Dr. Neuss's current research is on the early history (ca. 1960s-1970s) of what we now call the electronic health record. His interest in the history of medicine also extends to a number of smaller educational projects around the school of medicine, as well as extramural commitments including participation on the editorial committee for the journal CHEST's new "Humanities in Chest Medicine" section.

Dr. Neuss also has broad interests in medical education and quality improvement. He was the editor-in-chief of the inaugural edition of Vanderbilt's internal medicine residency handbook, which provides specific, systems-based guidance for residents (and especially new interns) on clinical practice at VUMC and the Nashville VA. A web version is available at <http://www.VIMBook.org>.

Select Publications:

- 1) Neuss MJ, "Blood Money: Harvey's De motu cordis (1628) as an Exercise in Accounting" British Journal for the History of Science 51, no. 2 (2018): 181-203.
- 2) Neuss MJ, ed. Commodore Compendium: Vanderbilt Internal Medicine Residency Handbook, Inaugural Edition. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Medical Center; 2019.
- 3) Borst AJ, Sudan DL, Wang LA, Neuss MJ, Rothman JA, Ortel TL. Bleeding and thrombotic complications of pediatric liver transplant. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*; 65, no. 5 (2018).
- 4) Neuss MJ, Holland TL. Digital ischaemia after intra-arterial drug injection. *BMJ Case Rep*. 2017 Sep 25;2017.11

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Maria Niarchou, PhD Research Instructor Division of Genetic Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Queensland, Brisbane Specialty: Genetic epidemiology Education/Training: Ph.D. - Cardiff University Hometown: Kalamata, Greece Interests/Achievements: Following a degree in psychology at the University of Athens (Greece), an MSc in Neuropsychology at the University of Bristol (UK), and a PhD at the MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics at Cardiff University (UK), Dr. Niarchou was awarded a Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship. During her four-year fellowship, Dr Niarchou worked as a research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of Prof. Raquel Gur, at the University of Queensland (Australia) under the supervision of Prof. Naomi Wray, and at VUMC under the supervision of Dr. Lea Davis, where she received advanced statistical training and immersed herself in projects using biobank data.</p> <p>Dr. Maria Niarchou's research aims to establish the etiological mechanisms underlying risk for major neuropsychiatric disorders. She is especially interested in how the interaction of multiple genetic and environmental factors can contribute to the development of psychiatric symptomatology. She has used many different study designs including longitudinal epidemiological studies and genetic studies to elucidate these relationships. Dr Niarchou's research focus during her PhD and postdoctoral work was on examining the role of Copy Number Variants (i.e., deletions and duplications of genetic material) in the development of psychiatric problems in children and adolescents. Dr. Niarchou's research interests have now expanded also to examine how common genetic variation can explain risk for psychiatric disorders. Dr Niarchou is particularly intrigued by how polygenic risk, rare variant risk, and environment combine to contribute to major neuropsychiatric disorders.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Visiting Postdoctoral Research Fellow</p>
<p>Alexander Nourse, DO Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine Specialty: Internal Medicine Education/Training: D.O. - Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine M.B.A. - Troy University Sorrell College of Business Hometown: Easton, PA Interests/Achievements: Dr. Nourse earned two undergraduate degrees with a BS in biology and BS in psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He pursued his graduate studies at Georgetown University where he received an MS in physiology and biophysics. In medical school, he became the first graduate of the dual DO/MBA program attaining his business degree from Troy University and medical degree from the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Nourse graduated both medical school and business school with greater than 3.90 GPAs, earning him the "Most Outstanding Graduate Student Award" and Sigma Sigma Phi national honors. He then completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine prior to joining Vanderbilt University Medical Center. During residency, he served on numerous committees and engaged in research, presenting, and teaching. Dr. Nourse has interests in academic and hospitalist medicine as well as leadership and quality improvement.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident Physician</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow

Specialty: Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Illinois College of Medicine

Hometown: Fairfield, IL

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Orr completed his undergraduate training in kinesiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then attended medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. His training continued with internal medicine internship and residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham followed by general gastroenterology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Orr's primary interest is in therapeutic endoscopy with a focus on pancreaticobiliary disease. He is receiving specialized training in eradication therapies (including radiofrequency ablation) for Barrett's esophagus and early esophageal cancer, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), cholangioscopy, endoluminal stent placement, deep enteroscopy/balloon enteroscopy, endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) of large polyps, endoscopic suturing, fistula and leak closure, endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) for cancer staging, fine needle aspiration and biopsy, and interventional procedures.

Jordan Orr, MD

Instructor

**Division of Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition**

He is board certified in internal medicine and is an active member of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, American College of Gastroenterology, and American Gastroenterological Association.



David Patrick, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

Division of Clinical Pharmacology

Previous Institution: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Cardiovascular Medicine Fellow

Specialty: Cardiovascular Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Texas Southwestern

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Interests/Achievements: Dr. David Patrick is a physician-scientist in the Divisions of Clinical Pharmacology and Cardiovascular Medicine. He received his MD/PhD from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and performed his dissertation research in the laboratory of Dr. Eric Olson studying the role of small RNAs in cardiac hypertrophy and fibrosis. He then completed his internal medicine and cardiovascular medicine training as a member of the Harrison Society at VUMC. His postdoctoral fellowship was performed in the laboratory of Dr. David Harrison where he studied the role of the immune system in cardiovascular disease and essential hypertension. The focus of his current research is the immune mechanisms driving essential hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Current projects in his laboratory include studying the role of reactive oxygen species and antigen presentation in essential hypertension and systemic autoimmunity. His clinical interests include the care of patients with systemic autoimmune conditions and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Patrick has received numerous awards for his research including the Young Investigator Award from the American Association of Immunologists. His wife, Dr. Anna Patrick, is a physician-scientist in the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology at VUMC. Outside of work he enjoys trail running and Nashville's music scene.

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: Duke University Hospital

Previous Role/Title: Internal Medicine Housestaff

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Education/Training: M.D. - The George Washington University

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Pollard recently joined the Vanderbilt faculty in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health with a focus on primary care and medical education. Dr. Pollard is in the clinician educator track and will join Vanderbilt Primary Care at North One Hundred Oaks. After growing up in Chicago, she received degrees in both political science and American studies at the University of Virginia before attending medical school at George Washington University, where she completed a community health concentration. She completed an internal medicine residency at Duke University while receiving formal training in medical education and healthcare policy. She is excited to explore Nashville and enjoys running, hiking, and college sports in her free time.

Kathleen Pollard, MD

Assistant Professor

**Division of General Internal
Medicine and Public Health**

Previous Institution: University of Tennessee Medical Residency Program

Previous Role/Title: Instructor

Specialty: Gastroenterology

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Texas San Antonio

Hometown: Gonzales, TX

Interests/Achievements:

Neil Price, MD

**Assistant Professor of Clinical
Medicine**

**Division of Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition**

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow

Specialty: Medical Oncology

Education/Training: M.B.B.S. - University of the West Indies School of Medicine

Hometown: Jamaica

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Reid is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center). Her research primarily focuses on health disparities in breast cancer, young-onset breast cancer, and hereditary breast cancer. Specifically, she is investigating genomic differences that may be contributing to the racial survival disparity in breast cancer. Dr. Reid is also focused on improving health care delivery to underserved communities and increasing the representation of minority patients in clinical trials. She is also actively involved in breast cancer research in Jamaica and recently completed a Master of Public Health degree from Vanderbilt University with a focus on global health. Dr. Reid received the Martin Luther King Jr. award in recognition of her work in diversity, inclusion, and equity at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Clinically, she focuses on caring for breast cancer patients with a special interest in high-risk patients.

Sonya Reid, MD

Assistant Professor

Division of Hematology/Oncology

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow

Specialty: Nephrology

Education/Training: M.D. - Mercer University School of Medicine

Hometown: Blairsville, GA

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Sarrell completed medical school at Mercer University School of Medicine, internal medicine residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, and nephrology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is interested in transplant nephrology.

Bonnie Sarrell, MD

Instructor

Division of Nephrology and Hypertension

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Hayden Shafer, MD Instructor in Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of North Carolina Specialty: Family Medicine Education/Training: M.D. - East Tennessee State University Hometown: Nashville, TN Interests/Achievements: Dr. Shafer's medical and research interests include LGBTQ+ primary care, addiction medicine, urgent and acute care services, hospital medicine, and outpatient procedures including skin biopsy, incision/excision and repair, musculoskeletal injections, and LARCs.</p> <p>His general interests include live music, movies, hiking, swimming, culinary arts, fine cuisine, and computers. In his time off you can find him traveling, exploring the food and drink scene, hiking with his dog, and ending the day with a concert.</p> <p>Most recently he was chosen for the Robert C. Cefalo House Officer Award at the University of North Carolina Hospitals. This has been a part of his residency initiatives, which allowed him to create and define an LGBTQ health curriculum for medicine residencies. In addition to this, he was able to introduce gender-affirming care to the resident clinic.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Resident Physician</p>
<p>Katelyn Smelser, MD Instructor in Clinical Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Saint Luke's Health System Specialty: Internal Medicine - Pediatrics Education/Training: M.D. - University of Missouri Hometown: St. Louis, MO Interests/Achievements: Dr. Smelser is eager to use her clinical experience as an internal medicine/pediatrics-trained physician in a career working for the Vanderbilt walk-in clinics. Urgent care medicine will develop her diagnostic, procedural, and patient counseling skills. She looks forward to the challenge of developing this special skillset as a clinician over the coming years. This will be her primary focus initially.</p> <p>Dr. Smelser's academic interests outside of clinical practice are quality improvement and physician leadership. She believes her time as a chief resident and serving as Vice President on the Graduate Medical Education Housestaff Council have prepared her well to advance her career in these avenues.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Staff Hospitalist</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Jason Springer, MD Associate Professor Division of Rheumatology and Immunology</p>	<p>Previous Institution: University of Kansas Medical Center Specialty: Rheumatology, Vasculitis Education/Training: M.D. - University of Louisville Hometown: Mesa, AZ Interests/Achievements: Dr. Jason Springer completed his general rheumatology fellowship followed by a vasculitis fellowship at Cleveland Clinic. He completed a Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research at Kansas University and went on to serve as the Director of the Vasculitis Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) from 2013 to 2020. He also served as co-director of the Clinical Trials Unit for the Division of Allergy, Clinical Immunology, and Rheumatology for KUMC. He serves on the board of directors and chairs the research committee for the Vasculitis Foundation. He has served as an organizer, moderator, and speaker for the Vasculitis Foundation Regional Kansas City Patient Vasculitis Symposium in 2014, 2016, and 2018. He serves on the literature review committee for the development of the 2020 American College of Rheumatology Vasculitis Guidelines.</p> <p>Dr. Springer's research interests have been focused on translational and clinical studies in forms of primary systemic vasculitis. He has multiple abstracts and publications on the role of mast cells in vascular inflammation and Kawasaki's disease. He is the principal investigator for a clinical trial evaluating the development of immunogenicity in patients with ANCA-associated vasculitis receiving rituximab for maintenance therapy. He has served as a collaborator on many multi-center trials with the Vasculitis Clinical Research Consortium (VCRC). He also serves a role in the development of the Vasculitis-Patient Powered Research Network (V-PPRN), which is a prospective, internet-based, patient-reported registry with over 2,000 participants internationally. He has served as co-principal investigator of several studies utilizing the V-PPRN.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Director, Vasculitis Center</p>
<p>Monica Stout, MD Assistant Professor Division of Geriatric Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Baylor College of Medicine Specialty: Family Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Wound Care Education/Training: M.D. - Medical College of Wisconsin Hometown: Pewaukee, WI Interests/Achievements:</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Advanced Fellow, Geriatric Wound Care</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Sahar Takkouche, MD</p> <p>Instructor</p> <p>Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Brooklyn Hospital - Mt. Sinai</p> <p>Specialty: Internal Medicine</p> <p>Education/Training: M.D. - American University of Antigua</p> <p>Hometown: Brooklyn, NY</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Sahar Takkouche, MD, is a New York native. She received her Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of New York's Brooklyn College. She worked as a research assistant at New York University studying clinical nutrition, metabolism, and its impact on cardiovascular disease. Dr. Takkouche obtained her medical degree from the American University of Antigua College of Medicine in 2017. She completed her internal medicine residency in New York at the Brooklyn Hospital, an affiliate of Mount Sinai. During the SARS COVID-2 pandemic, Dr. Takkouche effectively doubled the number of critical care beds available by opening a second intensive care unit under the guidance of her chair and mentor. She has been awarded the "Best in Brooklyn" by the New York State Senator. Her academic interests focus on education of residents and medical students. Her research interests include obesity medicine, metabolism, the gut-brain axis, critical care medicine, and cardiovascular health. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, working out, and sampling new plant-based recipes.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Internal Medicine Resident</p>
 <p>Erin Wilfong, MD, PhD</p> <p>Instructor</p> <p>Division of Rheumatology and Immunology</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Specialty: Rheumatology, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine</p> <p>Education/Training: M.D. - Duke University</p> <p>Ph.D. - Duke University</p> <p>Hometown: Worthington, OH</p> <p>Interests/Achievements: Dr. Wilfong completed her MD at Duke University in 2011. Since that time, she has pursued clinical training in internal medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, rheumatology at the University of California, San Francisco, and pulmonary/critical care medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She has leveraged her unique training in both rheumatology and pulmonology to pursue translational immunology research in idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM), which encompass dermatomyositis, polymyositis, and the anti-synthetase syndromes. Interstitial lung disease is a major cause of morbidity and mortality for IIM patients, and Dr. Wilfong sees patients with connective tissue-related lung disease in her clinic. Dr. Wilfong runs the Myositis and Scleroderma Treatment Initiative Center (MYSTIC) cohort, which serves as comprehensive biorepository and longitudinal cohort to facilitate translational research into these devastating diseases. Her current research focuses on abnormal B cell signaling within IIM using mass cytometry, fluorescence cytometry, and single cell RNA-Seq. Her research is supported by both Myositis UK and The Myositis Association.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020



Jordan Wright, MD, PhD

Instructor

**Division of Diabetes,
Endocrinology, and Metabolism**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Clinical Fellow

Specialty: Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism

Education/Training: M.D. - University of Michigan

Ph.D. - University of Michigan

Hometown: Woodland Hills, UT

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Wright is a physician-scientist interested in the pathogenesis and treatment of diabetes mellitus. Prior to joining Vanderbilt, he researched cardiovascular complications of diabetes and mechanisms responsible for mutant insulin-gene related diabetes. At Vanderbilt, under the mentorship of Alvin Powers, his research focuses on the pathologic changes seen in the pancreas of organ donors with diabetes, particularly how changes in immune cells of these donors may influence pancreatic islet function and dysfunction. He is also interested in immune-checkpoint inhibitor associated diabetes, studying pre-clinical models of this disease and collaborating with other clinicians at Vanderbilt to improve our understanding and our management of the complications of these novel cancer therapies.

Clinically, Dr. Wright has a broad interest in general endocrinology, seeing patients in the inpatient and outpatient settings with diabetes as well as conditions related to thyroid, parathyroid, pituitary, adrenal, reproduction, and bone physiology. He is particularly interested in management of patients with endocrine-related complications of cancer immunotherapy.



Zachary Yoneda, MD

Instructor

**Division of Cardiovascular
Medicine**

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Previous Role/Title: Cardiovascular Medicine Fellow

Specialty: Cardiology

Education/Training: M.D. - Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Hometown: Lexington, Ky

Interests/Achievements: Dr. Yoneda will be continuing his research with the AHA SFRN clinical project in atrial fibrillation. His research focuses on precision approaches towards management of atrial fibrillation using both pharmacologic and invasive techniques. He will be completing his MSCI in the coming year and hopes to pursue a career in electrophysiology the year after.

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

<p>Shannon Ellrich, DNP, MSN Assistant in Medicine Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Specialty: Nurse Practitioner Education/Training: D.N.P. - Vanderbilt University School of Nursing M.S.N. - Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Hometown: Nashville, TN Interests/Achievements: Shannon Ellrich, DNP, is an Assistant in Medicine in the Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine. She is a lead nurse practitioner for the VUMC Advanced Lung Disease Service. As an Assistant in Medicine, Dr. Ellrich functions as an acute care nurse practitioner, providing for around-the-clock coverage in collaboration with other members of the health care team. As a lead nurse practitioner, she provides leadership to her team and participates in recruitment and onboarding. Prior to joining the Department of Medicine, Dr. Ellrich served on the Vanderbilt faculty as Assistant in Anesthesiology in the Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Ellrich has extensive experience as an advanced practice nurse in a military setting, including assigned international positions; she served at the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, working as part of an Ebola management training team. Dr. Ellrich also has a faculty appointment in the School of Nursing as Instructor of Nursing, secondary. She earned her baccalaureate degree from Belmont University in nursing with a minor in military science in 2009, receiving recognition as a Military Honors Graduate and recipient of the George C. Marshall Leadership Award. In 2017 she received a Master of Science in Nursing from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and went on to earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, also from the School of Nursing at Vanderbilt. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the Society of Critical Care Medicine.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Assistant in Anesthesiology, Instructor of Nursing</p>
<p>Meredith Gerhart, MS Associate in Medicine Division of Genetic Medicine</p>	<p>Previous Institution: Stanford Health Care Specialty: Cancer Genetics Education/Training: M.S. - Northwestern University Hometown: Knoxville, TN Interests/Achievements: Meredith received a Master of Science in Genetic Counseling from Northwestern University and began her career as the first cancer genetic counselor at Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in Jacksonville, Florida. During her time in Florida from 2014-2018, Meredith helped grow the program by facilitating the incorporation of genetics into the EMR, initiating billing for services, coordinating grant funding for genetic testing coverage, and adding an additional genetic counselor and a genetic counseling assistant. In 2018, Meredith moved to California where she worked as a cancer genetic counselor at Stanford Health Care from 2018-2020. While at Stanford, Meredith was a member of a small team that received a clinical innovation grant to create video content for pre-test counseling and coordinated cancer genetics rotations for the internal medicine residents. Meredith also served as a primary advisor for a genetic counseling student research project and worked as a primary clinical supervisor through the training program. Meredith is excited to have moved back to her home state of Tennessee with her husband and two young daughters.</p>	<p>Previous Role/Title: Cancer Genetic Counselor</p>

Faculty Joining the Department of Medicine Between 5/1/2020 & 10/31/2020

Previous Institution: Previous Role/Title:
Specialty:
Education/Training: D.N.P. - Vanderbilt University
M.S.N. - Vanderbilt University
Hometown:
Interests/Achievements:

Candi Hicks, DNP, MSN

Assistant in Medicine

**Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and
Critical Care Medicine**



Brenda Zuniga, MS

Assistant in Medicine

Division of Genetic Medicine

Previous Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center Previous Role/Title: Senior Program Manger
Specialty: Inherited Cancer Predisposition
Education/Training: M.S. - The Ohio State University
Hometown: Firestone, CO
Interests/Achievements: Brenda Zuniga is a cancer genetic counselor at Vanderbilt. She received her MS in genetic counseling from The Ohio State University in 2018 and was certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling in 2020. She also has nine years of experience as a certified cytogenetics technologist where she performed cancer chromosome and molecular analyses in a clinical setting. Brenda was born and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, and is fluent in both English and Spanish. Her professional interests lie in increasing access to healthcare, specifically genetic counseling, by incorporating alternate service delivery models to reach under-served populations and minority groups.