

Inside IM

News from the Department of Internal Medicine



From the Chair

This newsletter highlights a number of faculty and trainee awards that have happened this fall. Several of these recognitions have a connection to the American College of Physicians (ACP) at the state, national and international level. The ACP has 154,000 members including international members and is the largest medical-specialty society in the world. It is very exciting that Dr. Scott Neumeister of the General Internal Medicine division has been selected for the national ACP Herbert S. Waxman Award for Outstanding Medical Student Educator. Equally impressive is that Dr. Tom Tape, Division Chief for General Internal Medicine, was elected into the Royal College of Physicians in London this fall and his leadership roles at the ACP set the stage for his selection into the Royal College. Additionally, the Nebraska chapter of the ACP held its annual meeting in October and a number of our colleagues and our residents were instrumental in organizing the meeting as well as honored by awards there.

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Dr. Neumeister wins prestigious national teaching award

J. Scott Neumeister, M.D., associate professor division of general medicine, has won a major teaching award from the American College of Physicians. During next year's ACP national meeting, Dr. Neumeister will receive the Herbert S. Waxman Award for Outstanding Medical Student Educator.

“Since the ACP has a membership of over

150,000 people, their national awards are very competitive,” said Tom Tape, M.D., professor and chair division of general medicine. “And this is the only award bestowed by the ACP that specifically recognizes excellence in student teaching.”

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Study will test drug to treat illness after stem cell transplants

Stem cell transplants have saved countless lives of patients with blood cancers and other diseases. But, a side effect of the life-saving treatment also can rob patients of quality of life and in some cases, their life.

Vijaya Bhatt, M.B.B.S., assistant professor division of oncology and hematology, has received a grant for up to \$1.2 million to determine if a drug called ruxolitinib, is effective for treating a type of graft versus host disease (GVHD) called sclerotic.

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Dr. Jophlin is research “superstar”

Loretta Jophlin, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor division of gastroenterology and hepatology, gave a 10-minute pitch about her research that netted her a one-year, \$20,000 pilot grant.

A panel of judges awarded Dr. Jophlin the top prize in the Superstar Competition during the Great Plains IDeA-CTR Annual Scientific Meeting. The two-day event, hosted by UNMC on October 10 and 11, brought together about 200 people interested in clinical and translational research.

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Dr. Goldsweig named ACC Chapter Governor

Andrew Goldsweig, M.D., assistant professor division of cardiovascular medicine, was elected governor of the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) from 2020 to 2023. In this role, he will serve as the Nebraska chapter president and represent the state at the national level on the ACC Board of Governors. As chapter governor-elect, Dr. Goldsweig has already convened two Nebraska ACC workgroups – an advocacy workgroup and an education workgroup.



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Clinic aims to improve care of heart failure patients

In effort to improve the care of patients with heart failure, a new clinic will launch in October, called the Nebraska Medicine heart failure optimize clinic, located inside the Heart and Vascular Center on level two of the Durham Outpatient Center.

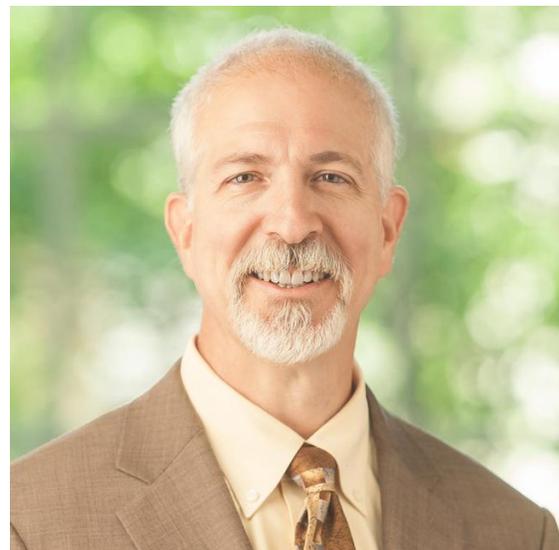
“We know the more often a heart failure patient is admitted to the hospital, the higher their risk of death and/or morbidity,” says Adam Burdorf, D.O. “We want to keep heart failure patients out of the hospital and improve their quality of life.”



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Algorithm provides “roadmap” to staphylococcal bacteremia treatment

UNMC/Nebraska Medicine was an important contributor to a study, published Sept. 26 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), that documents the utility of a staphylococcal bacteremia treatment algorithm. Mark Rupp, M.D., professor and chief division of infectious diseases, is co-author of the study that examined how the use of an algorithm can provide a roadmap for clinicians treating patients with staphylococcal bloodstream infection.



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Dr. Cowan to step down as cancer center director

The man who helped spearhead the ascent of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine into an international powerhouse for cancer care and research -- Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D. -- will step down as director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and the Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer at the end of June 2019. Dr. Cowan, who joined the medical center in 1999, will remain as a full-time faculty member and will continue to see patients.

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Med Center responds to international call for aid

In response to the second outbreak of Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) this year, UNMC and Nebraska Medicine have responded to a request from an international agency to send a team of infectious diseases experts to the East African nation of Uganda to help prevent the spread of the deadly disease.

"The best way to prevent a global spread of the disease is to contain it in the country where it starts," said James Lawler, M.D., an infectious diseases expert and leader of the team working in Uganda.

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Duo teams to help simplify digitization of EHR

The introduction of the electronic health record was hailed as the solution to the American medical crisis. However, in reality it has resulted in physicians spending long hours completing notes after office hours have ended.

"Today, the electronic health record is touted as being one of the major drivers of physician burnout," said John Windle, M.D., professor division of cardiovascular medicine. It turns out that simply digitizing the paper record doesn't work, especially



when computers don't talk to other computers, Dr. Windle said.

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Changes coming in the care of patients with sepsis

In the fight against sepsis at Nebraska Medicine, the numbers reveal progress in protecting patients. New initiatives are coming this fall to support the momentum. An important change is coming in November: the adoption of a new, updated definition of sepsis.

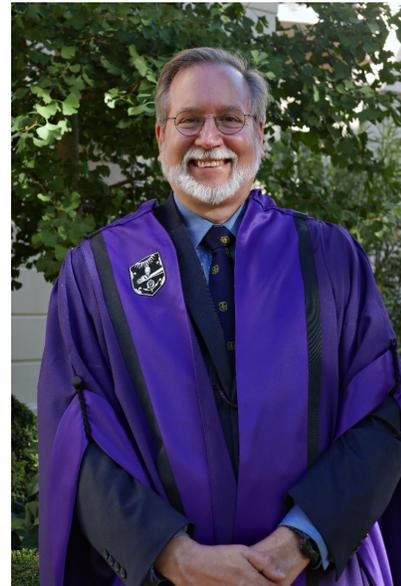
"What was severe sepsis is now defined as sepsis," said Micah Beachy, D.O., UNMC associate professor division of general medicine. "Using the same terms will be important to appropriately care for our patients."



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Dr. Tape elected as fellow in Royal College of Physicians-London

Tom Tape, M.D., professor and chief division of general medicine, has been elected as a fellow in the Royal College of Physicians (RCP)-London. As England's oldest medical academic body for physicians founded in 1518 by Henry VIII, its core mission is to drive improvements in health and health care through advocacy, education and research. Fellowship in the 500-year-old organization is a prestigious accolade.



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Honors and Awards

Several faculty and residents were honored at the Nebraska chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) 2018 Scientific Meeting in October. **Jane Potter, M.D.**, professor division of geriatrics, gerontology and palliative medicine, was awarded the LeeRoy Meyer Dedicated Teacher Award. This award honors a physician who exemplifies the talent, enthusiasm and professionalism demonstrated in medical education by Dr. Meyer. **Joel Armitage, M.D.**, assistant professor division of general medicine, received the Early Career Physician of the Year Award, which recognizes a member within 16 years of medical school graduation who has been a major contributor to the ACP either locally or nationally.

Whitney Goldner, M.D., professor division of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism, has been elected as vice president (physician-in-practice) of the Endocrine Society, the world's oldest, largest and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Dr. Goldner currently serves as the chair of the society's Clinical Endocrinology Update Committee and as a member of the Endocrine Educators Forum. She will begin serving a three-year term following the society's annual meeting in New Orleans in March.

Loretta Jophlin M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor division of gastroenterology and hepatology, has been elected to be a steering committee member for the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Alcohol Liver Disease special interest group.

Devin Nickol, M.D., associate professor division of general medicine, has been elected as a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in Medicine. This distinction within NAP is a very high honor that acknowledges outstanding achievements and leadership

Renee Young, M.D., professor division of gastroenterology and hepatology, is serving a second term on the Education Committee for the American College of Gastroenterology. She also serves on subcommittees for: Abstract Selection, Poster Rounds, MOC, Peer Review and Slide Review. Dr. Young, who has been on either Training or Education committees of the ACG for the past 18 years, also helped form the ACG's Training Committee and was a past chair of that committee. Dr. Young also received the Physician Champion award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation in October.

A patient and member of the Autoimmune Hepatitis Association (AIHA) has nominated **Marco Olivera-Martinez, M.D.**, associate professor division of gastroenterology and hepatology, for outstanding care provided to patients with autoimmune hepatitis. His name is now on the AIH patient-preferred doctor list on www.aihep.org. The AIHA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hope and support to families affected by AIH through disease education and research opportunities.

Bin Duan, Ph.D., assistant professor division of cardiovascular medicine, was selected for the Gilmore Distinguished New Investigator Award.

Sixteen faculty and staff members were inducted into UNMC's Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE) in a Sept. 13 ceremony. In addition, five students and residents were initiated into the group of associate members (learners). The IAE honors new members who exemplify dedication to teaching and have a passion for furthering UNMC's educational mission. [Read more](#)

Internal Medicine In the News

In 2000, **Stephen Rennard, M.D.**, professor division of pulmonary, critical care, sleep and allergy, published findings in *Chest*, the journal of the American College of Chest Physicians, showing that chicken soup contains anti-inflammatory agents that can ease a cold's symptoms. His research has been featured in thousands of newspaper, magazine and Internet articles, as well as on television and radio worldwide. Most recently, Dr. Rennard's research was mentioned in an [article](#) in Reader's Digest. [Read more](#)

Mark Rupp, M.D., professor and chief of the division of infectious diseases, was featured in 60 Plus in Omaha in an article titled "Vaccines for Seniors: Beware of Anti-Science Conspiracy Theories." In the article, Dr. Rupp said that vaccines are not only for children and that the most essential vaccines for seniors are for shingles, influenza, pneumococcal disease, and tetanus/Tdap. He was quoted as saying, "certain vaccinations are very important for adults as they age in order to maintain their health and especially important for those with chronic health conditions."

Faculty and Staff Announcements

The 21st meeting of the Nebraska Physiological Society (NPS), a Chapter of the American Physiological Society (APS) was held on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at Mammel Hall-Auditorium on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The scientific/educational sessions began with welcome and opening remarks from **Saraswathi Viswanathan, Ph.D.**, President of the NPS and associate professor division of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism.

Several faculty were recently acknowledged at the annual UNeMed Innovation awards dinner. **Ioannis Chatzizisis, M.D, Ph.D.**, associate professor division of cardiovascular medicine, was recognized for New Invention Notification Contributor. **James Campbell, M.D.**, professor division of general medicine, was recognized as New Invention Notification Contributor; Creator of Licensed Technology; Technology Licensed (along with W. Scott Campbell for SNOWMED-CT pathology enhancements). **Marius Florescu, M.D.**, associate professor division of nephrology, was recognized for patents issued (for “hemodialysis catheter with displaceable lumens to disrupt a fibrous sheet”).

Travis Weyant, residency program coordinator for the division of geriatrics, gerontology and palliative care, was nominated as a Catalyst for Education by the Interprofessional Academy of Educators. The Catalyst for Education Award recognizes the integral role of those who serve in an educational support role and values the impact made to furthering the educational mission at UNMC, promoting a premier environment, and ensuring the success of all trainees.

Joel White is now the Oncology and Hematology Division Administrator. Previously, Joel was Senior Director of Strategy and Business Development for Cross Training Center, Regional Director of Clinical Operations for Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, SD and has also had leadership roles with Select Specialty Hospital and Fremont Health/Healogics.

Megan Frisbie will be the Nephrology Division Administrator starting December 10. Megan has been with UNMC Business and Finance since 2009 and her current positions are Financial Compliance Specialist and Interim Accounts Payable Supervisor; previous to these roles she served as a Financial Business Analyst.

Jodi Parrack has accepted the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division Administrator position. Jodi has been the Interim GI Division Administrator since February 2018 along with her role as Rheumatology Division Administrator. Jodi has been with the UNMC and UNMC Physicians for the past 10 years in several roles including: Rheumatology Division Administrator, Accountant III at College of Allied Health, and Finance & Business Analyst in the Department of Internal Medicine. Jodi will continue her dual roles as division administrator with GI and Rheumatology during the transition and the hiring process for the Rheumatology Division Administrator.

Faculty Development Update

As the academic year is in full swing, Internal Medicine faculty development activities are similarly well underway. We have successfully matched 12 mentoring partnerships for new faculty hires this year, and they are off to a robust start. Faculty enjoyed sessions in October on Inpatient and Outpatient Billing – sincere thanks to **Dr. Michlene Hearth-Holmes** for volunteering to lead these sessions. Faculty, fellows, and residents came together for networking and camaraderie at the first Women’s Networking Event on November 6 – thanks to the chief residents for their hard work in organizing. Thinking about the best way to prepare for your evaluation early next year? Watch for an email invitation to our Evaluation Preparation 101 session in early 2019. As always, please reach **Dr. Shannon Boerner** with questions, concerns, or ideas.

[Read more](#)

Resident and Fellow Updates

All of the UNMC Internal Medicine program residents passed the 2018 American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) examination. Residents take the ABIM exam in August and receive their results in November.

At the Nebraska chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) 2018 Scientific Meeting in October, UNMC Internal Medicine residents **Drs. April Lauer, Brian Benes, Brandon Miller** and **Daniel Van Kalsbeek** beat out Creighton in the friendly match of Doctors Dilemma, which tests the medical knowledge of resident teams. Also at the meeting, April Lauer won the resident and fellow poster competition for her poster "Acyclovir for Zoster: Friend or Foe?" Dr. Lauer will present her poster at the national competition held during the Internal Medicine Meeting 2019 in Philadelphia.

The inaugural Graduate Medical Education (GME) Research Symposium was held Oct. 17 in the Truhlsen Events Center and was attended by more than 125 house officers, faculty, GME staff, educators and researchers from various colleges. Several Internal Medicine residents and fellows received top honors in the poster session. [Read more](#)

Tate Johnson, M.D. – IM Residency – First Place
Ian Cormier, M.B.B.S. – IM Residency – Runner-Up
Ameena Madan Paramasivan, M.D. – DEM fellow – Runner-Up
Randy McCreery, M.D. – ID Fellow – First Place
Faizan Syed, M.D. – Nephrology Fellow – Runner-Up

The Internal Medicine Residency Council announced a new award, dubbed the "TOAST " (Toasting Outstanding Acts of Superb Teamwork) Award. This quarterly award stemmed from a grass roots initiative in which Internal Medicine residents felt it was important to recognize co-workers who consistently demonstrate qualities of teamwork and interprofessionalism. The first awardee is **Briann Moore**, office associate and educational administrative assistant division of oncology and hematology. Briann creates the Hematology/Oncology call schedules for residents and fellows each month and was recognized for her collaborative efforts and genuine commitment to working with Internal Medicine residents. Multiple residents have commented on her caring demeanor, prompt problem-solving abilities, and positive attitude throughout a complex transition in the restructuring of the Hematology/Oncology rotation. Residents have also commented on the impressive educational value of this rotation, describing it as "a great experience with optimal learning."

Resident Wellness Update

The mission of the Internal Medicine Resident Wellness Program, which was formed two years ago, is to "empower residents by providing biopsychosocial wellness education and tools that can enable residents to achieve optimal wellbeing." The wellness committee, which strives to have representatives from each class, meets monthly and members include **Jennifer Harsh, Ph.D., Jesse Soucek, M.D., Cory Rohlfen, M.D., Tesia Winter, D.O., Maxine Notice, Ph.D., Jill Wagoner, M.D., Lauren Shoemaker, M.D., Radha Kanneganti, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Mackenzie Keintz, M.D., and Karisa Hajek, M.D.**



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Research Updates

Applications for the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) 2019 are now being accepted. [Read more](#)

Publication of the Quarter honorees for 2018 will present at Grand Rounds on Friday, December 14, at noon. [Jason Shiffermiller, M.D.](#), [Vijaya Bhatt, M.D.](#) and [Bin Duan, Ph.D.](#), will discuss their recently published research. [Read more](#)

Interpretive (spoken) and translation (written) services are available through Nebraska Medicine. Their services help facilitate communication with non-English speaking patients. Examples of documents they translate include patient education, procedure instructions, genetics letters, consult summaries, consent forms, discharge summaries, diagnostics, IRB studies, and other research. Internal requests can be submitted [online](#). Patients can contact the Interpretive Services department at 402-559-8697.

Internal Medicine [faculty publications](#) reported with ADIS and Scopus for the third quarter of 2018

Internal Medicine [research and non-research awards](#) reported with ADIS for the third quarter of 2018

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

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