

Department of Medicine News

Winter/Spring 2017

Highlights from the Department

Department of Medicine in the News

New Faculty

Kudos, Promotions, and New Grants

Recent Discoveries

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Impacting health through discovery,
innovation, and integration

Dear Members of the Department of Medicine:

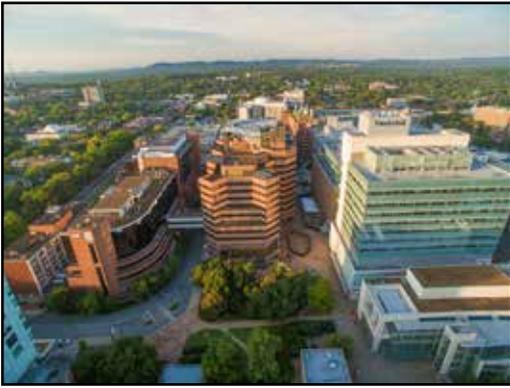
I am pleased to provide this mid-year update on recent activities in the Vanderbilt Department of Medicine.

Ed Vasilevskis, John McPherson and our extraordinary Associate Program Directors, and numerous other individual faculty members are advancing an exemplary educational portfolio within the Department. We hear over and over again from our students that they perceive and appreciate this investment. Faculty members who received clinical teaching awards are posted at <https://medicine.mc.vanderbilt.edu/clinicalteachingawards>. We continue to attract the best and the brightest into our residency program. This year we have received over 2,700 applications for 46 intern positions. Drs. Patrick Hu and Chris Williams are innovating within the Harrison Society and influencing national thinking about the development of physician-scientists. With the support of the hospital and the approval of the ACGME, we are increasing the size of our residency program by 11 positions over two years, with eight additions next year. This will allow us to increase the size of our Morgan service and increase the elective time for our residents. This will have the downstream effect of enhancing patient flow and maintaining the integrity of our specialty services.



Department of Medicine residents 2016

Our faculty, fellows, residents, and staff provide extraordinary care to our patients. We are striving to improve the measurement of that quality. We have now reached our threshold goal for readmissions in patients with acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, and pneumonia. Our length of stay has decreased significantly in part due to systems improvements led by the hospitalist team. Observed-to-expected mortality and hospital-acquired conditions remain a focus. The members of our Quality Council play an important leadership role in codifying expectations, and these policies can be found at the DOM SharePoint "Quality Council Document Library." We have much work to do to improve the access patients have to our care, and this is a priority shared with our partners in hospital leadership. In the coming months, we will be focusing on EpicLeap; many thanks to all of you who have stepped up as trainers and coaches. We are committed to using this transition as an opportunity to reduce the administrative/ documentation burden on faculty and staff.



In our research portfolio, we enjoyed an amazing 42% increase in NIH funding to \$161 million in NIH FY2016. A goal for the coming year will be to continue to optimize the availability and utilization of resources such as cores, studios, and study sections for the individual investigator doing discovery science. You can follow recently published discoveries from Department of Medicine faculty at <https://medicine.mc.vanderbilt.edu/aggregator/sources/1>. We are investing in all of our programs with a strategic focus on personalized medicine, obesity-related diseases, and immunology. Dan Roden, Nancy Cox, Josh Denny, Gordon Bernard, and many others are transforming BioVU to make it accessible to an ever increasing number of investigators.

A renewed goal for the coming year will be to ensure that our national and international reputation is commensurate with our accomplishments. In order to have the greatest impact on Medicine, we are obligated to share our work with others. This requires enhancing awareness of achievements at Vanderbilt. As one step to accomplishing this, we have asked our faculty members to become more involved in newer means of communication such as social media. In addition, Derek Brown, Executive Director of Development, is dedicated to helping the Department spread the word in the philanthropy community and will be working closely with individual divisions to help faculty members share their work. In response to input from the departmental faculty survey last fall, **we have increased our focus on career and leadership development for members of the Department.** Every appointment letter to the clinician educator track, as well as to the physician-scientist and basic scientist tracks, now addresses personal mentorship. The Schaffner Society, led by John Newman and Leora Horn, offers three workshops per year on career development for clinician educators (see <https://medicine.mc.vanderbilt.edu/upcoming-workshops>), while the Neilson Society continues to provide resources for physician-scientists and basic scientists beyond institutional resources provided through the Edge for Scholars programs. Division Administrators, together with members of the Executive Committee of the Department, are participating in 360-degree evaluations this winter and spring. The inaugural class of the Mid-Career Leadership Development Program launched in January, thanks to Maureen Gannon. Importantly, these resources, together with our culture of openness, enrich an environment where individuals with diverse skills and backgrounds contribute and thrive.



Maureen Gannon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine

With the establishment of Vanderbilt University Medical Center as an independent entity, we have had new opportunities to define our direction as an academic medical center. Many members of the Department of Medicine participated in setting strategic directions over the summer. Your input is extremely important, and I would encourage you to visit the web page at <https://ww2.mc.vanderbilt.edu/strategic-directions/>.

Thank you for all that you are doing. I feel proud and grateful to be part of this team.



Nancy J. Brown, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Medicine

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<https://medicine.mc.vanderbilt.edu>



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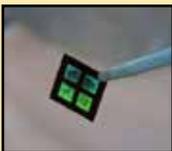
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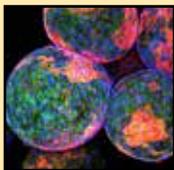


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In the News



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