

Inside IM

News from the Department of Internal Medicine



From the Chair

We are all grateful spring has arrived and with it comes many special events. Residents and fellows will present research posters and clinical vignettes on May 24th. We will recognize our department research award winners at Grand Rounds on June 1st (award winner Dr. Jim Campbell was part of an [Omaha World-Herald front page article](#) recently). In June, we will celebrate our senior residents who will be finishing their training. It will be a bittersweet event as we will celebrate without Dr. Dye. Planning for ways in which we honor Jarrod's life continue.

[Read more](#)

Study: Rheumatoid arthritis may increase heart disease

Researchers at UNMC have published a clinical review that finds a consistent increase of cardiovascular disease in rheumatoid arthritis. The [review](#) appeared April 23 on the front page of the British Medical Journal.

[Read more](#)



UNMC, GenomOncology partner for EHR breakthrough

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and GenomOncology announced the launch of the first discrete genomic results reporting system using the HL7 2.5 format. HL7 (Health Level Seven International) is the most common communication method to move health care data between systems and is used by essentially every hospital in the U.S. and Canada to communicate laboratory test results between electronic health record (EHR) systems. James Campbell, MD, professor general medicine, played a key role in developing the breakthrough system.

[Read more](#)

Bellevue launches code sepsis team

Saving patients from sepsis is part of the medical center's commitment to improving patient safety and quality. Thanks to a pilot program trialed more than a year ago at Nebraska Medical Center, a code sepsis team has been launched at Nebraska Medicine-Bellevue.

[Read more](#)



UNMC oncologist co-authors paper on nuclear terrorism

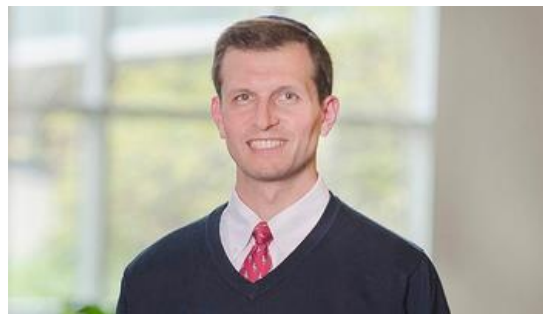
A special report in a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine details serious concerns that the medical community would be able to do much, if anything, to assist people in the event of a major nuclear event. One of the report's authors is James Armitage, MD, the Joe Shapiro Professor of Medicine in the division of oncology and hematology.



[Read more](#)

Dr. Goldsweig to give talk at Omaha Science Cafe

Andrew Goldsweig, MD, assistant professor division of cardiology, will discuss minimally invasive surgical options for people who have structural heart disease at the next [Omaha Science Cafe](#) at 7 p.m. on May 15 at the Slowdown, 729 N. 14th St.



[Read more](#)

Dr. Florescu leads medical service trip to Nicaragua

Over spring break, Diana Florescu, MD, associate professor division of infectious disease, volunteered with UNMC pharmacy, medicine and physical therapy students at the Los Chavalitos Clinic in Managua, Nicaragua. The students went into the neighborhoods served by the clinic to provide immunization, vitamin A, anti-parasite pills and fluoride treatments.



[Read more](#)

Shuttle now operating between VA and UNMC

There is now a shuttle running between the Omaha VA Medical Center and UNMC. The shuttle will run from 5:45 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will pick up at Lot 1 at the VA and drop off at UNMC at the Durham Research Center and at shuttle shelters located in Lot 636 on the west side of Saddle Creek Road.

[Read more](#)



Faculty members celebrate 30 years at UNMC

Elizabeth Reed, MD, professor division of oncology and hematology, Joseph Sisson, MD, Larson Professor and division chief of pulmonary, critical care, sleep and allergy, Jennifer Larsen, Vice Chancellor for Research and professor division of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism, and Geoffrey Thiele, PhD, professor division of rheumatology, are among those celebrating 30 years at UNMC.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#)



Dr. O'Dell honored by American College of Rheumatology

James O'Dell, MD, was honored with the designation of Master by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) during the 2017 ACR/ARHP Annual Meeting in San Diego. Recognition as a Master is one of



the highest honors that the ACR bestows on its distinguished members.

[Read more](#)

Gold Humanism Honor Society inducts new class

UNMC inducted its fourth class of Gold Humanism Honor Society members on April 28. Nineteen third-year medical students, six residents and five members of the faculty were recognized. Internal Medicine residents and faculty were among the inductees.



[Read more](#)

Three faculty members advance to fellowship in the ACP

The following faculty members received recognition for their advancement to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians (ACP) at the convocation at the April 19 meeting in New Orleans:
Shannon Boerner, MD, assistant professor division of general medicine
Chris Smith, MD, assistant professor division of general medicine
Rachel Thompson, MD, associate professor division of general medicine



Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures awards Dr. Freifeld

Alison Freifeld, MD, professor division of infectious disease, received the Lifesaver Award from the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures. Dr. Freifeld was honored at the organization's Annual Tribute Spring Luncheon on April 30.

[Read more](#)



Dr. Taylor receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Regan M. Taylor, MD, assistant professor general medicine, was selected as the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award honoring Pioneering Women in Medicine. The award was created in 2012 by Carol Swarts, MD, to recognize the importance of dedicated teaching faculty who enrich the lives of students and shape outstanding health care providers. The award is given to a basic science teaching faculty member in the College of Medicine.



American Geriatrics Society honors Dr. Potter

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) has honored Jane Potter, MD, chief and professor division of geriatrics, with the 2018 Dennis W. Jahnigen Award celebrating her work to train more health professionals in care for the aging. Dr. Potter has not only led geriatric education at UNMC but also has expanded the scope of her work to lead national efforts aimed at increasing the prestige and prominence of the geriatrics workforce.



2018 Research Award winners honored at Grand Rounds June 1

Internal Medicine's 2018 research award recipients are:

Career Excellence Award

James R. Campbell, MD

Daughton Award

Jacy L. Kubik, MS

Post-Doctoral Research Award

Shaohua Wu, PhD

Medical Student Research Award

Matthew Purbaugh & Bianca Christensen



Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who took the time to nominate! The award winners will be presented with plaques to recognize their research efforts at Grand Rounds on Friday, June 1, at noon in DRC1 1002. Career Excellence Award winner James Campbell, MD, professor division of general medicine, will present.

Dr. Swindells is 2018 Faculty Clinical and Education Mentoring Award winner

Susan Swindells, MBBS, professor division of infectious disease and medical director of the Specialty Care Clinic, was selected as Internal Medicine's 2018 Faculty Clinical and Educational Mentoring Award winner. Dr. Swindells will be presented with her award at the Mentoring Recognition Luncheon in August.



College of Medicine research retreat set for June 1

In an effort to strengthen collaborations between departments for translational and interdisciplinary research, the UNMC College of Medicine will hold a research retreat on June 1 from 2 to 7 p.m. in the Truhlsen Campus Events Center on the first floor of the Sorrell Center. The event, called "Clinical and Basic Scientists – Meet Your Blind Date," is

open to all UNMC investigators, lab members and collaborators. [Pre-registration](#) is required.

[Read more](#)

Welcome to new faculty

Zaid Al-Kadhimi, MD, joined the division of oncology and hematology as associate professor and director of bone marrow transplant and cellular therapy. [Read more](#)

Jennifer Gibert, MD, joined UNMC as assistant professor in the division of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism. [Read more](#)



Faculty and Staff Announcements

James Armitage, MD, the Joe Shapiro Chair for the Study of Oncology and Clinical Research, is editor-in-chief of [The ASCO Post](#). The publication is in partnership with the American Society of Clinical Oncology and communicates news of evidence-based multidisciplinary cancer care to oncology professionals and ASCO members. Elizabeth Reed, MD, professor division of oncology and hematology, is deputy editor and Alison Freifeld, MD, professor division of infectious disease, is an associate editor.

Diana Florescu, MD, associate professor division of infectious disease, is the UNMC representative in the 2018 [Youth Emergency Services](#) (YES) Dance for a Chance competition, held Friday, August 3, at the Omaha Design Center. Dr. Florescu and her dancing partner, Derek Pasqualetto, instructor and owner of Vintage Ballroom, will compete against representatives from other local companies to raise awareness and money for YES, which provides much-needed services to hundreds of homeless youth in Omaha. Teams are awarded for the most votes (money raised) and best dance. Help provide resources to homeless youth and support Dr. Florescu and UNMC! To purchase a table, contact dflorescu@unmc.edu. Online donations will open June 1. Visit [here](#) for sneak peeks and updates.

Vicki Whitesel joined the division of infectious disease as an office associate.

Robert Baum, physician assistant division of diabetes, endocrinology and diabetes, is retiring on May 31, 2018. He has worked at UNMC for 19 years and served more than 500 patients. A retirement reception will be held May 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in University Tower Dining Room C.

Resident and Fellow Poster Session to be held May 24

More than 30 posters of original research or clinical vignettes will be on display at the Internal Medicine Resident and Fellow Poster Session in the DRC Commons on Thursday, May 24, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Faculty and trainees are invited to attend. Food and drink will be served and prizes will be awarded for the Top Resident Poster and Top Fellow Poster.



IM resident part of Nebraska team to make it out of Doctor's Dilemma

Edin Pujagic, DO, house officer II, was part of a Nebraska team that made it out of the initial round of Doctor's Dilemma at the American College of Physicians (ACP) Internal Medicine meeting in New Orleans. Other team members were Daniel Ermann and Michael Klug from Creighton University.



Research Updates

Amy Cannella, MD, associate professor division of rheumatology, was awarded a \$3,000 Educational Support Grant from the College of Medicine. The grant recognizes Dr. Cannella's contributions to the College of Medicine as well as the quality of her proposal.

The Nebraska Bankers Association has awarded \$15,000 to Richard Gumina, MD, associate professor cardiovascular medicine and acting cardiology division chief. The grant will go toward the purchase of a RoboSep-S, a fully automated cell separator.

Saraswathi Viswanathan, PhD, assistant professor division of diabetes, endocrine and metabolism, in collaboration with Cyrus Desouza, MBBS, professor division of diabetes, endocrine and metabolism, received funding for an IDeA-CTR Pilot grant for their project titled "Assessing the Link between TP-R and Obesity-Linked Insulin Resistance in

Humans.” Dr. Viswanathan and Dr. Desouza propose that thromboxane-prostanoid receptor (TP-R) is a key regulator of amino acid uptake and metabolism in adipose tissue which, in turn, modulates systemic glucose homeostasis in obesity. Their research aims to develop a novel therapeutic strategy to ameliorate obesity-linked diseases and type 2 diabetes, in particular. The grant is approved for one year.

Tate Johnson, MD, house officer II, received a Resident Research Preceptorship from the Rheumatology Research Foundation. His project, focusing on the effects of methotrexate on cardiovascular risk in rheumatoid arthritis, will start this summer.

Read the faculty publications reported with ADIS and Scopus for the first quarter of 2018 [here](#).

See the Internal Medicine Research and Non-Research Awards reported with ADIS for the first quarter of 2018 [here](#).

View the latest Internal Medicine faculty publications (in descending order by publication year and title) on [Research Nebraska](#).

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