

Division of Nephrology and Hypertension Newsletter

June 2022 – Issue 9

Summer is coming...

Check out some of our fabulous news and important highlights!



Division Announcements

Thurs, June 9th Division of Nephrology & Hypertension Fellows Graduation Ceremony

Sat, June 11th Division of Nephrology & Hypertension Annual Staff Picnic: 11:00-2:00 pm
at Edwin Warner Park
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR GUEST(S)

Sun, June 19th Father's Day

Tues, June 21st 1st Day of Summer

Thurs, June 30th End of Fiscal Year

Congratulations to this year's NEPHRON Award Winner, Suwan Wang!!

Division Announcements:

We have a new staff and faculty wellness initiative in the Division of Nephrology that is aimed at building our bodies and minds! We have Attached the monthly calendar for staff with the special events for June. (Some events may change depending on the institutional COVID guidelines.) Look for the reminder emails from Savannah Sumatra for specific details. Special thanks to the Staff Wellness Committee members: Ewanda Swoopes, Olga Viquez, Grace Zhang, Savannah Sumatra, and Victoria Locke.

Kudos:

Dr. Alissar El Chediak, one of our incoming transplant fellows, applied for and was accepted into an Editorial Fellowship program for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases. It's a competitive program and usually only 4 fellows are chosen each year from across academic nephrology fellowship programs across the country. Congratulations!

<https://www.ajkd.org/content/edinternshipprogram>

Fellowship News:

From the desk of Drs. Burgner/Lewis:

The end of another academic year is upon us. We will be holding our formal fellowship graduation ceremony in celebration of our graduating second year fellows on June 9th. They will officially be completing their fellowship on June 30! We will also be welcoming in a new group of first year fellows July 1! So be on the look out to introduce yourself to them!

SRTP News:

Please help me in welcoming our new 2022 SRTP students! These students will be joining us for the summer from June through the end of July and will finish the program by presenting their summer project at the Research Symposium.

2022 Summer Research Training Program



Evelyn Fagan
Mercer University School of Medicine



Garrett Jordan
University of Mississippi Medical School



Jaclyn Larsen
University of Utah School of Medicine



Nicole Monroig Sanchez
San Juan Bautista School of Medicine



Oluwatobi Oshomiji
Meharry Medical College



Aubriana Perez
University of Guam



Samhita Sengupta
Creighton University School of Medicine



Leah Shelton
Eastern Virginia Medical School



Lindsey Theut
Creighton University School of Medicine

Diversity News:

From the desk of Dr. Umeukeje:

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

A sub-committee of the ASN Workforce and Training committee as well as the ASN DEI committee including Dr. Ebele Umeukeje, developed the ASN anti-racism toolkit which has recently been published on the ASN website (see link below). The ASN anti-racism toolkit, is designed to guide nephrology training programs in addressing topics such as better understanding systemic racism, recognizing unconscious bias, eliminating disparities in health care, approaching patient encounters with cultural humility, and improving recruitment practices. It includes select cases with accompanying reflections, designed to facilitate the development of cultural competency through role playing.
<https://www.asn-online.org/education/training/tpd/hjc-toolkit/>

The next DOM Anti-Racism Discussion Group is meeting at NOON on June 14 via Zoom. The goal for this group is to create a community that can come together to learn about, reflect upon, and put into practice anti-racism concepts.

Research News:

On May 3, 2022 **Dr. Eddie Siew** was the keynote speaker for AKI!Now workshop on post-AKI care.

Research Publications:

A study by researchers **Dr. Ray Harris, Dr. Shirong Cao, and Dr. Ming-Zhi Zhang** was published in the VUMC Reporter titled, “Study sheds light on the dark side of obesity.” In this article, a team of researchers wondered by promoting the ant-inflammatory pathway in macrophages, if it could also reduce the bad side effects of obesity.
<https://news.vumc.org/2022/05/12/study-sheds-light-on-the-dark-side-of-obesity/>

Dr. Volker Haase and lab recently had an article published in PubMed titled, “Inhibition of hypoxia-inducible factor-prolyl hydroxylation protects from cyclophosphamide-induced bladder injury and urinary dysfunction.” In this study, researchers highlight the therapeutic potential of HIF-activating small molecule compounds for the prevention or therapy of bladder injury and urinary dysfunction due to blood-urine barrier disruption.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35499237/>

Dr. Volker Haase and Dr. Hanako Kobayashi had an article in PubMed titled” EPO synthesis induced by HIF-PHD inhibition is dependent on myofibroblast transdifferentiation and colocalizes with non-injured nephron segments in murine kidney fibrosis” which focused on

whether HIF-PHs can reactivate EPO synthesis in interstitial cells that have undergone myofibroblast transdifferentiation in established kidney fibrosis.

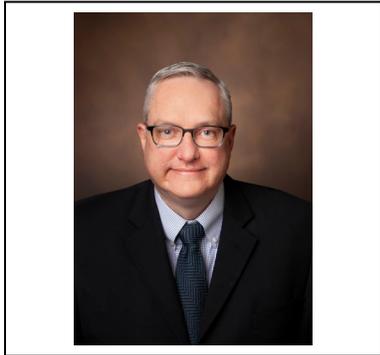
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35491502/>

Dr. Ebele Umeukeje and recent **VUMC fellow graduate, Dr. Jasmine Washington**, collaborated on a recent publication in Science Direct titled, “Etiopathogenesis of kidney disease in minority populations and an updated special focus on treatment in diabetes and hypertension.”

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0027968422000852?dgcid=author>

Spotlight Newsletter Recipients

Matthew Wilson, MD, PhD



Matthew Wilson, MD, PhD is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at VUMC and a Professor of Pharmacology and Cell and Developmental Biology. He also serves as an attending on the medicine and nephrology services at the Nashville VA. Dr. Wilson serves as a faculty college advisor for the Medical Scientist Training Program at Vanderbilt from which he graduated in 2001 after obtaining his Ph.D. in pharmacology. He also directs the Nephrology Research Fellowship Catalyst program for postdoctoral fellows

doing nephrology research.

Dr. Wilson chose a career as a physician-scientist nephrologist after doing a 4th year medical student nephrology rotation with Dr. Bill Stone at the VA. His laboratory focuses on engineering cell and gene therapies for kidney disease and is currently targeting cystinuria and Fabry disease.

Dr. Wilson enjoys reading and spending time with his family. He also jogs and tries to exercise, but he is not sure he enjoys it.

Bertha Elias, PhD



Bertha Elias, PhD is a Research Assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at VUMC, in the Brooks laboratory.

Bertha hails from Pune, previously known as Poona, a city about 100 miles from Mumbai in India. She did all her schooling there and got her PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology from the University of Poona.

She did her first postdoctoral work at Astra Research Centre; a Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology.

She then did a couple more stints of postdoctoral work after coming to the United States in Mount Sinai, New York and UT, Memphis before joining VUMC in May of 2010.

She initially worked in the Zent lab and then moved to the Brooks lab where she is currently working on the role of cyclin G1 in renal fibrosis. She has several peer reviewed publications to her credit.

When she is not in the cell culture room feeding and tinkering with cells, she enjoys cooking, gardening, going to concerts and volunteering with the Warner parks and at other community events.



The next Department of Medicine Anti-Racism Discussion Group meeting is happening at **noon on June 14 via Zoom**.

The goal for this group is to create a community that can come together to learn about, reflect upon, and put into practice anti-racism concepts. **All faculty, staff and trainees are welcome to join even if you have not done the reading.**

The group will be discussing Kelly Yang's
and Julie J. Park's

You may borrow one of the three copies of these books that are shelved in the department's open library, located in the Rogers Conference Room.

https://vumc365.sharepoint.com/sites/DiversityLiteratureandArticles/_layouts/15/Event.aspx?ListGuid=538cc073-b6ee-416b-bf80-8915163a99e0&Itemid=4

NEPHROLOGY STAFF WELLNESS EVENTS

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Fruit or Veggie Day! 2p-2:30p	2	3	4
5	6 Start Walking- 30 min walk @ 11a	7	8	9	10	11 Neph Division Summer Picnic & BBQ @ 11a -2p
12	13 Start Walking- 30 min walk @ 11a	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Start Walking- 30 min walk @ 11a	21 Lunch- Sandwiches and Wraps @ 12:00p – 1p	22	23	24	25
26	27 Start Walking- 30 min walk @ 11a	28	29 Tea and Biscuit Break @ 2p-2:30p	30		

EVENTS

The Division of Nephrology Annual Picnic & BBQ

Bring your family and meet us Saturday, June 11th from 11a-2p at Edwin Warner Park; Shelter #6, 50 Vaughn Road, Nashville, TN 37221. Please RSVP to Crystal Spencer.

Start Walking

Meet us on outside the Eskind Library entrance at 11a for a 30-minute walk. This is a great way to start your week!

Lunch

Meet us in the Neph Conf Room MCN B3127 for lunch between 12p-1p for great food and conversation! (While supplies last.)

Fruit or Veggie Day

Come to the Neph Admin office- MCN 3223 between 2p-2:30p to pick up a fruit or veggie. Fruits and Veggies will vary each month! (While supplies last.)

Tea and Biscuit Break

Meet us in the Neph Conf Rm MCN B3127 for a break to try tea and biscuits (cookies) from 2p-2:30p! (Or until gone!)