

Division of Nephrology and Hypertension Newsletter

September 2022 – Issue 12

Make it a September to Remember...

Check out some of our fabulous news and important highlights!



Division Announcements

Mon, Sept 5th

Labor Day (VUMC Official Holiday)

Thurs, Sept 15th

Renal Grand Rounds – State of the Division, 12-1 pm, Dr. T. Alp Ikizler, Light Hall 202 or via Zoom

Fri, Sept 16th – Sun, Sept 18th

UAB-Vandy Retreat

Thurs, Sept 22nd

1st Day of Fall

Mon, Sept 26th

Rosh Hashanah

Division Announcements: We have attached the staff wellness monthly calendar with the special events for September. (Some events may change depending on the institutional COVID guidelines.) Look for the reminder emails from Savannah Sumatra for specific details.

Kudos:

Congratulations to Dr. Jefferson Triozzi on receiving the MSCI Hazinski Scholar Award!

Diversity News:

From the desk of Dr. Umeukeje:

Diversity Events: Check out some great Diversity events and opportunities for the month of September. Attached is a poster for the most recent happenings at VUMC.

Research News:

Research Publications:

In a recent article titled, “Ligand-independent integrin beta 1 signaling supports lung adenocarcinoma development” by **Dr. Roy Zent and team**, show that the highly expressed integrin $\beta 1$ subunit is required for lung adenocarcinoma development in a carcinogen-induced mouse model. Likewise, human lung adenocarcinoma cell lines with integrin $\beta 1$ deletion failed to form colonies in soft agar and tumors in mice. Mechanistically, we demonstrate that these effects do not require integrin $\beta 1$ -mediated adhesion to ECM but are dependent on integrin $\beta 1$ cytoplasmic tail-mediated activation of focal adhesion kinase (FAK). Together, these studies support a critical role for integrin $\beta 1$ in lung tumorigenesis that is mediated through constitutive, ECM-binding independent signaling involving the cytoplasmic tail.

<https://insight.jci.org/articles/view/154098>

Drs. Ray Harris and Ming-Zhi-Zhang along with several other collaborators recently had an article published in Nature Communications titled, “EGFR-mediated activation of adipose tissue macrophages promotes obesity and insulin resistance.” In this article, researchers investigated the role of activation of ATM epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and how their underlying mechanisms regulated the increase in ATM and their proinflammatory phenotype.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35948530/>

Chronic inflammation is highly prevalent and associated with morbidity and mortality in patients receiving maintenance hemodialysis. In a multi-center NIDDK sponsored study, **Dr. Ikizler and collaborators** performed a pilot, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of anakinra, an IL-1 receptor antagonist, to evaluate its safety, feasibility, and efficacy in Inhibiting inflammation in maintenance hemodialysis patients over 6 months. Their results showed that anakinra was well tolerated and did not increase infections. There were also statistically significant decreases in hsCRP and IL-6 concentrations, suggesting potential efficacy of anakinra. The authors suggested that promising safety data and signals for potential efficacy on CRP and IL-6 provide support for conducting definitive trials of IL-1 inhibition to improve outcomes in the hemodialysis population.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35863559/>

Drs. Lale Ertuglu, Alp Ikizler and Annet Kirabo recently published an article in Circulation Research titled “DC ENaC-Dependent Inflammasome Activation Contributes to Salt-Sensitive Hypertension”. In this study, which was first-authored by Dr. Ashley Pitzer, the authors reported a mechanistic link between salt-sensitive hypertension, ENaC and NLRP3 inflammasome-mediated inflammation in antigen presenting cells.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35862128/>

In a recent article by **Drs. Cassianne Robinson-Cohen and Elwis Awko** titled, “Association of Genetically Predicted Fibroblast Growth Factor-23 with Heart Failure: A Mendelian Randomization Study”, researchers examined associations of FGF-23 with heart failure using Mendelian Randomization techniques. They found no overall association between genetically predicted FGF23 and heart failure. However, there was evidence of a causal association between FGF23 and heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, particularly among individuals with low genetically predicted eGFR.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35902130/>

Spotlight Newsletter Recipients

Mark de Caestecker, M.B, B.S., Ph.D., F.A.S.N.



Mark de Caestecker M.B. B.S., Ph.D., is Physician Scientist and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He is also the Vice Chair for Faculty Development for the Department of Medicine and Director of the Nielson Society.

Dr. de Caestecker trained in general internal medicine and nephrology the UK and received his Ph.D. in Medicine at the University of Manchester in 1993 and was recruited to the Division of Nephrology in 2000. Most notably, he designed, developed, and directed the Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) in Nephrology from its inception in 2011-2019, and the Annual Mouse Kidney Injury Workshop from 2011 until now. He also designed, developed, and directs the Vanderbilt Program in Molecular Medicine (VPMM).

Dr. de Caestecker has four adult children and three grandchildren. He enjoys keeping up with his family in Atlanta, Nashville, Denver, and Sydney Australia; road cycling; hanging out with his partner, who many of you know here in the Nephrology Division, and their four dogs, assorted cats, and attendant squirrels, chipmunks, crows, doves, blue jays, and woodpeckers in their back yard.

Lale Ertuglu, MD



Lale Ertuglu, MD is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension at VUMC. She joined Ikizler lab in June 2021 after graduating from Koc University School of Medicine. Dr. Ertuglu's primary project is a nutrient clamp study investigating the effects of tissue salt accumulation on protein metabolism in patients on maintenance dialysis. Dr. Ertuglu is currently supported by a Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR) grant for her project aiming to characterize salt-induced changes in inflammatory cytokines. Since joining VUMC, she has presented

several oral abstracts internationally and received awards from APS/ASN and SSCI. During the same period, she has published 6 manuscripts as first-author and 9 as co-author. Following her post-doctoral fellowship and her residency training in Internal Medicine, Dr. Ertuglu aspires to pursue a physician-scientist career in Nephrology.

Dr. Ertuglu enjoys dancing and fencing, and loves connecting with the Vanderbilt community. As an active member and Vice President of Vanderbilt's ballroom dance organization, Vandy Ballroom, she was thrilled to perform at the recent 2022 Spotlight Arts Showcase.

VUMC Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion – September 2022

Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month and National Suicide Prevention Month

"I am the one thing in life I can control. I am inimitable. I am an original.." — **Lin-Manuel Miranda**

"Your great strength is knowing who you are." — **Oscar de la Renta**

"Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures." — **Cesar Chavez**

September 2022

Hispanic Heritage Month, National Suicide Prevention Month, National Guide Dog Month

5: Labor Day
11: Patriot Day
15- October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
16-23: Bisexual Awareness Week
23: Celebrate Bisexuality Day
26-27: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)

Bi Visibility Day

Bi Visibility Day (September 23 this year) is an annual celebration aimed at accelerating the acceptance of the bi community. Bisexuality is romantic attraction, sexual attraction, and/or sexual behavior toward both males and females, or to more than one gender. It may also be defined to include romantic or sexual attraction to people regardless of their sex or gender identity, which is also known as pansexuality. This celebration of bisexuality in particular, as opposed to general LGBTQIA+ events, was conceived as a response to the prejudice and marginalization of bisexual people by some in both the straight and greater LGBTQIA+ communities. Bisexuality represents the largest group within the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, and bisexual people experience high rates of discrimination by both the straight and queer communities.

LUV

Latinos Unidos en Vanderbilt

This year LUV has three events planned to help celebrate Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month.

Celebremos Juntos at Panca Peruvian Restaurant
Join us for a social outing Friday September 16, 5pm

Latino America: Meet Your New Neighbors
In-Person/Hybrid Speaker Event Wednesday September 21, 11:30am

Panel Discussion - The Advocacy Role of Latinos In TN
Virtual Discussion, Thursday October 6, 11am

For more info, or membership interest, visit: [LUV ERG](#)

PRIDE

For more info and to sign up for the group's membership survey, visit: [PRIDE ERG](#)

Monthly Meeting:
Tuesday 9/13, 11a-12pm
Card Making

The ERG will get together to make cards that will be distributed to LGBTQ patients at VUMC. This event will be at three locations on three days; please reach out to the ERG at for exact locations

Tuesday 9/6, 12-3pm – Main Campus
Wednesday 9/7, 12-2pm – OHO
Thursday 9/8, 11am-2pm – 3322 West end Avenue

Contact pride.erg@vumc.org for the invites

DISABILITY ERG

For more info, or membership interest, visit: [Disability ERG](#)

Monthly Meeting
Friday, September 16th from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 919 1751 7122
Passcode: 729803

Questions:
disabilityerg@vumc.org

VETERANS Resource Group

For more info, or membership interest visit: [Veterans ERG](#)

Celebrations and Honors

11: Patriot Day
16: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
17-23: Constitution Week
18: Air Force (USAF) Birthday
18: Air National Guard Birthday
25: Gold Star Mother's Day
29: VFW Day

Read more: [Military Calendar](#)

If any VUMC Veterans would like to be spotlighted on VUMC's social media channels please complete this survey:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MFBX7y>

AFRICAN AMERICAN ERG Back to School Drive

For more info, or membership interest, visit: [AA ERG](#)

The AAERG is happy to announce that we will be hosting a Back to School Supply Drive to support the Whites Creek Cluster Back to School Bash. In preparation, the AAERG will be collecting school supplies for the students from August 15th to September 8th. Please reach out for drop off locations and a listing of supplies the students need.

Jazz on the Cumberland
The AAERG networking committee invites everyone to come join them Sunday, September 18th from 5:30pm – 8:00pm at Jazz on the Cumberland at Cumberland Park 592 South First Street for a beautiful evening of music.



HAAPI

Healthcare Alliance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

For more info, or membership interest, visit: [HAAPI ERG](#)

Visit [HAAPI ERG](#) for more information!



United Voices of Vanderbilt Choir

For more info, or membership interest visit: [UVOV Choir](#)



Please contact uvovchoir@vumc.org for more information

October – Save the Date to Celebrate Disability Awareness Month and LGBTQ History Month

NEPHROLOGY STAFF WELLNESS EVENTS

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Fruit or Veggie Day! 2 -2:30p	3
4	5 Labor Day- VUMC Holiday	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Start Walking- 30 min walk at 11a	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Start Walking- 30 min walk at 11a	20	21	22	23 Lunch- Pizza and Salad @ 12:00p – 1p	24
25	26 Start Walking- 30 min walk at 11a	27	28	29 Nut Break 2p-2:30	30	

EVENTS

Labor Day

VUMC official holiday. Have fun and stay safe!

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 a continental lunch at 12-1p! (While supplies last)

Fruit or Veggie Day

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

Let's Go Nuts Break

Meet us in the Neph Conf Room MCN B3127 for a break at 2p. (While supplies last.)