

2-2024

Dean's Research Newsletter, February 2024

Neil W. Schluger

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Dear NYMC Community,

The research accomplishments of our SOM faculty, students, and residents continue to be impressive as they grow our knowledge in numerous areas of science and medicine to positively benefit patient outcomes. This latest issue of the SOM research newsletter reflects some of that important work focusing on stroke standards, cardiac transplantation, prostate cancer, health disparities, growth hormone therapy, and more.

To further support these research efforts, I am pleased to share that I have recently appointed Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D., associate professor of neurology, neurosurgery, and of radiology and associate chair of neurosurgery for research, as associate dean for clinical research. Dr. Al-Mufti's successes as a researcher and a mentor to others are notable. I am therefore confident he will be a great asset in his new role.



I hope you enjoy learning about these latest research successes as much as I have.

Sincerely,

Neil W. Schluger, M.D.
Dean of the School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine

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New Study Urges Changes to Hemorrhagic Stroke Standards to Save Lives

Intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) is a serious medical emergency caused by the spontaneous rupture of a small artery in the brain, resulting in bleeding into the brain. Although ICH accounts for only 15 to 20 percent of all strokes, it is by far the deadliest and most disabling form of stroke, with a mortality rate of approximately 30 percent.

While a highly standardized and optimized workflow has been



adopted worldwide for treating acute ischemic stroke – which is caused by arterial blockages – no such time-based emergency protocols are in widespread use for ICH. **Stephan Mayer, M.D.**, professor of neurology and neurosurgery, along with an international consortium of doctors, is now urging this to change, in a study published in [Stroke](#).

“Neurologists typically cite the phrase ‘time is brain’ to educate the public about the importance of acting quickly when someone is suspected of having a stroke,” says Dr. Mayer, co-senior author of the paper. “The fact of the matter is that this principle is unevenly applied. Hospitals are required to treat ischemic stroke urgently and report their performance but are under no obligation to do the same for ICH, even though it’s a more deadly disease. This disconnect must change.” [Read more.](#)



Dr. Mitchell Cairo Secures \$2.6M FDA Grant for Infant CMV Infection Research



Mitchell Cairo, M.D., professor of pediatrics, cell biology and anatomy, medicine, and of pathology, microbiology, and immunology, has received a \$2.6 million grant from the Food and Drug Administration to explore a novel and innovative treatment for babies born with cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection – the most common infectious cause of birth defects in the United States.

“Moderate to severe congenital CMV infection in infants results in significant developmental changes and hearing loss,” says Dr. Cairo. “The current treatment for CMV is the oral antibiotic (anti-viral) drug valganciclovir. Unfortunately, this drug alone is incapable of both eliminating CMV infection and preventing severe neurodevelopmental disabilities.”

This grant will allow Dr. Cairo and his research team to investigate the safety and effectiveness of combining valganciclovir with CMV memory T-cells from maternal donors to improve outcomes for infants with moderate to severe congenital CMV infection.

Redefining Cardiac Transplantation by Extending Heart Procurement Time

The growth in orthotopic heart transplantations in the U.S. is remarkable, reaching an impressive milestone of approximately 4,000 procedures in 2022. Yet beneath this triumph lies a critical challenge – more than 50 percent of donor hearts are not utilized. A new study by NYMC students and faculty conducted at Westchester Medical

Center (WMC), a major clinical affiliate of NYMC, unveils potential strategies to alter the current landscape of heart transplantation and save more lives.

“While advancements in surgery and postoperative care have greatly improved post-transplant outcomes, organ recovery methods have remained largely static, centering around cold organ storage,” said **Vasiliki Gregory**, SOM Class of 2025 and lead author on the study, which she recently presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for Thoracic Surgeons. “Traditionally, the donor heart is transported in a cooler on ice, however, that limits transport to about four hours, inherently restricting the geographical range for donor-recipient matching and the pool of eligible recipients.”



For the study, Gregory, under the guidance of her mentor, Suguru Ohira, M.D., Ph.D., clinical associate professor of surgery, and Ameesh Isath, M.D., WMC cardiovascular disease fellow, analyzed transplants performed at WMC using traditional cold storage versus using the Organ Care System (OCS), comparing transport and clinical outcomes. Developed by Transmedics, OCS is an emerging innovation that enables blood perfusion during the transport process from the donor to the recipient. Sometimes referred to as the “beating heart in a box,” the technology has demonstrated the potential to increase the viability window for transporting donor hearts. [Read more.](#)

NYMC Dermatology Resident Recognized with Resident of Distinction Award



Seher Banu Farabi Atak, M.D., a second-year dermatology resident in the NYMC-sponsored Dermatology Residency Program at New York Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan, was recognized with a dermMentors Resident of Distinction Award and sponsored to attend the 2024 Maui Derm Hawaii conference in January. At the conference, Dr. Farabi Atak presented her research on stem cell treatment for intractable wounds.

“It was such an honor to be one of just five dermatology residents from across the U.S. to be recognized with this prestigious award,” says Dr. Farabi Atak, who received her medical degree in Turkey before coming to the U.S. to continue her medical training. “The conference was a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and exchange ideas, and the audience at my presentation was very enthusiastic regarding this new approach for treatment that shows a great deal of promise for various skin conditions.”

For the study, a systemic review of 3,200 studies was conducted. “Wound healing is an intricate process involving coordinated interactions among inflammatory cells, skin fibroblasts, keratinocytes, and endothelial cells,” says Dr. Farabi Atak. “In our review, we comprehensively investigated stem cell therapies in chronic wounds, summarizing clinical, translational, and primary literature. Notably, adipose tissue-derived mesenchymal stem cell applications in wounds emerged as an optimal choice to treating intractable wounds, particularly chronic lower leg wounds, greatly enhancing the patient’s quality of life and potentially reducing health care costs.”

Grants Corner

Mitchell Cairo, M.D., professor of pediatrics, cell biology and anatomy, medicine, and of pathology, microbiology, and immunology, received a \$123,000 grant from The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital for “Novel Immunomodulation and Facilitation of “Suppression Proof” CAR NK cell against Ewing sarcoma.”

Rebecca Glassman, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, received a \$5,616 grant from ViiV Healthcare/Adelphi for “Perspectives on Treatment with CAB+RPV LA Injectable Therapy from People Living with HIV (PWH) in the US with Prior Adherence Challenges to Oral ART.”

Cara Grimes, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology, received a \$173,456 grant from Veristat and Cook Myosite Team for "A Two-Stage, Randomized, Controlled Trial Comparing the Safety and Efficacy of Itamiocel with Placebo in the Treatment of Female Participants with Chronic Fecal Incontinence and a History of Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury (DigniFI)."

Simon Hanft, M.D., associate professor of neurosurgery, received a \$557,790 grant from GT Medical Technologies for "A Phase 3 Randomized Controlled Trial of Post-Surgical Stereotactic Radiotherapy (SRT) versus Surgically Targeted Radiation Therapy (STaRT) with Gamma Tile for Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Metastatic Brain Tumors."

Kristina Harris-Petersen, M.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, received a \$15,000 grant from the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry for "The Complex Repair of Addressing Health Inequities: Teaching Clinicians about Disabilities."

Marina Holz, Ph.D. M.P.H. '23, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, interim chair of Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and professor of cell biology and anatomy, received a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce for "WISE – Women's Institute for Science Entrepreneurship."

Christine Hom, M.D., clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, received a \$801,689 grant from AstraZemec/Parexel International, LLC, for "A Phase III, Randomized, Double-blind, Parallel-group, Placebo-controlled Study to Evaluate the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Efficacy, and Safety of IV Anifrolumab in Pediatric Participants 5 to <18 Years of Age with Moderate to Severe Active Systemic Lupus Erythematosus While on Background Standard of Care Therapy" and a \$418,433 grant from AbbVie, Inc. for "Juvenile Psoriatic Arthritis: Efficacy, Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of Risankizumab in Pediatric Subjects with Active Juvenile Psoriatic Arthritis."

David Kronn, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and of pathology, microbiology, and immunology, received a \$8,775 grant from U.S. Services Inc. for "Defining Central Nervous System Abnormalities in Infantile and Late-Onset Pompe Disease Patients."

Xiu-Min Li, M.D., professor of pathology, microbiology, and immunology and of otolaryngology, received a \$301,172 grant from General Nutraceutical Technology, LLC, for "IgE Suppressing Berberine Nanomedicine for Treatment of Food Allergies" and a \$75,129 grant from General Nutraceutical Technology, LLC, for "IgE Suppressing Small Molecule Compound Xanthopurpurin Analog for Multiple Food Allergies."

Stephan Mayer, M.D., professor of neurology and of neurosurgery, received a \$210,290 grant from Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Inc. for "A Phase 3 study to investigate the efficacy and safety of the oral FXIa inhibitor Asundexian (BAY 2433334) compared with placebo in participants after an acute non-cardioembolic ischemic stroke or high-risk TIA (OCEANIC-Stroke)."

Suguru Ohira, M.D., Ph.D., clinical associate professor of surgery, received a \$50,000 grant from Transmedics, Inc., for "Sponsor-Initiated OCS Heart Perfusion (OHP-II) Registry."

Karen Seiter, M.D., professor of medicine, received a \$302,759 grant from Bio-Path Holdings for " A Phase I Clinical Trial to Study the Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Efficacy of BP1002 (L-Bcl-2) Antisense Oligonucleotide in Patients with Advanced Lymphoid Malignancies."

John Welter, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, received a \$53,232 grant from Clarametx Biosciences, Inc./Rho Inc. for "A Phase 1b/2a Study To Evaluate The Safety Of CMTX-101 In Combination With Inhaled Tobramycin In People With Cystic Fibrosis Chronically Infected with Pseudomonas Aeruginosa."

Department of Radiation Medicine Enrolls First Patient in Nation in Prostate Cancer Clinical Trial

The Department of Radiation Medicine demonstrated the success of its research program by being the first in the nation to enroll a patient in a phase III clinical trial for high-risk prostate cancer. The NCI Cooperative Group trial through NRG Oncology, referred to as the "High Five" trial, randomizes patients with high-risk, clinically localized prostate cancer to either traditional radiation therapy (approximately 20 treatments over several weeks) or stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) delivered in only five treatments over two weeks by giving a higher dose each treatment.

"SBRT has proven to be an effective and safe treatment for men with lower-risk prostate cancer," said **Mark Hurwitz, M.D.**, professor and

chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine. “This study will help determine if this short precise regimen can be routinely used for the treatment of higher-risk patients. We are the first center in the country to enroll a patient, which demonstrates the well-oiled machine our clinical trials program is regarding bringing leading-edge trials to our cancer patients.”



Dr. Fawaz Al-Mufti Named Associate Dean for Clinical Research



Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D., associate professor of neurology, neurosurgery, and of radiology, has been named associate dean for clinical research. In his new role, Dr. Al-Mufti will create curricular research training resources and programs for clinical junior faculty and resident and fellow trainees and identify grant and industry-sponsored opportunities to support and encourage clinical and translational research.

A highly accomplished triple-trained, board-certified neurologist, neurointensivist, and neuroendovascular surgeon, Dr. Al-Mufti joined NYMC and WMC in 2018 from Rutgers University - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, where he served as the director of neuroendovascular surgery (neurology).

With an exceptional track record of more than 250 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Al-Mufti oversees research at the WMC Brain and Spine Institute and serves as the inaugural director of the Center for Neurological Research and Innovation.

As the director of the CNS Neuroendovascular Surgery Fellowship, Dr. Al-Mufti has mentored more than 100 students, residents, and fellows. His contributions extend to representing NYMC and the WMC Brain and Spine Institute at national and international cerebrovascular conferences, as well as designing and leading numerous national and international clinical trials. Serving as the principal investigator for multiple, major, funded multi-site trials, he plays a crucial role in scientific and educational committees of prestigious organizations, such as the American Academy of Neurology, Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology, and the Neurocritical Care Society. Additionally, he chairs the Interventional Neurology Section of the American Academy of Neurology. In 2023, he was inducted into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society, and in 2024, he was honored to join Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society.

Socioeconomic Disparities Exist in Treatment of Teen Femoral Fractures

Children and adolescents from poor socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to experience delayed treatment for femoral fractures leading to worse outcomes and increased health care costs according to a new study by NYMC faculty and student researchers recently published in [Injury](#).

“Though it is recognized that prompt fixation of femoral fractures is associated with a shorter return to function, decreased hospital stays, and improved pain relief, in our nationwide analysis, we found significant disparities across race and socioeconomic statuses,” says **Sima Vazquez, M.S.**, SOM Class of 2024, (photo left) lead author of the study. “Even when controlling for injury severity the delay in treatment timing for those of poor socioeconomic status and a non-white race remained consistent.”



For the study, the researchers analyzed records of nearly 11,000 adolescent patients who underwent femur fracture repair throughout the United States from 2016 to 2020. Although femur fractures account for less than two percent of all pediatric fractures, they are the most common diaphyseal fractures and the leading cause of pediatric orthopedic hospitalization.

“Our study demonstrates that racial and socioeconomic barriers to high-value, high-quality health care access and treatment continue to exist in orthopedic care,” says **Irina Salik, M.D.**, (photo right) associate professor of anesthesiology and senior author of the study. “It is our hope that shedding light on these disparities will aid in the development of protocols for standardization of care for femur fracture patients, as well as improved provider education.”

Research Informing Prostate Cancer Guidelines Falls Short for High-Risk Black American Men



Despite a two-fold higher death rate, Black American men are disproportionately excluded from research informing treatment guidelines for prostate cancer, according to a new study by NYMC students and faculty recently published in [Urology](#).

“Currently, health care providers rely heavily on prostate cancer screening and treatment guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), which are based on outcomes from approximately 1,000 clinical trials. Yet when we analyzed whether those trials included patients comparable to the demographic makeup in the U.S. and more specifically Black Americans with their disproportionate mortality burden, we found two very discouraging results,” says **Ryan Lubarsky**, SOM Class of 2024, lead author on the study.

According to the study, while the proposed “target” representation in clinical trials for Black Americans should have been approximately 27 percent, they accounted for just 12.8 percent of total patients. In two-thirds of the clinical trials, demographic data was excluded completely. [Read more.](#)

Research Resource Corner

The following are helpful links to resources available to faculty and students in support of research.

- [Library Databases](#)
- [National Inpatient Sample Data Set Access](#)
- [Library Research Consultation Form](#)
- [Guide to Scholarly Publishing](#)
- [Systematic Review Guide](#)
- [Office of Research Administration](#)
- [Human Subject Research](#)
- [IRB Policies and Procedures](#)

- [Intramural Funding Opportunities](#)

Research Repository on LEO (available to matriculated students)

The Research Repository provides centralized access to numerous resources designed to assist students in all stages of their research endeavors — from locating a project and mentor to creating a plan for research productivity, to analyzing data and generating a scholarly product. Highlights of the site include a listing of prospective, NYMC-affiliated faculty mentors and resources for funding conference presentations. Current students can access the Research Repository by logging into LEO/LCMS+ and under "COURSES", search for: Yr999 - 2023-2024 - SOM - Research (RESEARCH).

Study Reveals Concerning Link Between Growth Hormone Therapy and Growth Plate Fractures in Children

Human growth hormone has long been used to treat certain medical conditions in children yet may cause a serious complication, according to a new study lead-authored by **Samuel Beber, M.Sc.**, SOM Class of 2026, that was conducted with researchers at the Hospital of Special Surgery (HSS) during his summer research fellowship.

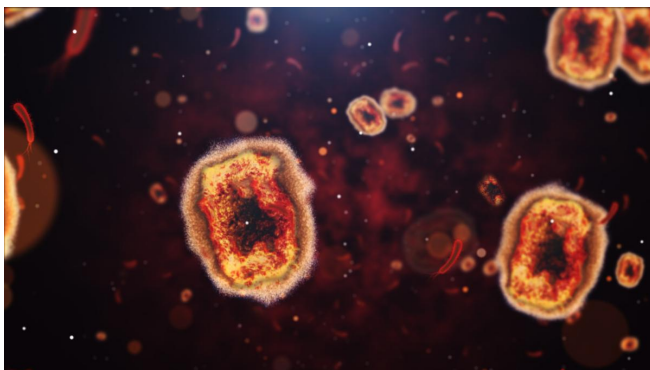
The odds of having taken human growth hormone therapy were 15 times higher among children who experienced a fracture to the growth plate of the upper shinbone compared with a matched comparison group who experienced midshaft tibia fractures, according to the study published in the [Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery](#).

While human growth hormone therapy has been used for decades to treat growth hormone deficiency due to underlying medical conditions, such as Turner syndrome, very low birth weight, Prader-Willi syndrome, and chronic renal insufficiency in children, its use became more widespread in 2003 when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the therapy for the treatment of short stature with no known cause.

“In our study, we found that there was a significant association between growth hormone therapy and proximal tibial physeal avulsion fractures, a previously unreported complication related to growth hormone therapy which in adolescents, and particularly adolescent athletes, requires careful consideration when deciding to initiate this therapy,” says Beber. [Read more](#).



Navigating Monkeypox: A Global Health Crisis Amidst COVID-19 Recovery



Monkeypox has emerged as a new threat to worldwide health systems that are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the potential challenge posed by monkeypox, a group of NYMC researchers conducted a thorough review of existing knowledge on the disease to create a summary document that has been published in [Microorganisms](#), as part of a special issue of the journal on monkeypox.

“The study summarizes what is already known about monkeypox, identifies gaps in understanding, and serves as a guide for future research and intervention efforts,” says Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., associate professor of neurology and of medicine, who co-authored the paper along with Rahim Hirani, SOM Class of 2025, and Raj Tiwari, Ph.D., professor of pathology, microbiology, and immunology and associate professor of otolaryngology. “Our hope is that we contribute insights into addressing the current monkeypox outbreak and enhancing global preparedness for emerging viral threats.”

“Basic science research is key to understanding disease and preventing it,” says Hirani, who is enrolled in the College’s M.D./Ph.D. program. The review emphasizes the complex global challenge posed by monkeypox, the importance of immediate and coordinated action, promising developments in vaccines, the need for further research on nucleic-acid-based vaccines, and the importance of a multifaceted approach involving research, health care system strengthening, and global cooperation.

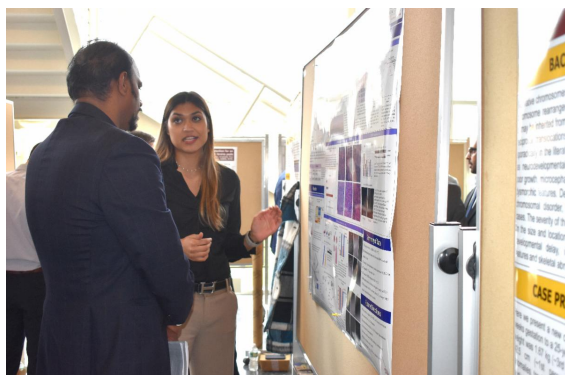
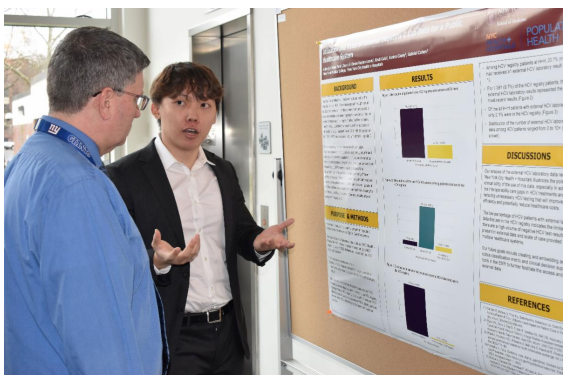
“Viruses are entities that cannot live without a host. We have to understand their interaction and relationship with us to combat them,” says Dr. Tiwari. “The current crisis serves as a stark reminder of the need for sustained vigilance, investment in public health infrastructure, and a commitment to science-based solutions for safeguarding global health.”

Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology Hosts Annual Research Symposium

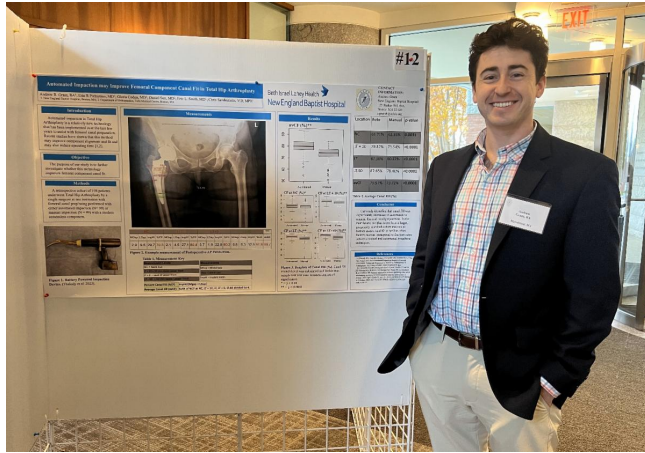


The Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology hosted its second annual Research Symposium on February 23, welcoming Raghu Kalluri, M.D., Ph.D., chair of cancer biology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as keynote speaker. The day-long symposium featured oral presentations and poster presentations by students, residents, and trainees on a range of topics, including wound healing and pain response, assessment of bone marrow core biopsies at the bedside, ChatGPT as a diagnostic tool, machine teaching in pathology, and a test strategy to diagnosis pulmonary histoplasmosis.

Humayun Islam, M.D., Ph.D., clinical professor and chair of the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, opened the program by welcoming attendees. “This symposium serves as a platform to showcase individual contributions, ideas, and innovations, as well as a vehicle to learn from and be inspired by the diverse perspectives and expertise present here. The intellectual exchange that takes place here will contribute to the advancement of individual research projects and lead to the emergence of new avenues for exploration, discovery, and collaboration.” [Read more.](#)



Orthopedics Research Fellowship Yields Noteworthy Results for SOM Student Andrew Grant



Since recognizing his passion for orthopedics during an elective at Westchester Medical Center, **Andrew Grant**, SOM Class of 2024, has built a prolific research portfolio in the field through a fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, with three papers already accepted or published, 13 conference presentations, and four textbook chapters underway to date.

“My orthopedics elective was by far the most I'd worked on any rotation, but it was also the rotation I found that I derived the most energy from. Whether I was helping perform closed reductions in the ER or fix a fracture in the

OR, I could see the impact the team and I were making (via x-ray) to help patients get back to the things they wanted to do,” says Grant.

The various research projects Grant has been involved with during his fellowship, alongside clinicians at New England Baptist Hospital, have showcased a range of orthopedic topics, including iodine versus saline irrigation in primary total knee arthroplasty and hip arthroplasty and factors that orthopedic fellowship applicants look for when applying to adult reconstruction fellowships, both of which Grant presented on at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons annual meeting in San Francisco in February. [Read more.](#)

Faculty, Resident, and Student Publications and Accolades

The following is a selection of recent publications by SOM faculty, residents, and students. View the full list of [publications](#).

Manoj Abraham, M.D., clinical associate professor of otolaryngology, published “[Complications Associated with Tranexamic Acid Use with Cutaneous Flap Surgery](#)” in *Facial Plastic Surgery and Aesthetic Medicine*.

Yazan Al-Ajlouni, SOM Class of 2024, and **Blossom Samuels, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of rehabilitation medicine, published “[Atypical femur fracture in a male without history of bisphosphonate use: a case report](#)” in the *Journal of Medical Case Reports*.

Muhammet Celik, M.D., psychiatry resident, published “[Analysis of nonfatal suicide attempts and demographic characteristics of US military veterans with opioid use disorder: A descriptive VA medical center study](#)” in *The American Journal on Addictions*.

Abdelhadi Farouji, M.D., internal medicine resident; **Ahmad Haddad, M.D.**, internal medicine resident; **Nibras Yar Khan, M.D.**, internal medicine resident; **Arwa Battah, M.D.**, internal medicine resident; **Amaar Ahmad, M.D.**, internal medicine resident; and **Jihad Slim, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, published “[Haemophilus Influenzae Epididymo-Orchitis and Bacteraemia in an Immunocompetent Patient](#)” in *European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine*.

Thomas Gagliardi, SOM Class of 2024, and **Joseph Conti**, SOM Class of 2024, published “[The Weight of Frailty in Neurosurgery Patients: Analyzing The Combined Effect of Frailty and Body Mass Index on 30-day Postoperative Mortality](#)” in *World Neurosurgery*.

Michael Goligorsky, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, pharmacology and of physiology, published “[Permissive Role of Vascular Endothelium in Fibrosis](#)” in the *American Journal of Physiology: Cell Physiology*.

Miriam Katz, M.P.H., SOM Class of 2025, published “[Digital Health Interventions for Hypertension Management in US Populations Experiencing Health Disparities](#)” in *JAMA Network Open*.

Josef Kusayev, SOM Class of 2025; **William Frishman, M.D.**, professor of medicine and of pharmacology and chair emeritus of medicine; and **Wilbert Aronow, M.D.**, professor of medicine, published “[Low-Carbohydrate/Ketogenic Diet and Coronary Artery Disease: A Brief Review of the](#)

Limited Evidence Between Them” in *Cardiology in Review*.

Sean Lynch, M.D. '21; **Rhea Dornbush, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and of neurology; **Sivan Shahar, M.D. '22**; **Lidia Klepacz, M.D.**, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; and **Stephen Ferrando, M.D.**, Har Esh Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and chair of Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, published “Change in Neuropsychological Test Performance Seen in a Longitudinal Study of Patients With Post-acute Sequelae of COVID-19: A 6-Month Follow-up Study” in the *Journal of the Academy of Consultative-Liaison Psychiatry*.

Kenji Okumura, M.D., instructor of surgery; **Abhay Dhand, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine; **Ryosuke Misawa, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of surgery; **Hiroshi Sogawa, M.D.**, professor of surgery; **Gregory Velette, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of surgery; and **Seigo Nishida, M.D.**, clinical professor of surgery, published “Utilization of liver machine perfusion is associated with increase in center level liver transplant volume” in *HPB*.

Tanya Pereira, M.D., clinical assistant professor of pediatrics; **Sonia Solomon, D.O.**, assistant professor of pediatrics; **Sankaran Krishnan, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of pediatrics; and **Dmitry Samsonov, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, published “Association between anxiety and elevated blood pressure in adolescent patients: a single-center cross-sectional study” in the *Journal of Hypertension*.

John Phillips, M.D., professor of urology, and **Dazhong Xu, Ph.D.**, associate professor of pathology, microbiology and immunology, published “Effects of hexavalent chromium on mitochondria and their implications in carcinogenesis” in the *Journal of Environmental Science and Health*.

Dawood Rashid, SOM Class of 2025; **Rahim Hirani**, SOM Class of 2025; **Samy Khessib**, SOM Class of 2026; and **Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H.**, associate professor of neurology and of medicine, published “Unveiling biases of artificial intelligence in healthcare: Navigating the promise and pitfalls.” in *Injury*.

Jared Sachs, SOM Class of 2025, published “Nuchal-type Fibroma Induced by Repetitive Trauma from Weightlifting: Case Report and Comprehensive Review of Literature” in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery – Global Open*.

Harris Whiteson, SOM Class of 2026; **Madison Drogy**, SOM Class of 2026; and **William Frishman, M.D.**, professor of medicine and of pharmacology and chair emeritus of medicine, published “Pitavastatin in the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in People Living with HIV: A Review ” in *Cardiology in Review*.



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