Welcome to *The Pulse*, the biannual UPMC Cardiovascular Fellowship Program e-newsletter. This publication is issued twice a year to keep graduates up to date on what’s happening with the program. It is our hope that this will help everyone to stay in close contact and promote ongoing interaction among graduates, new and old.

**Match Results**

This year we had more than 700 applications from across the nation for eight general cardiology fellowship spots. We thank all fellows, faculty, and staff for their hard work and the great spirit shown this fall to help recruit stellar new trainees. We are ecstatic about our incoming fellows who will join the HVI family in July 2017!

**We Welcome:**

- **Laith Alkukhun, MD**, Residency – Cleveland Clinic
- **Amr Barakat, MD**, Residency – Cleveland Clinic
- **Lindsey Cilia, MD**, Residency – Brown University/Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island
- **Emily Guhl, MD**, Residency – UPMC
- **Arun Iyer, MD**, Residency – Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
- **Amber Makani, MD**, Residency – Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
- **Amy Marino, MD**, Residency – UPMC
- **Brian Pierce, MD**, Residency – Washington University in St. Louis/Barnes Jewish Hospital

**Fellowship Grant Awardees & Projects**

In 2014, the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute and Vascular Medicine Institute collaboratively began funding fellowship research by offering annual grants. There are no limitations in terms of area of research. Fellows are encouraged to collaborate with experts within various areas of cardiology, as well as outside of cardiology to fully realize the potential for their projects. Research can range from basic to translational to clinical and can include education as well as technology. The winners of the 2016 HVI/VMI fellowship grants are:

- **Mike Genuardi, MD** – Cardiovascular Outcomes and Mortality in Patients with OSA and PH
- **Pol Teekakirikul, MD** – Identifying Genetic Etiology of Familial ASD in a Five Generation Pedigree
- **Sebhat Erquo, MD** – Change in Endothelial Function and Risk of Adverse CV Outcomes
- **Ahmad Masri, MD** – Establishing a Patient-care Algorithm Cardiac Amyloidosis Screening Using Pyrophosphate (PYP) Scintigraphy
- **Jeff Lee, MD** – Molecular Mechanisms of Pulmonary Vein Endothelial Cells in PH
- **Stephen D'Auria, MD** – Sonothrombolysis of Arterial Thrombus Utilizing Microbubbles Containing Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA)

**Bragging Rights**

**Josh Levenson, MD,** won the 2016 UPMC Richard L. Simmons “Speak Up for Safety” Award, which honors Dr. Simmons’ dedication to improving the quality of healthcare and patient safety and is given to those who embody those values. Working with more than 30 specialties to understand various service structures, Josh helped the system develop “My Team,” a tool integrated in patients’ electronic charts that providers can use to identify the patient’s primary provider and obtain accurate, up-to-date contact information to streamline communications with the care team.

**Ahmad Masri, MD** was a Young Investigator Award Finalist at the Mid Atlantic Capitol Cardiology Symposium (MACCS) for his oral presentation on “Predictors of Mortality in Patients with Persistent Pulmonary Hypertension following Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement.”

**Ahmad Masri, MD, George Cater, MD, Sebhat Erquo, MD, and Meshe Chonde, MD** all presented at the national American Heart Association meeting this past November.

**Ahmad Masri, Mike Genuardi, Josh Levenson, Jeff Lee, and Amber Johnson participated in the regional Cardiology Jeopardy session at MACCS this fall.**
Catching Up With: Shiv Rao, MD

Current second year and chief fellow Mike Genuardi, MD, caught up with Shiv Rao, MD to discuss his career since graduating from the UPMC Cardiovascular Fellowship in 2013. Dr. Rao is an HVI cardiologist and is also executive vice president at UPMC Enterprises, which focuses on smart integration of technology with health care delivery.

MG: What is your role at UPMC?
SR: I see inpatients and outpatients once a week at Magee and do a couple stints of consults and Pavilion at Presby throughout the year. Outside of that, I spend all my time at UPMC Enterprises where I lead the “Clinical Tools” domain. We work to build and invest in solutions that map to UPMC’s vision of health care’s future. I specifically focus on provider-facing solutions. In a way, I’m half pregnant across these two worlds but I like to think I’m pregnant with twins (I would know as I have 6 month old twins at home).

MG: What type of projects do you find the most exciting?
SR: Projects that allow me to connect the dots between seemingly disparate disciplines—from medicine and cardiology to computer science and engineering to systems medicine. On the strategy front, I’m most interested in helping think through the process and infrastructure necessary to help us exploit economies of scale around data. I spend a great deal of time in the “clinical decision support” space—both based on existing evidence and on new data-driven insights we’re gaining via advanced analytics.

MG: Why is it important to have physicians in leadership roles in health care informatics and health care technology?
SR: Physicians are in the trenches, interfacing with patients and payers as well as the core health care IT. In general, physicians are naturally aligned with the value paradigm into which we are moving. We have much insight to bring to everything from defining health care workflow and imagining optimal user experiences, to helping craft the underlying technologies of the next generation of IT solutions.

MG: How did the UPMC cardiology fellowship support your career goals?
SR: The cardiology program encourages creativity. At every level of leadership, the feedback I received about my career goals in health technology led with “yes, and...” instead of “no.” The program helped me hone in on my goals and subsequently opened doors and helped me navigate a less travelled career path. So far, no dead ends.

MG: How can graduate medical education improve training in health care technology, entrepreneurship, or leadership for physicians?
SR: I can imagine some light curricula for physicians to help offer entrepreneurial models around innovation as an alternative to more traditional paths. We can do better in identifying the list of resources across the organization that physicians can take advantage of. There is no lack of people or infrastructure here, though it can be somewhat silo-like.

Share Your News!

We know how much you value the education you received here, and invite your input and support. One of our first priorities is to gather contact information for all of our former trainees.

Please email Denise Goppman at goppmanda@upmc.edu with your current email address and any updates that you might like to share.