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Dean's Research Newsletter, May 2021

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New York Medical College

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Dear Members of the New York Medical College (NYMC) Community,

I am excited to share with you the May edition of the research newsletter that spotlights recent research news from across NYMC School of Medicine (SOM) both in the clinical and basic science areas.

It is particularly gratifying to see the commitment to research among our faculty, residents and students during this very difficult year. While this newsletter reports on a number of research projects, it represents just a small sample of the important work being conducted here at NYMC and across our wide network of clinical affiliates to advance us scientifically.

We remain committed to supporting research as a major mission, through the faculty research incentive program, purchases of new equipment and by partnering with the Touro's Bridge and

Seed Funding Grant program, which our faculty are eligible to receive.

Congratulations on your research accomplishments and success in securing grants. It is clear that important research progress positively impacts all of us as reflected by the advances in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Much more progress lies ahead. Be safe and well.

Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., MACP, FAHA, FACE
Dean of the School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology

**AOA Grant Received to Support
Educational Leadership Program to
Combat Systemic Racism and Implicit Bias**

Redab Alnifaidy, SOM Class of 2023

Lior Levy, SOM Class of 2023

Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H.,

vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion and

SOM associate dean of student affairs

Pamela Ludmer, M.D., M.M.E.L.,

SOM associate dean for curriculum integration



NIH Funds Research to Help Understand Link between Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease



Alzheimer's disease leads to progressive loss of brain function and there is currently no effective treatment. Patients with diabetes have a higher risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. Researchers at NYMC and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) are collaborating to study the link between obesity, diabetes, heart disease and brain dysfunction that could lead to earlier interventions and new treatment options for Alzheimer's disease. The new study, "Impact of Atherosclerosis, Metabolic Syndrome and STAT4-dependent Immunity on Alzheimer's Disease," is supported by a grant of \$402,764 from the National Institutes of Health.

"Alzheimer's disease is a chronic progressive neurodegenerative disease and the most common form of dementia in the elderly, affecting 5.8 million Americans in 2020," said **Jerry L. Nadler, M.D.**, SOM dean and professor

of medicine and of pharmacology at NYMC. "None of the pharmacologic treatments available today for Alzheimer's slow or stop the damage and destruction of neurons that cause the disease and make the disease fatal."

Patric K. Stanton, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy and of neurology at NYMC, has teamed with Dr. Nadler and Elena Galkina, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and molecular cell biology at EVMS, to focus on the role of signal transducer and activator of transcription 4 (STAT4)—a protein that attaches to specific regions of DNA to help control activity of certain genes—as it relates to possible immune cell function. Changing activity or expression of STAT4 could lead to new treatments for diabetes and heart disease.

"We have demonstrated in our research that global deletion of STAT4 prevents diet-induced fat tissue inflammation and atherosclerosis," said Dr. Nadler.

This new research extends their study of STAT-4's role in diabetes and heart disease to investigate the potential role of STAT4-dependent immunity in prevention of Alzheimer disease. [Read full story on new research into Alzheimer's disease.](#)

Research by NYMC Faculty and Students Finds Longer Window for Successful Testicular Salvage Following Testicular Torsion

Testicular torsion is one of the most common pediatric urologic emergencies, accounting for 10 to 15 percent of acute scrotal disease in males under the age of 18 years. Traditionally, surgeons have used a six-hour window to determine whether a testicle can be successfully salvaged. However, new research by NYMC students and faculty has found that the time window may be much longer for surgical testicular salvage (orchidopexy).

"Current literature regarding testicular torsion continues to reference a six-hour 'golden rule' of symptom duration for testicular salvage," said **Yuval Elkun**, (right) SOM Class of 2022 and lead author on the research study. "Patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) within the six-hour window have a high chance of orchidopexy while patients presenting after the six-hour window likely have a necrotic testicle requiring removal (i.e. orchiectomy). However, our study found that the window of opportunity for a testicular salvage rate of more than 90 percent following testicular torsion extends far beyond the currently accepted six hours—even up to 24 hours."



Yuval Elkun



Henry Dumke

Additional authors on the study include **Henry Dumke**, (left) SOM Class of 2022; **Jason Elyaguov, M.D.**, urology resident; **Miriam Harel, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of urology; **Lori Dyer, M.D.**, assistant professor of urology; **Richard Schluskel, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of urology; **Paul Zolkovic, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of urology; and **John Phillips, M.D.**, professor of urology. [Read full story on research into testicular torsion.](#)

NYMC Resident Receives Top Research Award at American Urological Association Meeting

Jason Elyaguov, M.D., (bottom right of the screen) urology resident at Westchester Medical Center, received the top award in translational research at the annual Ferdinand C. Valentine Resident Essay Meeting of the New York Section of the American Urological Association on April 11 for his research into the effects of two natural extracts on bladder cancer prevention.

“Bladder cancer is a highly prevalent disease, being the fifth most commonly treated cancer, and projected to affect 84,000 people in 2021,” said Dr. Elyaguov. “Yet limited therapies for this disease often lead to multiple recurrences and even worse progression.

Consequently, there is an urgent need for a more effective, readily available and safer treatment modality.”

Phellinus linteus, a medicinal mushroom grown on mulberry trees, has been used in East Asia for several ailments but also has demonstrated anti-tumorigenic activity in both in vitro and in vivo studies for several cancers. Proanthocyanidin, a natural bioflavonoid found in grape seed, similarly demonstrates several anti-tumorigenic properties with a possible chemo-sensitizing effect and no reported side effects.

For the study, Dr. Elyaguov, under the mentorship of Sensuke Sato, Ph.D. '92, associate professor of urology, theorized that given the individual anti-cancer activities of the extracts the combination of the two extracts might further potentiate such activity against bladder cancer.

“Ultimately, we found that both mushroom and grape seed extracts showed a significant reduction in bladder cancer cell viability,” he said. “Moreover, their combination consistently demonstrated a synergistic cell viability reduction, as much as 85 percent, by way of oxidative stress and programmed cell death (apoptosis). This study thus highlights two natural, readily available products that may serve as effective and safe intravesical therapies in the fight against bladder cancer.”



Bridge and Seed Funding Grants Awarded to NYMC Faculty

NYMC researchers have been awarded bridge and seed funding grants from Touro College and University System (TCUS). Bridge grants sustain research projects between large grant funding and seed grants enable research to gather initial data.

“The outcomes of our faculty’s research and scholarship feature prominently in our reputation as an institution of higher education,” said Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D., vice president for research at NYMC and senior vice president for research affairs for TCUS and chair of the TCUS Biomedical and Health Sciences Research Council. “The bridge and seed funding grant programs are one of several initiatives both system-centric and campus-centric by which we seek to recognize excellence and support research as a fundamental component of Touro’s mission.”

Wen-Hui Wang, M.D., professor of pharmacology, was awarded a bridge funding grant that will allow him to complete several key experiments as he prepares to resubmit his NIH-funded, multi-year RO1 grant on “The Role of Kir4.1 in Regulating NCC and ROMK in DCT.”

“The proposed grant application will test a novel mechanism by which the kidney can sense the change in dietary potassium content and regulate potassium excretion or absorption,” said Dr. Wang. “The new concept will expand the current knowledge regarding renal potassium transport and may lead to development of new approach for the treatment of abnormal high plasma potassium concentrations, known as hyperkalemia, a potentially fatal disorder that can cause irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia).”

Sharath Kandhi, M.D., Ph.D., instructor of physiology, who is working with Zvi Loewy, Ph.D., professor and associate dean for research at Touro College of Pharmacy, received a seed funding grant for the project, “Clinical Trial Readiness of Small Molecular Therapeutics Against Pulmonary Hypertension-SMURF1 Ubiquitin Ligase as Target.”

“Pulmonary hypertension is a serious disease characterized by thickening of the blood vessel wall resulting in elevated blood pressure in the lungs leading to progressive right heart failure and premature death,” said Dr. Kandhi. “With no cure for pulmonary hypertension, our grant proposal addresses underlying causes of the blood vessel wall changes seen in this disease to find new options for preventing and treating pulmonary hypertension.”

“As an early career investigator with vast experience in PH and cardiovascular research, I am grateful for this seed funding which will support integrated research and resources to allow us to compete for independent extramural grant support. I am deeply grateful to the NYMC and Touro leadership for their faith and trust in us and the encouragement to stimulate basic discoveries that have great potential to be translated into clinical practice.”

Grants Corner

Chandra Shekhar Bakshi, D.V.M., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurosurgery, received a \$94,669 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for “Characterization of Francisella tularensis-specific bacteriophages.”

Sangmi Chung, Ph.D., associate professor of cell biology and anatomy, neurology and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, received a \$565,775 grant from the NIH for “Stem Cell-derived Developmental Human Cortical Interneurons to Treat Intractable Epilepsy.”

Thomas Diflo, M.D., professor of surgery, received a \$166,455 grant from CareDx for “Evaluation of Patient Outcomes from the Kidney Allograft Outcomes AlloSure Registry (KOAR)” and a \$215,498 grant from Natera for “The PROspira Kidney Transplant ACTIVE Rejection Assessment registry (ProActive) study.”

Masashi Kai, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, received a \$79,655 grant from TransMedics for “The Portable Organ Care System (OCS™) Heart for Resuscitation, Preservation and Assessment of Hearts from Donors after Circulatory Death Continued Access Protocol (OCS DCD Heart CAP).”

David F. Kronn, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and of pathology, microbiology and immunology, received a \$39,000 grant from Sanofi US Services for “A prospective and retrospective cohort study to refine and expand the knowledge on patients with chronic forms of Acid Sphingomyelinase Deficiency (ASMD).”

Edmund F. LaGamma, M.D. '76, professor of pediatrics and of biochemistry and molecular biology, received a \$6,300 grant from the University of Pittsburgh for “The NICU Antibiotics and Outcomes (NANO) Trial.”

Igor Laskowski, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of surgery, received a \$17,550 grant from the New England Research Institute for “The Therapeutic Strategies, Outcomes and Costs of Critical Limb Ischemia in BEST-CLI Study.”

Rifat Latifi, M.D., professor and chair of Department of Surgery, received a \$214,594 grant from Allergan for “Long term patient reported outcomes following Complex abdominal wall reconstruction with Strattice. A prospective observational study”

Alison T. Lennox, M.D., clinical assistant professor of medicine and pediatrics, received a \$60,878 grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation via Seattle Children’s Hospital for “A Master Protocol to Test the Impact of Discontinuing Chronic Therapies in People with Cystic Fibrosis on Highly Effective CFTR Modulator Therapy (SIMPLIFY).”

Christopher Leonard, Ph.D., professor and interim chair of Department of Physiology, received \$136,377 grant from University of California Los Angeles for “Role of Hypocretin in Opiate Addiction and Withdrawal.”

Xiu-Min Li, M.D., professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, received a \$50,000 grant form miscellaneous donors for “Study of the Effect of BRF Natural Compound on Multiple Myeloma Cells.”

Delong Liu, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, received a \$55,490 grant from Acerta for “An Open-label, Phase 1b/2 Study of Acalabrutinib Alone or in Combination Therapy in Subjects with B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma” and a \$123,984 grant from Syneos for “A Phase 4, Open-Label, Random Study of Two Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Dose Levels in Adult Patients with Relapsed/Refractory B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Eligible for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Trans and Who Have Risk Factor(s) for Veno-Occlusive Disease.”

Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., SOM dean and professor of medicine and pharmacology, received a \$162,088 grant from the NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for “Role of 12-lipoxygenase and 12-HETE signaling in beta-cell dysfunction,” as well as a \$154,320 grant for “Myeloid cell-specific role of STAT4 in atherosclerosis and metabolic dysfunction” and a \$202,764 grant for “Impact of Atherosclerosis, Metabolic Syndrome, and STAT4-dependent Immunity on Alzheimer’s Disease” from the NIH National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute with subcontract from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Lance A. Parton, M.D. '80, professor of pediatrics, received a \$19,644 grant from Regeneron for “A Randomized, Controlled, Multi-Center Study to Assess the Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability of Intravitreal Aflibercept Compared to Laser Photocoagulation in Patients with Retinopathy of Prematurity” and a \$25,264 grant from Chiesi Pharmaceutical for “Phase II, multicenter, double blind, double dummy, randomized, two-arm parallel study to evaluate the efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of CHF6563 in babies with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome.”

Patric K. Stanton, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy and of neurology, received a \$156,000 grant from Gate Neuroscience for “NMDA Receptor Modulators as Neurotherapeutics.”

Katrina R. Stidham, M.D., assistant professor of clinical otolaryngology and neurosurgery, received a \$18,000 grant from Cochlear for “Outcomes of group Aural Rehabilitation for older adult cochlear implant recipients.”

Libor Velišek, M.D., Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy, pediatrics and of neurology, received a \$451,000 grant from the NIH for “Systematic Search for Novel Treatments of Infantile Spasms among Sigma-1 Receptor Ligands.”

John Welter, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, received a \$117,141 grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation via Seattle Children’s Hospital for “A Prospective Study to Evaluate Biological and Clinical Effects of Significantly Corrected CFTR Function in Infants and Young Children (BEGIN).”

Pediatric and Adult Epilepsy Research Program Formed



Epilepsy—in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures or periods of unusual behavior sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness—afflicts approximately 3.5 million people in the United States, including 500,000 children, making it one of the most common neurological disorders. NYMC, Westchester Medical Center (WMC) and Boston Children's Health Physicians (BCHP) have collaborated to create a research program in pediatric and adult epilepsy, which brings clinicians and basic science researchers together to work to develop new, more effective epilepsy treatments.

"The new age of rapid drug development, new devices and genetic research in the field of epilepsy is very promising," says Leonard Newman, M.D. '70, professor and

chair of the Department of Pediatrics at NYMC and president of BCHP. "We are very excited to introduce this new research program and look forward to more opportunities for transitional bench to clinical research in the field of epilepsy as a result."

Last year, **Steven Wolf, M.D., FAES**, and **Patricia McGoldrick, M.P.A., M.S.N., N.P., FAES**, who have a wealth of clinical and research experience in epilepsy, were recruited from Mount Sinai to join the NYMC neurological research team, which includes **Libor Velišek, M.D., Ph.D., FAES**, professor of cell biology and anatomy, pediatrics and of neurology, and assistant dean for basic medical sciences, who has been principal investigator on numerous NIH-funded grants on translational research in developmental epilepsy and published more than 180 primary papers and book chapters on the subject; **Jana Veliskova, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of cell biology and anatomy, obstetrics and gynecology and of neurology, who has published on adult-age epilepsies and female epilepsy issues; **Patric K. Stanton, Ph.D.**, professor of cell biology and anatomy and of neurology, who has published on plasticity in epilepsy, and **Eliana Scemes, Ph.D.**, professor of cell biology and anatomy, who has published on glial contribution in epilepsy.

Several studies into innovative treatments are currently underway, including a clinical trial to assess the long-term safety of the oral solution fenfluramine hydrochloride as an adjunctive therapy for seizures in patients with rare seizure disorders, such as epileptic encephalopathies, and a preliminary study to validate a screening tool developed for the identification of Lennox Gastaut syndrome in patients with intractable drug resistant epilepsy. Dr. Velisek also recently received a \$451,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study a new class of compounds (sigma receptor ligands) as possible novel treatments of infantile spasms, a devastating epilepsy syndrome of childhood with limited treatment options that have to date shown only partial efficacy and serious adverse effects. [Read full story on new epilepsy research program.](#)

Abhay Dhand, M.D., Delivers Keynote Address at Touro Research Day

Over the past year, the medical community marshaled its full array of resources to combat COVID-19, the disease that has resulted in millions of deaths worldwide. With New York, and Westchester County in particular, at the epicenter of the major outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States last March, **Abhay Dhand, M.D.**, associate professor of clinical medicine at NYMC and director of transplant infectious diseases and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Westchester Medical Center quickly found himself in a frontline role treating COVID-19 patients.

As this year's keynote speaker at Touro College's Annual Research Day, Dr. Dhand shared how the medical community harnessed their ever-evolving knowledge of COVID-19 to best care for patients. "The amount of learning that we have been able to do in the last year is a big win for science and our knowledge has exponentially increased, which has translated to better care of our patients," said Dr. Dhand.

We thank Salomon Amar, D.D.S., Ph.D., vice president for research at NYMC and senior vice president for research affairs for Touro College and University System (TCUS) and chair of the TCUS Biomedical and Health Sciences Research Council for organizing Touro Research Day.

[Read full story about Dr. Dhand's address.](#)



Tamar Gomolin Collaborates on Paper on Dangers of Postponing Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment During COVID-19 Pandemic

Last spring, with her clinical rotation in anesthesiology at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan (MET) postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, **Tamar Gomolin**, SOM Class of 2021, thought a lot about the impact that postponement of medical and surgical procedures might have on cancer patient outcomes. The result was a [viewpoint paper](#), which Ms. Gomolin collaborated on with **Abigail Cline, M.D. Ph.D.**, dermatology resident, and **Marc Z. Handler, M.D.**, adjunct assistant professor of dermatology, that was published in the *Journal of Dermatological Treatment*.

“When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I became increasingly concerned for cancer patients whose treatment and care would be inadvertently delayed due to COVID-related appointment cancellations,” said Ms. Gomolin, who will be continuing on to residency in dermatology at MET after graduation. “In addition, some patients may be unaware that a skin lesion has progressed and is in fact an emergency. Regardless of the reasons for delays in management of pigmented lesions, some out of the provider’s control, the consequences of delayed melanoma diagnosis and treatment can be grave.”

The article addresses the dangers of neglecting melanoma during the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to mortality, morbidity and healthcare costs, as well as the importance of prospectively evaluating teledermatology, while continuing to see patients with pigmented lesions in person due to the necessity of early surgical intervention.

“The suspension of clinical rotations during my third year was difficult,” she said. “I missed interacting with patients and engaging with an inter-professional team. However, diving into dermatology research brought a tremendous amount of meaning and purpose to my time during quarantine. I am enthusiastic about the future and hope I can continue to contribute to the exciting field of dermatology.”



Tamar Gomolin

New York Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan Holds Resident Research Day



New York Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan (MET) held their annual Resident Research Day on May 13, when three residents were selected to present their research out of a record-setting 48 abstract submissions.

Sonja Jauhal, M.D., emergency medicine resident, presented research findings from the Healthy East Harlem Initiative, **George Ide, M.D.**, psychiatry resident, presented on a comparison of readmission rates of patients admitted to inpatient psychiatric units treated with first generation versus second generation long-acting antipsychotics and internal medicine resident **Monil Majmundar, M.D.**, presented on a retrospective cohort study on the absolute lymphocyte count as a predictor of mortality and readmission in heart failure hospitalization.

“Despite the challenges this year, it is an indication of the priority and importance of research during residency training that this event continues to be held at Metropolitan,” said Richard McCarrick, M.D., M.H.A., vice dean for graduate medical education and continuing medical education in the SOM and vice chancellor for college student services at NYMC. “It’s been said that research is both a means to an end and an end in itself. There are many barriers to resident participation in research, but those we have heard from today and all of the residents who submitted abstracts certainly have an added element of commitment discipline, energy, ambition and intellectual curiosity to have completed the projects that they did while they were residents—and this is an achievement that we’re all very proud of.”

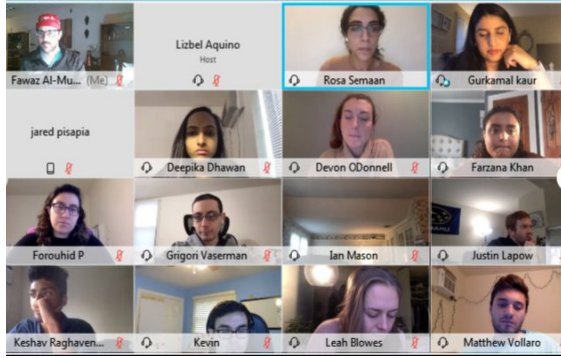
The relationship between MET and NYMC, which dates back to 1875, is particularly notable as the longest partnership between a public hospital and private medical college in the history of the United States. The residency programs at MET are also unique in that they are directly sponsored by the NYMC SOM.

“For the past 146 years, our shared faculty, shared residents and our shared students have cared for patients and learned medicine together,” said Edward C. Halperin, M.D., chancellor and chief executive officer of NYMC. “At Metropolitan, we have a proud history, a great present and an exciting future ahead of us. All of us at the College are pleased to be your partner in this journey.”

The event concluded with the awards presentation. Healthy East Harlem Initiative placed first; the retrospective cohort study on the absolute lymphocyte count as a predictor of mortality and readmission in heart failure hospitalization placed second; and the comparison of readmission rates of patients admitted to inpatient psychiatric units treated with first generation versus second generation long-acting antipsychotics placed third. [Read full story on Resident Research Day.](#)

Neurosurgery Summer Research Program Supports Student Research

Speaking: Rosa Semaan



Since it began in 2018, the Summer Research and Clinical Neurosurgery Program has supported SOM students on more than 60 original clinical research projects, review articles and book chapters on neurological topics ranging from acute ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke to technological updates and COVID-19, which have resulted in numerous publications and student accolades.

“Over the course of my career, there have been countless instances during which I have found myself seeking the sage counsel, advice or assistance of mentors, who have helped guide and shape my career. Consequently, teaching medical students, residents and fellows has become a major focus of my career,” said **Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D.**, (top left of the screen) assistant

professor of neurology, neurosurgery and of radiology, who currently directs the Summer Research Program with **Jared Pisapia, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurosurgery. “As part of the program, I have been fortunate to work with and mentor more than 35 medical students. It has been an immense honor to assist my mentees reach their potential and play a role in their career development. The goal is to educate them on the research process and evolve as a responsible and resilient physician-scientist.”

The six-week program, which was developed by **Chirag Gandhi, M.D.**, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery and professor of neurosurgery, neurology and of radiology, is open to rising second-year SOM students. The program begins with lectures to provide an overview of research study design and scientific writing. Students then pursue a clinical research project with the goal of producing a publishable manuscript in the form of an original article, review article or book chapter, with regular weekly meetings held with a research mentor to monitor progress. [Read full story on Summer Research Program.](#)

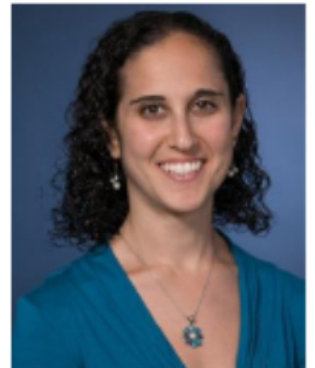
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Holds Resident Research Day

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology hosted their annual Resident Research Day on April 8, which featured a keynote address on best practices in research collaboration by Kate Meriwether, M.D., research committee chair for the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons.

During the event, several residents presented their research on topics in obstetrics and gynecology. Following the presentations, **Rayna Triestch, M.D.**, (top right) chief obstetrics and gynecology resident, received a first place award for her randomized controlled trial investigating whether self-evaluation improves surgical skill. **Itamar Futterman, M.D.**, (lower right) obstetrics and gynecology resident, received the second place award for his research on whether patients with fetal growth restriction and abnormal umbilical artery dopplers can safely undergo induction of labor.

“At this event, we celebrated our resident’s accomplishments of multiple presentations at national conferences and publications in peer-reviewed journals,” said Cara I. Grimes, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology. “I was so impressed with the depth and breadth of their research interests and the effort they put into their investigations. All of these residents have already established themselves as excellent clinical researchers and I look forward to following their academic successes throughout their careers.”

“This was our 20th Annual Resident Research Day and a special year as our celebration last year was postponed due to COVID-19,” said Sean S. Tedjarati, M.D., clinical professor and chair of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. “However during the pandemic, our residents and department were incredibly productive, increasing the number of active protocols 300 percent from 2019. Last year, our department had 17 presentations at national meetings and 20 published manuscripts. So far in 2021, we have 11 accepted presentations and six publications to date. We look forward to further research productivity from our residents and department and to expanding our collective knowledge through investigation.”



Rayna Triestch, M.D.



Itamar Futterman, M.D.

Faculty Publications & Updates

NYMC faculty are notable scholars and researchers who are recognized for their accomplishments and published in leading journals across a wide range of health science disciplines. This listing represents just a small sample.

Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, neurosurgery and of radiology; **Christian Becker, M.D.**, associate professor of anesthesiology and medicine; **Hussein Alshammari, M.D.**, neurology resident; **Jared Cooper, M.D.**, neurosurgery resident; **Edwin Gulko, M.D.**, assistant professor of radiology; **Gurmeen Kaur, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery; **Ramandeep Sahni, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of neurology; **Corey Scurlock, M.D., M.B.A.**, clinical professor of anesthesiology and medicine, and **Chirag D. Gandhi, M.D.**, chair of Department of Neurosurgery and professor of neurosurgery, neurology and of radiology, published ["Acute Cerebrovascular Disorders and Vasculopathies Associated with Significant Mortality in SARS-CoV-2 Patients Admitted to The Intensive Care Unit in The New York Epicenter"](#) in the *Journal of Stroke & Cerebrovascular Diseases*.

Leslie Citrome, M.D., M.P.H., clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, published ["Olanzapine Plus Samidorphan \(ALKS 3831\) in Schizophrenia and Comorbid Alcohol Use Disorder: A Phase 2, Randomized Clinical Trial"](#) in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*.

Abigail Cline, M.D., dermatology resident; **Abraham Kazemi, M.D.**, dermatology resident; **Bijan Safai, M.D., D.S.C.**, chair of Department of Dermatology and professor of dermatology and of pathology, microbiology and immunology; and **Shoshana Marmon, M.D., Ph.D.**, clinical assistant professor of dermatology, published ["A surge in the incidence of telogen effluvium in minority predominant communities heavily impacted by COVID-19"](#) in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Robert Fekete, M.D., associate professor of neurology, published ["Impulse Control Disorders in Parkinson's Disease: Epidemiology, Pathogenesis and Therapeutic Strategies"](#) in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.

Cara L. Grimes, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology, published ["Female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery challenges on behalf of the Collaborative Research in Pelvic Surgery Consortium: managing complicated cases"](#) in *International Urogynecology Journal*.

Chengyue Jin, M.D., medicine resident; **Daniel Frenkel, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine; **Jason T. Jacobson, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine; **Sei Iwai, M.D.**, professor of clinical medicine; and **Aileen Ferrick, Ph.D., R.N.**, assistant professor of medicine, published ["Unique technique to relieve left ventricular assist device electromagnetic interference with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator"](#) in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology*.

David F. Kronn, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and of pathology, microbiology and immunology, published ["Mini-COMET study: Effects of repeat avalsuglucosidase alfa dosing on ptosis in participants with infantile-onset Pompe disease \(IOPD\) who were previously treated with alglucosidase alfa"](#) in *Molecular Genetics and Metabolism*.

Hanjoo Lee, M.D., instructor of surgery; **Rifat Latifi, M.D.**, professor and chair of Department of Surgery; and **Roberto Bergamaschi, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of surgery, published ["Delayed urinary bladder perforation in a hostile post-radiation pelvis"](#) in *Acta Chirurgica Belgica*.

Jayaji M. Moré, SOM Class of 2020; **Justin A. Miller**, SOM Class of 2023; and **Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H.**, vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion, associate dean of student affairs and associate professor of neurology and medicine, published ["Disaster Neurology Update: Focus on the COVID-19 pandemic"](#) in *Neurology Clinical Practice*.

Michal Laniado Schwartzman, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Pharmacology and professor of pharmacology and medicine, published ["Carbohydrate-Restricted Diet: A Successful Strategy for Short-Term Management in Youth with Severe Obesity-An Observational Study"](#) in *Metabolic Syndrome and Related Disorders*.

Aalok R. Singh, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, published ["Neurologic Involvement in Children and Adolescents Hospitalized in the United States for COVID-19 or Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome"](#) in *Jama Neurology*.

[See full list of recent Faculty Publications.](#)