

6-2024

## Dean's Update, June 2024

Neil W. Schluger

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Dear Members of the NYMC Community:

I was privileged to conclude my first academic year as dean by personally congratulating our newest physicians and presenting their hard-earned diplomas during the Class of 2024 Commencement ceremony in May. Armed with their NYMC education, I am confident that they are well prepared to be humanistic practitioners who will make a great impact on patient care and clinical research as thousands of NYMC graduates have before them.

We proudly celebrate our faculty and students who continue to be lauded for their commitment to medical excellence with impressive awards. Medha Reddy, M.D. '24, was recognized as the national recipient of the U.S. Public Health Service Award for her remarkable dedication to women's health and her commitment to addressing health care disparities in under-resourced communities. Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H., vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion, associate dean for SOM student affairs, and associate professor of neurology and of medicine, received awards from both the American Academy of Neurology and the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation for his meaningful contributions to the profession. David Zuckerman, SOM Class of 2025, is already being recognized for his promise as the recipient of the AMA Foundation Physician of Tomorrow Scholarship.



Later this summer, we will welcome to NYMC our new chair of pediatrics, Erika Berman Rosenzweig, M.D., a globally renowned physician, with a reputation as an outstanding clinician, teacher, and researcher. The searches for new chairs in urology, otolaryngology, and medicine continue to progress well, and I anticipate sharing more updates soon.

We also look forward to welcoming our SOM Class of 2028 next month and marking the start of their medical education at NYMC during the White Coat Ceremony.

I hope you will take some time over the summer to relax and rejuvenate before we embark on the next academic year when I expect we will celebrate many more SOM successes. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

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

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## NYMC Graduates Nearly 200 New M.D.s During 165th Commencement

The NYMC community buzzed with excitement and anticipation on May 21 as the nearly 200 members of the Class of 2024 marked their achievements in medicine during NYMC's 165th Commencement exercises.

Steven L. Kanter, M.D., executive director of the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International and special advisor to the president and chief executive officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges and executive director of Alliance of Academic Health Centers International, delivered the Commencement address. "Always remember that providing health care is only one aspect of being a physician," said Dr. Kanter. "As physicians, we are healers, helpers, carers, advocates for the sick, and advocates for the help of all. And we do this as we strive to be ever wiser scientists and humanists."



**Ashley Sacks, M.D. '24**, left, proudly delivered the student address. "What I hope for our class is that we use our knowledge not as an endpoint for our thought processes, but as a foundation upon which we build new questions, we push back against the norms, and we lean into the discomfort of doubt," said Dr. Sacks.

"Medicine is beautiful because it is constantly in motion – sometimes, that is what makes it so challenging – but it forces us to stay on our toes and continuously ask ourselves – can we find ways to do procedures with less harm, to

evaluate labs with less bias, to treat our patients with the absolute highest standard of care – and throughout all of that – can we do so with compassion and with kindness?" [Read more](#) and [view photos](#).

[View Highlights Video](#)

[View Parting Words to SOM Video](#)



## 2024 Graduate Medha Reddy Wins Prestigious U.S. Public Health Award

**Medha Reddy, M.D.**, center, a member of the SOM Class of 2024, has been chosen as the national recipient of the prestigious 2024



Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). The award was presented to Reddy by **Lieutenant Commander Dara Lee, M.D., M.P.H.**, left, a medical officer in the Commission Corps of the USPHS, during the 2024 SOM Awards Ceremony on May 20.

“We are thrilled that Medha Reddy has been awarded this prestigious award,” said Neil W. Schluger, M.D., SOM dean. “Medha’s exceptional dedication to women’s health and her commitment to addressing health care disparities in under-resourced communities have set her apart. Her accomplishments exemplify the

highest standards of medical excellence and underscore the profound impact of compassionate, equitable care, a hallmark of NYMC. We are incredibly proud of Medha’s achievements and look forward to her continued contributions to the field of public health.”

“I am elated to witness Dr. Mehda Reddy’s unwavering dedication to serving others being rightfully acknowledged by the USPHS,” said **Mill Etienne, M.D. ’02, M.P.H.**, right, vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion, associate dean of student affairs, and associate professor of neurology and of medicine, who nominated Reddy for the award. “She epitomizes the essence of a public health professional, leaving an indelible mark on NYMC and the well-being of countless communities. Her influence is profound, and the future holds even greater promise.” [Read more.](#)



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## Erika Berman Rosenzweig, M.D., to Lead Department of Pediatrics



This August, NYMC will welcome **Erika Berman Rosenzweig, M.D.**, as chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Rosenzweig will also serve as director of the Department of Pediatrics at Westchester Medical Center and as the William Russell McCurdy Physician-in-Chief at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital (MFCH).

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Rosenzweig to NYMC as our next chair of the Department of Pediatrics,” said Neil W. Schluger, M.D., SOM dean. “Dr. Rosenzweig is an internationally prominent physician in her field, with a reputation as an outstanding clinician, teacher, and researcher. We are confident that in working with our academic partners at MFCH, she will continue the tradition of excellence and leadership that has been established in pediatrics at NYMC and MFCH over many years.”

An expert in the field of pulmonary hypertension, Dr. Rosenzweig currently serves as vice chair for clinical/translational research in the Department of Pediatrics and director of the Adult and Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension Comprehensive Care Center at Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Rosenzweig’s research has been widely published and she has served as site principal investigator on more than 50 clinical drug trials, devoting remarkable efforts toward clinical research on the study of novel treatments of pulmonary arterial hypertension, as well as novel approaches to mechanical support for patients with end-stage pulmonary hypertension. [Read more.](#)

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## Dr. Mill Etienne Recognized with Professional Awards

This spring, **Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, M.P.H.**, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, associate dean for SOM student affairs, and associate professor of neurology and of medicine, was recognized with awards from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation.

Dr. Etienne received the 2024 Changemaker Award from the AAN on April 14 for making meaningful contributions to NYMC by increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the Department of Neurology. The Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to the Profession Award was presented to Dr. Etienne by the AMA Foundation on June 8 in Chicago for his commitment to expanding knowledge through teaching, conducting research, and publishing, leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropic activities.

“Dr. Etienne is a tireless advocate for the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion within neurology who has ignited this passion within several successive generations of neurologists,” wrote Medha Reddy, M.D. '24, who nominated him for the award. “He is able to recognize gaps within neurological care and develop novel, interdisciplinary solutions to ensure everyone gets access to quality healthcare. I can personally attest that I would not be a neurologist without Dr. Etienne’s encouragement, guidance, and support. He has taught me, and countless others, so much about not only the principles of neurology but more importantly about what it means to advocate for our patients.”



## Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to our faculty who have achieved promotion in rank.

### Jeanette Aprile, M.L.I.S.

Senior Instructor of Health Sciences Library

### Kartik Prabhakaran, M.D.

Professor of Surgery

## Funding Will Bolster Medical School Success for Historically Disadvantaged Students

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) has been awarded a nearly \$100,000 Diversity in Medicine grant from the Association of Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) to support a series of programs that the ODI developed to enhance medical school recruitment and retention of historically disadvantaged students. In the award letter, AMSNY noted that ODI’s program proposal “demonstrated an impressive commitment to supporting students who have overcome adversity by creating innovative opportunities for them to pursue careers in medicine and science.”



The grant will allow ODI to expand and enhance existing programs aimed at supporting students facing academic barriers. These programs include the [Pre-Matriculation Program](#), which offers new students an opportunity to strengthen their academic, professional, and social skills through sessions on test-taking, mental health and wellness, career advising resources, and more; the Near-Peer Study Coaching Program, which helps students to focus on study skills, time management, and other non-content-related academic challenges; and the Resilience, Intervention, Student Experience (RISE) program, which aims to dispel the stigma surrounding exam failure and academic challenges in medical school. [Read more.](#)

## SOM Student David Zuckerman Awarded AMA Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship



**David Zuckerman**, SOM Class of 2025, has been awarded the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation Physician of Tomorrow Scholarship. The scholarship is presented to a deserving student in their final year of medical school.

As a medical student, Zuckerman has distinguished himself as a health policy advocate and through service to his community. As chair of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) Medical Student Section, he has written and passed several resolutions at the State's House of Delegates meetings on a range of topics, including expanding protections in end-of-life care and addressing fires caused by lithium-ion batteries. On campus, Zuckerman has served as co-president for NYMC's AMA chapter, president of the Food Insecurity Medical Outreach club, and leader of the Health Policy Roundtable.

Zuckerman plans to pursue neurology as a specialty when he graduates from NYMC. "At a young age, I witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of neurological illnesses, as my grandmother suffered from multiple sclerosis," says Zuckerman. "This early exposure served as a catalyst, motivating me to pursue a bachelor's degree in neuroscience at Yale and later a master's degree in bioethics at Harvard Medical School. My past educational and research experiences have prepared me to excel in this field and deliver the highest standard of care to patients and their families."

## Inaugural Marks Excellence Awards Recognize Physician Mentors

Fourth-year medical students in the Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) recognized three physician mentors with the inaugural Marks Excellence in Medical Education and Mentorship Award during the annual Clinical Neurosciences Mentor Reception on May 8. Attending and resident physicians **David Ober, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurology; **Chaitanya Medicherla, M.D.**, second from left, assistant professor of neurology; and **Terry Park, M.D.**, fourth from left, neurology resident, were lauded by the students for their exceptional commitment to teaching and mentoring medical students during their clinical years.



The award was developed by SIGN as a tribute to the late Stephen J. Marks, M.D. '80, an esteemed member of the NYMC faculty and a highly regarded neurologist at Westchester Medical Center (WMC), who was honored with the NYMC Outstanding Teacher Award 17 times, a testament to his compassionate patient care and mentorship.

During the reception, which was co-hosted by the student interest groups in neurosurgery and psychiatry, medical students also had the opportunity to meet with attending and resident physicians from the WMC neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry departments to discuss career paths and much more.

Welcome to our new faculty from across our affiliate sites.

**NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE**

**Bruno Villazhinay Matute, M.P.H.**  
Instructor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

**LOVELACE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Philip Kuehl, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Pharmacology

**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/METROPOLITAN**

**Nehir Patel, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology

**MIDHUDSON REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

**Crystal Kukulka, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**OPEN DOOR FAMILY MEDICAL CENTERS**

**Richard Sigona, D.D.S.**  
Instructor of Dental Medicine

**Sheida Takmil, D.D.S.**

Instructor of Dental Medicine

**ST. MARY'S GENERAL HOSPITAL/ SAINT CLARE'S HEALTH**

**Steven Golombek, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER**

**Tong Dai, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Cindy Greenberg, R.N., Ph.D.**

Instructor of Medicine

**Manisha Holmes, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Neurology and of Neurosurgery

**Patricia Johnson, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology

**Rachelle Lodescar, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Surgery

**Hilary Smith, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

## NYMC Hosts Residency Fair



Medical students had the opportunity to talk to representatives from many of the NYMC-sponsored residency programs and programs sponsored by NYMC's major clinical affiliate Westchester Medical Center (WMC) during the Residency Fair in the Basic Sciences Building on May 8. NYMC sponsors [25 residency and fellowship programs](#) that train more than 500 residents and fellows across the New York metropolitan area and in Rhode Island. "We were thrilled to see such a large turnout at the event and excited for the students to learn more about the fantastic residency opportunities possible through

NYMC and WMC," said Jennifer Salcedo, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., FACOG, dean for graduate medical education.



## Preceptors Recognized for Their Important Role in Medical Education



The Office of Medical Education paid tribute to preceptors who welcome medical students into their private practices, hospitals, clinics, and a variety of other settings during the Preceptor Awards Reception on June 4 in the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center. This year's event recognized 31 area physicians who marked milestones from 15 years of service up to an impressive 35 years of service to SOM students.

"Because of the pandemic, it has been five years since the last gathering, and we were so excited to be able to come together again to show appreciation for all the incredible work so many of our preclinical preceptors have been doing for so long," said Jeanne Wilson, M.D., Phase 1 curriculum co-director. "The preclinical preceptor program provides such an important opportunity for the M2 students to transition their skills from the classroom to actual clinical practice. Through their feedback, many have commented on what an amazing experience they have had and how much they have learned, all made possible by the commitment the preclinical preceptors have to the NYMC students." [Read more.](#)

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## Medical Student and Aspiring Entrepreneur: Nadia Ambarsom Pursues Dual Dreams



As if medical school wasn't demanding enough, **Nadia Ambarsom**, SOM Class of 2026, is also an aspiring entrepreneur who recently earned second place in the New York Business Plan Competition (NYBPC) for the New York City region and placed in the top ten in New York State for her product BioGlam.

"Just being accepted into medical school and being able to call myself a NYMC medical student gave me the confidence to compete," says Ambarsom. "My entrepreneurial imposter syndrome was minimized when I realized that I had already done what for me was the impossible. My family came to this country relatively recently and started at the bottom of the working ladder. Going to medical school had been a distant dream of mine which for a long while seemed out of reach."

BioGlam pairs a makeup applicator with washable, reusable covers to ensure cleanliness with each makeup application. "Makeup applicators can accumulate bacteria and residue, raising the risk of skin infections and potentially more serious conditions, which is compounded by infrequent proper cleaning of the applicators," says Ambarsom. "BioGlam offers a clean, safe alternative to help avoid the growth and spread of harmful pathogens." [Read more.](#)

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## Cultivating Knowledge: A Day of Professional Development at the SOM

SOM faculty enjoyed a full day of professional development on May 7 during the annual Teaching and Learning Symposium hosted by the Offices of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development. The symposium featured various interactive sessions on a wide range of topics, including effective mentoring practices, responding to bias and microaggressions, effective leadership, and AI in medical education. The keynote address on leveraging the foundations that drive the learning process was given by **Todd Zakrajsek, M.D.**, left, associate research professor and associate director of the Faculty Development Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



"During a recent consultation, one of our faculty members referenced the advice of **Dr. Zvi Lefkowitz**, center, [professor and chair of the Department of Radiology] to 'lock your ego in the car' that he gave during the session on effective leadership and how it had helped him navigate a workplace situation," said Monica Glina, Ed.D., assistant dean for faculty development. "This is just one example of the impact our symposium had. I was excited to hear many more examples of how the sessions resonated with faculty and how they were able to incorporate into their practice a lot of what they learned throughout the day."

### Applications Being Accepted for Academy of Medical Educators

Applications are now being accepted for The Academy of Medical Educators. The Academy is an academic community that inspires and supports educational innovation, scholarly activity, and collaboration. Full-time faculty with at least two years of service are eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is Monday, July 29, 2024. For more information, please visit [The Academy of Medical Educators' website](#) or email [nymc-facultydevelopment@nymc.edu](mailto:nymc-facultydevelopment@nymc.edu).

### SOM Class of 2026 Embarks on Clinical Years



Members of the Class of 2026 marked the start of their clinical years on May 8, at a special ceremony in the John W. Nevins, M.D. '44 Auditorium. The Student Clinician Ceremony, an annual tradition in the SOM, was created by the Gold Humanism Honor Society to celebrate the important transition from pre-clinical to clinical years in medical school. During the event, the students recited the pledge they created for their White Coat Ceremony at the start of their medical education journey at NYMC.

Neil W. Schluger, M.D., SOM dean, spoke of the importance of patients knowing that their physicians are completely committed to their well-

being: "We live in a time now where in every sphere of life, people are being torn apart and not pulled together. Patients must know that when we look at them what we see is their humanity and that's the only thing that we see. We don't see a person who comes from a place that we don't come from, speaks a language that we don't speak, worships at a place where we don't worship, or votes for people that we don't vote for. Look for what you have in common with that person, not what differences you have, and have that same approach with your colleagues. When you're standing next to someone in the ICU or the operating room, or the emergency room recognize that person has the same desire as you do and trust that you are both doing the best you can for your patients."

The keynote address was delivered by NYMC alumna Rachelle Lodescar, M.D. '13, assistant professor of surgery at NYMC, and a burn surgeon at Westchester Medical Center. "My job may seem gory, intense, and sad at times with the tough cases that I deal with, especially with children and very bad injuries, but I experience firsthand a chance to help people when they're at their worst, and I can be a source of light in someone's darkest of times," shared Dr. Lodescar. [Read more.](#)

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## Students Pay Tribute to Their First Patients During Convocation of Thanks

First-year medical students paid tribute to their "first patients" and the contributions they made to their education during the annual Convocation of Thanks on May 3. During the moving ceremony, students demonstrated their gratitude to the families of those who had donated their bodies to NYMC for anatomical studies through words, music, art, and poetry.

One student described the knowledge gained in the first year of medical school as representative of some of the most important seeds of medical education. "The clinical skills that we will gain would not be possible without an understanding of the layout of the human body. We are wholly indebted to the ultimate seed, the origin to which all medical knowledge and advancement can be credited, those donors who humbly offered themselves, exchanging privacy for vulnerability, so that the next generation of physicians and scientists could be trained. From this generation and those in the future will spring forth advancements that will better help those suffering from ailments and diseases currently seen as hopeless."

Another student shared a beautiful original musical composition she had written, "Hold on Tightly to Your Love," about the grieving process, in which she encouraged all to "love people in your life and those no longer with you." [Read more.](#)

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## Students Gain Hands-On Experience During Clinical Workshops



First- and second-year medical students had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience during the first-ever **Clinical Skills Day** on April 16. During the event, which was hosted by the Clinical Skills Club in conjunction with several student interest groups, students participated in six fast-paced, interactive workshops, including surgical knot tying, IUD insertion, vaccine administration, intubation, Narcan administration, and IV placement.



First-year students learned about the many exciting procedures and diagnostics available in clinical neuroscience during the second annual hands-on, interactive, **Clinical Neurosciences Workshop** on May 6 as part of the Brain and Behavior course. Attending physicians, fellows, and residents at Westchester Medical Center showcased a range of procedures, including EEG, lumbar puncture, mechanical thrombectomy, spine screw placement, deep brain stimulation, and external ventricular drain placement. The event was hosted by the Department of Neurology and the Student Interest Group in Neurology.



## 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](#).

**Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D.**, associate professor of neurology, neurosurgery, and of radiology, has been elected as the Global Chair of the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology's Mission Thrombectomy, a global non-profit that aims to increase access to endovascular stroke thrombectomy. Dr. Al-Mufti was also invited to speak at the World Health Assembly Satellite event for Mission Thrombectomy in Geneva, Switzerland, where he met with the director general of the World Health Organization (WHO) during the WHO's [#WalkTheTalk](#) campaign.

**Humayun Islam, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor and chair, Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, and president of the New York State Society of Pathologists (NYSSP), recently coordinated NYSSP's annual meeting in Westchester, which featured several renowned speakers in the field, including College of American Pathologists president Don Karcher, M.D.

**Jaimee Cooper**, SOM Class of 2025, published "Landscape of NRXN1 Gene Variants in Phenotypic Manifestations of Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Systematic Review" in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

**Antonella D'Ascanio**, SOM Class of 2025; **Dial Hewlett, M.D.**, adjunct associate professor of pathology, microbiology, and of immunology; and **Marisa Montecalvo, M.D.**, professor of medicine, published "Public Health Response to SARS-CoV-2 in Assisted Living Facilities in New York State:

**Alis Dicipinigaitis, M.D. '22**; **Shoaib Syed**, SOM Class of 2026; **Chaitanya Medicherla, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurology; **Gurmeen Kaur, M.B.B.S.**, assistant professor of neurology and of neurosurgery; **Chirag Gandhi, M.D., M.S.**, professor and chair, Department of Neurosurgery, and professor of neurology and of radiology; and **Fawaz Al-Mufti, M.D.**, associate professor of neurology, neurosurgery, and of radiology, published "Endovascular Thrombectomy for Treatment of Isolated Posterior Cerebral Artery Occlusion: A Real-World Analysis of Hospitalizations in the United States" in *Acta Neurochirurgica* .

**Oleg Epelbaum, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, published "Barking up the Wrong Tree: Vascular Tree-in-Bud Due to Intravascular Lymphoma" in *Respiratory Medicine Case Reports* .

**Daniel Elefant, M.D.**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, published "Bilateral Tonic Pupils Secondary to Anti-GD2 Antibody Therapy for Neuroblastoma" in the *Journal of AAPOS* .

**Seher Banu Farabi Atak, M.D.**, dermatology resident; and **Mehmet Atak, M.D.**, internal medicine resident, published "Ex Vivo Confocal Microscopy Features of Common Benign Lesions That Mimic Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers: Towards Clinical Integration" in the *Journal of Biophotonics* .

**Rachel Gnanaprakasam, M.B.B.S.**, instructor of medicine; **Gary Wormser, M.D.**, professor of medicine, pharmacology, and of pathology, microbiology, and immunology; and **Marina Keller, M.D.**, assistant professor of medicine, published "Background Seropositivity to Jamestown Canyon Virus Can Lead to Diagnostic Confusion" in *Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease* .

**Robin Hershkowitz, M.S.W.**, senior director of student mental health and wellness and assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; **Amy Stern, LCSW-R**, assistant director of student mental health and wellness; and **Kathryn Spanknebel, M.D.**, vice chancellor of student mental health and wellness, dean of faculty and academic affairs, and associate professor of surgery, published "Way of Life: Medical Students as Experts in Self-Care" on AAMC.org.

**Jasmine Levine**, SOM Class of 2025, published "Dupilumab-Associated Head and Neck Dermatitis Shows a Pronounced Type 22 Immune Signature Mediated by Oligoclonally Expanded T Cells" in *Nature Communications* .

**Trevor McHugh**, SOM Class of 2026, published "Diagnostic Yield of CSF Testing in Infants for Disorders of Biogenic Amine Neurotransmitter Metabolism" in *Neurology* .

**Alexander Mittnacht, M.D.**, professor of anesthesiology, published "Development and Publication of Clinical Practice Parameters, Reviews, and MetaAnalyses: A Report From the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists Presidential Task Force" in *Anesthesia and Analgesia* .

**Suguru Ohira, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of surgery; **Masashi Kai, M.D.**, associate professor of surgery; **Joshua Goldberg, M.D.**, associate professor of surgery; **Ramin Malekan, M.D.**, associate professor of surgery; **Vasiliki Gregory**, SOM Class of 2025; **Steven Lansman, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor and chair, Department of Surgery; and **David Spielvogel, M.D.**, professor of surgery, published "Stroke After Acute Type A Dissection Repair Using Right Axillary Cannulation First Approach" in *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery* .

**Mustafa Ozbay, M.D.**, internal medicine resident, published "Baseline Coronary Artery Stenosis Severity is an Independent Predictor of Subsequent Poor Sleep Quality in Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome" in *Coronary Artery Disease* .

**Ray Pak, M.D.**, physical medicine and rehabilitation resident; and **Michelle Cho, M.D.**, physical medicine and rehabilitation resident, published "The Gut Microbiota and Chronic Pain" in *Current Pain and Headache Reports* .

**Tanya Pereira, M.D.**, 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.**, 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* . Dr. Krishnan also published "Long-Term Effects of COVID-19 on the Cardiopulmonary System in Adults and Children: Current Status and Questions to be Resolved by the National Institutes of Health Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery Initiative" in *Chest* .

**Tana Pradhan, D.O.**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Ama Buskwofie, M.D.**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Sharifa Menon, M.D.**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; **Timothy Ryntz, M.D.**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; and **Cara Grimes, M.D., M.A.S.**, clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of urology, published "PROJECT PREVENT: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Preoperative Vaginal Metronidazole to Decrease Patient Issues and Infections After Hysterectomy" in *BMJ Surgery, Interventions, & Health Technologies* .

**Eliana Scemes, Ph.D.**, professor of cell biology and anatomy, published "[Neuronal Panx1 Drives Peripheral Sensitization in Experimental Plantar Inflammatory Pain](#)" in *Military Medical Research*.

**Shetal Shah, M.D.**, professor of pediatrics; and **Heather Brumberg, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of pediatrics, published "[Advocate to Vaccinate: Moving Away From the 'Politics' of Vaccination](#)" in *Pediatric Research*.

**Christian Toribio-Dionicio, M.D.**, pediatrics resident, published "[Clinical Characteristics, Laboratory Findings, and Tolerance Acquisition in Infants With Cow's Milk Protein Allergy in a Private Center in Lima, Peru for the Period 2021-2022](#)" in *Immunity, Inflammation and Disease*.

**Sima Vazquez, M.D. '24**; **Eris Spirollari**, SOM Class of 2025; and **Simon Hanft, M.D.**, associate professor of neurosurgery, published "[The Story of Dexamethasone and How it Became One of the Most Widely Used Drugs in Neurosurgery](#)" in the *Journal of Neurosurgery*.



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