

2-2022

## Dean's Update, February 2022

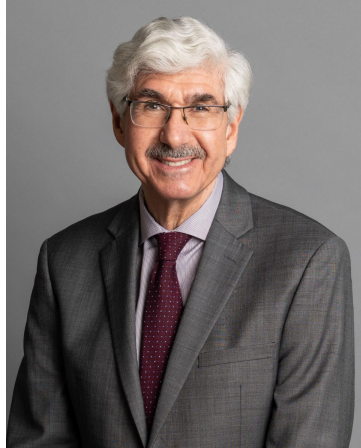
Jerry L. Nadler

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

We are now well into the spring semester with our first- and second-year students back on campus and our third- and fourth-year students at their clerkships and electives across our many clinical affiliates. It is a particularly busy time for our fourth-year students as Match Day approaches on March 18, when students will learn where they will continue their training in their chosen area of specialty. Early match results have already come in for some of our students, including our military matches and matches in ophthalmology and in urology, where we had one of the highest matches in the country—with seven students matching in urology this year.

Last month, we received the good news that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) granted NYMC continued accreditation and commended us for demonstrating substantial compliance with the ACGME's Institutional Requirements with no citations. This is another example of the recognition of the quality of medical education offered here at NYMC and why the School of Medicine (SOM) remains a top choice for prospective medical students with applications once again totaling more than 12,000 to date as we continue to conduct medical student applicant interviews.

We continue to work to enhance our research mission and provide our students with more opportunities to conduct research. This month, we welcomed [Chioma Okeoma, Ph.D.](#), as the vice chair of research for the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, who brings years of experience as an award-winning interdisciplinary scientist to NYMC's research program. Given her extensive research background, we are confident that Dr. Okeoma will be a great asset in enabling us to continue to advance our research program.

I am also pleased to share that Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D., associate professor of neurology, neurosurgery and radiology, has accepted the new role of assistant dean for graduate medical education research. Dr. Al-Mufti will help us to further clinical and translational research opportunities for residents and fellows at NYMC-sponsored graduate medical education programs, in concert with the College's designated institutional official (DIO). This is an important step that will help us to advance our research footprint and capacity at NYMC clinical affiliate sites.

We are now in the final stages of our search for a new DIO and I look forward to sharing news of this important appointment. In addition, the search for a new chair of the Department of Surgery will officially begin soon. A search firm has been identified and a search committee has been established, which will be led by Peter Panzica, M.D., chair of the Department of Anesthesiology at NYMC and director of anesthesiology at Westchester Medical Center (WMC).

As COVID-19 cases continue to decrease, we are hopeful of opportunities to have more events in person, though New York Governor Kathy Hochul has not yet made any announcements specific to colleges and universities. In the interim, we will continue adherence to the safety guidelines in place that have been so effective in keeping our NYMC community safe throughout this pandemic. I look forward to a time when we can resume our normal operations and fully come together in person as a community. Thank you for all your efforts to keep the campus safe and to further the important mission of the NYMC

SOM.

Sincerely,



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

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## Impact of War on Medicine Subject of New Elective

"War has been a driving factor for the evolution of medicine throughout human history. From the development of basic hygiene to our advanced trauma protocols, the military has driven our need for advanced medical innovation," said Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, SOM associate dean of student affairs and associate professor of neurology and of medicine.

As a captain in the U.S. Navy Reserves, it was Dr. Etienne's firsthand experience in the U.S. military that inspired the creation of a new elective course at NYMC on the impact of war on medicine. Although many of the world's militaries have played a role in medical development, the class focuses on the U.S. military and the pivotal role it has played in the advancement of medicine from the American Revolution to the recent conflicts in the Middle East, as well as the direction military medicine needs to go based on current and possible future threats.



Ryan Fahey, M.D. '21, a captain in the U.S. Army, now doing his surgery residency at San Antonio Military Medical Center, worked with Dr. Etienne on planning out the course. "During my first few years at NYMC, I kept seeing names of various physicians and surgeons whom I found had their medical roots in the military," said Dr. Fahey. "I realized that military medicine played a large role in the development of modern medicine, and I thought that our heritage needed to be passed down and remembered."

"The amazing thing about this course is that it relates to every field that the students are going into from psychiatry (shell shock to post-traumatic stress disorder) to emergency medicine (tourniquets) to radiology, surgery, primary care, obstetrics and ethics. Every student reflected on how military history had meaning in their chosen field," said Lisa Hirsch, M.D., clinical assistant of medicine and of family and community medicine, who co-taught the course. [Read full story on the new elective.](#)

## NYMC Residents at Landmark Medical Center Take Second Place in Rhode Island Doctor's Dilemma Competition

Congratulations to the NYMC internal medicine residents' team at Landmark Medical Center in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, for their second-place finish in the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Physicians Doctor's Dilemma competition. This is the first year of the NYMC Internal Medicine Residency Program at Landmark—the SOM's newest clinical affiliate.

A subsidiary of the Prime Healthcare, Landmark sought out NYMC for this affiliation after witnessing the exceptional quality of NYMC's undergraduate medical education program and graduate residency and fellowship programs through NYMC's affiliation with Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey, which is also a member of the Prime Healthcare.

The new residency program was recently highlighted in an article in [The Woonsocket Call](#).



## Marina Holz, Ph.D., and Steven Lansman, M.D., Ph.D., Named Interim Chairs



Marina Holz, Ph.D.



Steven Lansman, M.D., Ph.D.

Marina K. Holz, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS) and professor of cell biology and anatomy, has been named interim chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Steven Lansman, M.D., professor of surgery, has been named interim chair of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Holz takes on the interim role following the retirement of chair Ernest Lee, Ph.D., after more than 20 years of service to NYMC. Dr. Lansman assumes the interim role following the departure of Rifat Latifi, M.D., who left NYMC after being appointed Minister

of Health for the Republic of Kosovo. Dr. Lansman, director of cardiothoracic surgery at Westchester Medical Center (WMC), has also been named interim director of the Department of Surgery at WMC.

## NYMC Welcomes New Chairs and Honors Former Chairs and Retirees



NYMC formally welcomed several academic chairs recently appointed in the SOM and GSBMS and honored former chairs and recent retirees during a special reception hosted by Jerry Nadler, M.D., SOM dean, and Marina Holz, Ph.D., GSBMS dean, on December 7. [Read full story about special reception.](#)

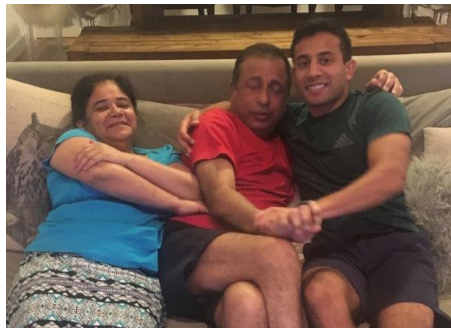
## Addressing Health Inequities Subject of Annual HeLa Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference

Addressing health inequities in the community was the topic of the 22nd Annual HeLa Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference on February 16. The event, sponsored by the NYMC Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth), featured a distinguished panel of speakers whose talks spanned from the origins of health inequities to the present day. Keynote speaker Ashanda Saint Jean, M.D. '98, FACOG, chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley, and medical director, Advanced OB-GYN Associates, Kingston (WMCHealth), shared ideas on what can be done going forward to eliminate health inequities during her address, "The Impact of COVID-19 on BIPOC Women and How, Together, We Can Alter the Course." [Watch video of event.](#)



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## SOM Student Publishes Essay Reflecting on Father's Passing in JAMA

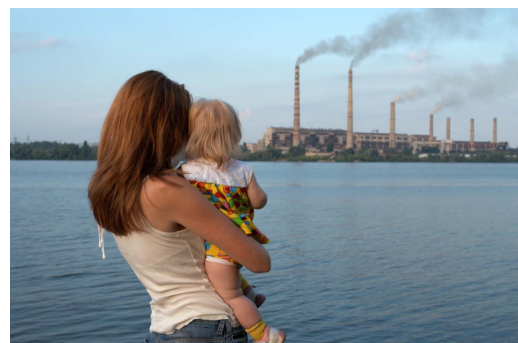


Neel Vahil, SOM Class of 2022, recently published a very meaningful narrative medical essay reflecting on his father's death from COVID-19 in *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. "One of the first things I thought about after my dad died was his sneakers. I know it's an odd thing to fixate on after your dad dies, but the image of his sweaty socks, still in his sneakers from the last time he used the elliptical, haunts me. When someone you love dies unexpectedly there isn't any closure. You are left with a hamper of their dirty clothes, strands of their hair on a comb and the painful realization that you have programmed them into a future that will instead be blighted by their absence," wrote Mr. Vahil. [Read full essay "My Dad's Sneakers."](#)

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## Children's Environmental Health Subject of New Area of Concentration

Due to differences in behavior and biology, children are often more vulnerable to pollutants and other environmental factors that lead to a wide array of common chronic diseases and other health issues, including asthma and cancer, making it integral that pediatric health care professionals are well prepared to recognize and address environmental aspects to disease. Despite this, "many pediatricians in New York report that they are not comfortable managing environmental aspects of disease and that prior data shows that only 20 percent are even trained to suspect the environment as a cause of disease," according to Amy Brown, M.D., M.B.E., assistant professor of pediatrics and adjunct associate professor of public health at NYMC and a pediatric pulmonologist and children's environmental health specialist for Boston Children's Health Physicians and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at WMC.



With the goal of providing enhanced foundational support to better address environmental-based exposures for future pediatricians, the SOM recently introduced an area of concentration (AOC) in Children's Environmental Health. The longitudinal educational program, taken on an elective basis, provides SOM students with enriched opportunities in core facets of academic children's environmental health, including educational experiences, clinical consultation, community advocacy and environmental research.

The introduction of the new AOC in children's environmental health grew from the success of a summer training program in pediatric pulmonology, allergy, immunology and sleep medicine, offered in

conjunction with the Children's Environmental Health Center of the Hudson Valley, that was inspired by Allen Dozor, M.D., professor of pediatrics and clinical public health at NYMC and chief of pediatric pulmonology, allergy, immunology and sleep medicine at WMC. [Read full story on programs on children's environmental health.](#)

## Faculty Promotions

The Office of the SOM Dean congratulates our faculty who have achieved promotion in rank in their respective departments/disciplines from across our affiliate sites.

### ANESTHESIOLOGY

#### **Nitin Sekhri, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology  
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

### CELL BIOLOGY AND ANATOMY

#### **Kenneth Lerea, Ph.D.**

Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy  
New York Medical College

### MEDICINE

#### **John Pellicone, M.D.**

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine  
NYMC Affiliate: NYC Health + Hospitals/  
Metropolitan

### PATHOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### **Fouzia Shakil, M.D., Ph.D.**

Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology,  
Microbiology and Immunology  
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

### PHYSIOLOGY

#### **Jonathan Fisher, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Physiology  
New York Medical College

### PEDIATRICS

#### **Jessica Hochberg, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

#### **Supriya Jain, M.D.**

Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

#### **Alan Pinto, M.D.**

Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

#### **Aalok Singh, M.D.**

Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
NYMC Affiliate: Westchester Medical Center

### EMERITI

#### **Susan Olson, Ph.D.**

Professor Emerita of Biochemistry and  
Molecular Biology

## Frosso Adamakos, M.D., Named Vice Chair of Emergency Medicine Education and Faculty Development

Frosso Adamakos, M.D., clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, has been named vice chair of emergency medicine education and faculty development in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Adamakos is one of just a few physicians to hold this dedicated role at a medical center in New York City. An award-winning emergency physician and educator who has built her career in academic and education, Dr. Adamakos is also vice chair of education for NYMC's Emergency Medicine Residency programs at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan and NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. She was recently recognized with the Unsung Heroes Award by the American College of Emergency Physicians.



On March 9, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Dr. Adamakos will moderate "No Longer Silent on ED Violence," with guest speaker Nikita Joshi, M.D., medical director of the Alameda Health System. [Register for the virtual event.](#) CME credit is available.

## Amanda Beck, D.V.M., Joins Undergraduate Medical Education Team



Amanda Beck, D.V.M., has joined the SOM Office of Undergraduate Medical Education as the Director of Self-Directed Learning and Evidenced-Based Practice. In this important role, Dr. Beck will oversee the delivery of our longitudinal, self-directed learning curriculum for the M.D. Program. She will also assist with research-related activities in support of NYMC's research infrastructure and core facilities.

Prior to joining NYMC, Dr. Beck was associate professor of pathology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (COM). A graduate of Bates College and Kansas State University of Veterinary Medicine, she completed a residency in anatomic pathology, with special training at Rockefeller University in collaboration with Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College. In addition, she completed post-doctoral training in comparative pathology and diagnostic and experimental laboratory animal pathology at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Beck previously served as a block director for the pre-clerkship Integrated Foundational Sciences course at the Einstein COM. She is the recipient of several high-profile teaching awards and is currently enrolled in a master of science in education degree program at Hofstra University.

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### Phase One Curriculum Directors Named

As part of the SOM M.D. Program curriculum redesign, several faculty have been named as phase one curriculum directors – Kenneth Lerea, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy; Patrick Lento, M.D., professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology and of medicine; Jeanne Wilson, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics; and Melissa Cellini, M.D., M.S.Ed., assistant professor of pediatrics. The new curriculum will be divided into three phases over four years: Foundational Science (Phase 1); Clinical (Phase 2); and Advanced Clinical (Phase 3). The new co-directors will oversee the curriculum, structure and assessment of Phase 1 of the M.D. Program. Special thanks to Jennifer Koestler, M.D., senior associate dean for medical education, and Pamela Ludmer, M.D., M.M.E.L., associate dean for curriculum integration, for their efforts.

Dr. Lerea has taught at NYMC since 1989 and also serves as assistant dean for the master's program in the GSBMS and as course director of histology and cell biology in the SOM. Dr. Lento joined NYMC in 2012 and also serves as the course director of pathology and pathophysiology. Dr. Wilson has taught at NYMC since 1997 and currently serves as medical director for the Mount Pleasant Central School District in New York and is the course director of foundations of clinical medicine at NYMC. Dr. Cellini is a pediatric hospitalist with Boston Children's Health Physicians and practices at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. She has taught at NYMC since 2016 and serves as assistant course director of foundations of clinical medicine.

### Faculty Appointments *(October 26, 2021 through February 15, 2022)*

Welcome to our new faculty from across our affiliate sites.

#### **NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE**

**Adam Block, Ph.D.**

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Lenny Moss, Ph.D.**

Adjunct Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy

**Dana Wade, M.D.**

Instructor of Medicine

#### **GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL**

#### **WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER**

**Heepeel Chang, M.D.**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Shahrukh Chaudhary, M.D.**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

**George Coritsidis, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine

**Karyi Coyle, M.D.**

**Scott Luchs, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology

**Eric Rosenberg, D.O.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology

**LANDMARK MEDICAL CENTER**

**Ibrahim Elgabry, M.D.**  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Glenn Fort, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine

**Mohit Kale, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Walid Saber, M.D.**  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine

**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/LINCOLN**

**Joseph DeMattia, M.D.**  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery

**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/METROPOLITAN**

**Gowthami Kanagalingam, M.D.**  
Instructor of Medicine

**Mannat Saini, M.D.**  
Instructor of Medicine

**PRIMARY CARE PRECEPTOR**

**Rajveer Sachdev, M.D., M.B.A.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and  
Community Medicine

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Mark Hurwitz, M.D.**  
Professor of Radiation Medicine

**Melissa Iammatteo, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Marina Keller, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Julie Levasseur, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Diane Lindsay-Adler, M.S.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Tracey Milligan, M.D.**  
Professor of Neurology *with Tenure*

**Madalyn Neuwirth, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Akiva Novetsky, M.D., M.S.**  
Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Malini Persad, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and  
Gynecology

**Syed Rahmatullah, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Anne Marie Roe, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and  
Gynecology

**Javin Schefflein, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology

**Emma Steinberg, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Xiaoyu Tang, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Pathology, Microbiology and  
Immunology

**Liana Tatarian, D.O.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Radhika Voleti, M.D.**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

## Student Profiles

### Gillian Hecht Blends Her Passions of Medicine and Cooking at NYMC

Gillian Hecht, SOM Class of 2024, has two longstanding passions: medicine and cooking. Throughout her life—she relied on her hobby of



cooking to decompress, but upon her acceptance into medical school—she decided to take it to the next level and earned a culinary certificate from the Kosher Culinary Center in Brooklyn during the summer leading into her second year. Dedicated to intertwining her two interests, she helped lead the way in establishing the Culinary Medicine Club and an area of concentration at NYMC SOM for those with similar interests. [Read full profile on Ms. Hecht.](#)



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## Isidora Monteparo: Air Force Second Lieutenant, Artist and Future Air Force Physician



Isidora Monteparo, SOM Class of 2022, joined the New York Air National Guard at age 17. Now, nine years later, she is close to graduating from NYMC, having achieved her goal of securing a military residency in diagnostic radiology at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland. While at NYMC, she has not only nurtured her passion for medicine, but also creatively, as art director of NYMC's Quill and Scope magazine. Her artwork is currently on display in the Health Sciences Library. [Read full profile on Lt. Monteparo.](#)

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## Keerthana Jayaseelan Hopes to One Day Give Back to Her Hometown in India

Born in the rural Indian town of Theni, Keerthana Jayaseelan, SOM Class of 2023, and her family did not have much access to quality medical care. Even her mother did not have access to a physician during childbirth. After her family emigrated to the United States for an opportunity for a better education, Ms. Jayaseelan has made it her mission to become a physician and eventually give back to her hometown. She hopes to one day take her humanist vision back to Theni and work to ensure that quality medical care is easier to access for underserved residents of the area. [Read full profile of Ms. Jayaseelan.](#)



## Faculty and Student Publications and Accolades

**Paul Arnaboldi, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, published "Hygromycin A in the Lymelight" in *Cell Host & Microbe*.

**Matthew Bronstein, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; **Ilya Shnaydman, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; **Kartik Prabhakaran, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of surgery; **Jeffrey Baum, SOM Class of 2022**; **Joshua Klein, D.O.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; and **Peter Rhee, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of surgery, published "[A Trend Toward More Pigtailed and Less Chest Tubes with Similar Outcomes](#)" in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.

**Mitchell Cairo, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics, medicine, cell biology and anatomy and of pathology,

microbiology and immunology, published "[Allogeneic Transplantation to Treat Therapy-Related Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in Adults](#)" in *Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*.

**Abigail Cline, M.D., Ph.D.**, dermatology resident; **Jia Gao**, SOM Class of 2022; and **Shoshana Marmon, M.D., Ph.D.**, clinical assistant professor of dermatology, published "[Sustained reduction in no-show rate with the integration of teledermatology in a federally qualified health center](#)" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

**Ercument Dirice, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pharmacology, published "[Deconstructing the origins of sexual dimorphism in sensory modulation of pancreatic beta cells](#)" in *Molecular Metabolism*.

**XiuMin Li, M.D., M.S.**, professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, published "[Sinomenine Relieves Airway Remodeling By Inhibiting Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition Through Downregulating TGF-beta 1 and Smad3 Expression In Vitro and In Vivo](#)" in *Frontiers in Immunology*.

**Sophie Lin, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, published "[Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)" in *Clinics in Geriatric Medicine*.

**Aaqib Malik, M.D., M.P.H.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, and **Hasan Ahmad, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of medicine, published "[Clinical Outcomes of Unprotected Left Main ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction](#)" and "[Temporal Trends and Outcomes of Transcatheter Versus Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement in Patients on Chronic Steroid Therapy](#)" in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.

**Afaf Moustafa, SOM Class of 2022**, published "[Adolescent depression symptoms and e-cigarette progression](#)" in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

**Lila Pereira, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pediatrics and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, published "[The Fallacy of 'Good Training Experience': The Need to Protect Psychology Trainees From Harassment and the Imperative of Multiculturally Competent Supervision](#)" in *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*.

**Garret Weber, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of anesthesiology, published "[Transfusion in Pediatric Cardiac Surgery: A Moving Target](#)" in *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.



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