

Division of Nephrology and Hypertension Newsletter

April 2022 – Issue 7

Spring has sprung...

Check out some of our fabulous news and important highlights!



Division Announcements

- Fri, April 8th** Nephrology Staff Pizza Day – 12 pm (Nephrology Conference room B3127)
- Fri, April 15th** Good Friday (not official VUMC Holiday)
- Sun, April 17th** Easter (not official VUMC Holiday)
- Sat, April 23rd** Tennessee Kidney Foundation Annual Gala
- Wed, April 27th** Administrative Professionals' Day

Clinical News:

From the desk of Dr. Ikizler:

Congratulations to **Dr. Heidi Schaefer**, who has accepted the position of Medical Director of the VUMC Adult Solid Organ Transplant Center! Dr. Schaefer has played a key role in the increasing growth of the kidney program from 100 kidney transplants in 2004, when she was recruited, to over 300 in 2021. We wish Dr. Schaefer the best of luck in her new role and eagerly anticipate the many contributions she will make for the Vanderbilt Transplant Center.

Diversity News:

From the desk of Dr. Umeukeje:

Diversity Events: The April diversity poster will be sent separately as soon as it becomes available.

VOKC News:

From the desk of Dr. Cavanaugh:

VOKC Patient, Family, and Community Health Advisory Board: The next virtual meeting is May 10th.

Research News:

Research Talks:

Dr. Eman Gohar recently had a talk featured in Cardiology talk titled, “Acclimation to a High-Salt Diet is Sex Dependent.” To watch her talk, please go to this link:

https://cardiologytalk.com/video/712/eman-y.-gohar-phd-vumchealth-vumckidney-cardiology-acclimation-to-a-high%E2%80%90salt-diet-is-sex-dependent?channelName=__600c9efaa3c99

Research Publications:

Dr. Eman Gohar’s lab recently had a review article accepted for publication in Biomolecules (MDPI Journal, Manuscript ID: biomolecules-1596945) entitled “Emerging Roles for G Protein-Coupled Estrogen Receptor 1 (GPER1) in Cardio-Renal Health: Implications for Aging”, as part of the Special Issue “Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Cardiorenal Diseases”. This review elaborates on the interaction between GPER1 signaling and other signaling pathways that play critical roles in the maintenance of cardio-renal health including the renin-angiotensin aldosterone system, endothelin-1, nitric oxide, reactive oxygen species, mitochondria, immunity, and inflammation.

Dr. Adriana Hung and team recently had an MVP (Military Veteran Program) article featured in a VA Research brochure titled, “Genetics of Kidney Disease and Hypertension, Risk Prediction, and Drug Response.”

Kudos:

Congrats to **Dr. Eman Gohar** for being selected as the recipient 2022 Renal Section New Investigator Award from the American Physiological Society!

Congrats to **Lale Ertuglu** for winning 2nd place for Basic Science and **Elvis Akwo** on winning 1st for Clinical Research at the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation's 21st Annual SSCI Nephrology Young Investigators' Forum Awards!

Congrats to **Dr. Bill Fissell** on being awarded the 2022 AAKP Medal of Excellence award recipient in the physician category from the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP)! The Medal of Excellence is one of the highest honors AAKP bestows on kidney healthcare professionals and is designed to elevate national and international figures who have been in the forefront of advancements in kidney care and patient empowerment. The award recognizes professionals who are committed to improving and extending the lives of all kidney patients through advocacy, research, technology, and quality-driven treatments that protect patient dignity and fully align with patient aspirations.

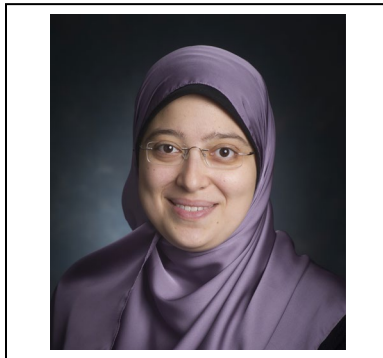
Congrats to **Dr. Lauren Woodard** on being awarded for her Pilot & Feasibility grant proposal titled, "Induced nephron progenitor-derived exosomes for diabetic nephropathy" by the DRTC/CDTR P&F Program!

Congrats to **Drs. JP Arroyo and Andrew Terker** on being awarded the inaugural 2022 Emerging-Generation Awards by the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) which recognizes excellence in post-MD, pre-faculty appointment physician-scientists who are engaged in immersive research!

<https://the-asci.org/controllers/asci/ListingController.php?action=year&category=egen&year=2022>

Spotlight Newsletter Recipients

Eman Gohar, PhD, MS



Dr. Eman Gohar is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Her laboratory is located in Medical Research Building IV (P435). Dr. Gohar has an appointment to the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance Faculty Affiliate Program. Dr. Gohar serves as a Co-chair for Organizing Committee for the Basic Research Forum for Emerging Kidney Scientists (ASN). She also serves as a member on Kidney in Heart Disease Science Committee, Council on The Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease (American

Heart Association) and a member on Cardiovascular Pharmacology Division Programming Committee (American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics).

Gohar Lab targets improving our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying sex differences in hypertension and associated cardiovascular and renal disease, with a focus on estrogenic signaling in the kidney. When she is not in the lab, she enjoys hiking and cooking with her kids. She also enjoys traveling around the world, including visiting her family in Alexandria, Egypt.

Renea Furnald



Renea Furnald is a Lead Administrative Assistant in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She has been with VUMC since 2020. Renea reports to Crystal Spencer and supports 20 Faculty members for all their administrative needs, including in-person and virtual meetings, credentialing, and reappointments. Before coming to VUMC, Renea was a human resources professional for a health system in Davenport, Iowa and moved to Nashville to be closer to family.

Renea enjoys movies, working with plants and flowers, and spending time with her two granddaughters, Charlotte Rose (6 yrs) & Cora Elizabeth (4 yrs).