

The Pulse

News for fellows and friends of the cardiovascular fellowship program of UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute

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.

Fellowship News

Congratulations Graduates!

It gives us great pleasure to present the 2015 graduates of the UPMC Cardiovascular Fellowship Program and to wish them the best in their next endeavors.



- **Chirag A. Chauhan, MD**, will join the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- **Josephine C. Chou, MD, MS**, will join Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass. in a combined advanced heart failure and general cardiology position.
- **Chelcie L. Costabile, DO**, will join the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute as a noninvasive cardiologist at UPMC East.
- **Anthony Dota, MD**, will continue on to the Advanced Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- **Gavin Hickey, MD**, will join the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute as an attending physician for congestive heart failure.
- **Jonathan E. Holtz, MD**, will join the Heart Failure Fellowship program at UPMC.
- **Chris Jones, MD**, will continue on to the Advanced Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- **Matthew O. Jones, MD**, will join the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at Mount Sinai.
- **Dustin Kliner, MD**, will join the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute as an interventional cardiologist at UPMC Shadyside.
- **Lan Nguyen, MD**, will join the Adult Congenital Heart Failure Fellowship at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.
- **Mitika T. Maddula, MD**, will join University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health as a general cardiologist.
- **Sandeep M. Patel, MD**, will join the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.
- **Asher I. Shafton, MD**, will join St. Joseph Hospital as part of Rocky Mountain Cardiovascular Associates/SCL Physicians in Denver as a general cardiologist.
- **Nasir Shariff, MD**, will enter private practice in Seattle as an electrophysiologist.
- **Donald Siddoway, MD**, will enter the Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- **Madhur Singh, DO**, will enter private practice at Butler Memorial Hospital as an electrophysiologist.
- **Siva Soma, MD**, will enter the Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- **Beth Volz, MD**, will join the University of Texas Medical School at Houston in a combined advanced heart failure and interventional cardiology position.
- **Wenjie Xu, MD**, will enter private practice in Baton Rouge as an electrophysiologist.



Awards & Honors

We offer sincere congratulations to this year's award recipients:

- **Advanced Heart Failure/Cardiac Transplant Fellow Recognition Award in Memory of Jeffrey Wierenga: Gavin Hickey, MD**
The Advanced Heart Failure/Cardiac Transplant Fellow Recognition Award was established in memory of Jeffrey Wierenga, the longest-living single heart transplant recipient, to recognize the fellow who most embodies the hope, promise, and reality of transplantation procedures.
- **Outstanding Shadyside Fellow 2014-2015: Matt Jones, MD**
The Outstanding Shadyside Fellow Award is presented to an exemplary cardiovascular fellow at UPMC Shadyside.
- **Chief Fellow Certificate 2014: Sandeep M. Patel, MD**
The Chief Fellow Certificate is presented to the chief cardiovascular fellow.
- **Galal M. Ziady Memorial Award: Nasir Shariff, MD**
The Galal M. Ziady Memorial Award is presented to a fellow who received a medical degree in a disadvantaged country and is pursuing advanced medical training at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
- **James A. Shaver Memorial Award: Chirag Chauhan, MD**
The James A. Shaver Memorial Award is presented to the UPMC Cardiovascular Fellow who best exemplifies Dr. Shaver's deep commitment to cardiovascular education.
- **Edward I. Curtiss Memorial Teacher Award: Morteza Amidi, MD**
The Edward I. Curtiss Memorial Teacher Award is presented to the faculty member who demonstrates outstanding excellence in teaching the cardiology fellows.

Accomplishments



Adult Congenital Heart Disease Fellowship Program Established

We are elated to announce the establishment of an Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) fellowship, which will be overseen by Stephen Cook, MD. Dr. Cook is director of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Center, a joint endeavor between the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute at UPMC Presbyterian and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

As Dr. Cook reminds us, there are now approximately 1 million adults living with congenital heart disease (CHD) in the United States, which outnumbers children with CHD. These patients have anatomic and physiologic abnormalities, many considered complex, associated with increased cardiovascular morbidity often requiring greater utilization of health care resources.

Models suggest that ACHD patients should be managed at specialized centers of excellence in order to provide for their needs. Recognizing this, the American Board of Internal Medicine approved ACHD fellowship training this past year. This formal pathway, as well as accreditation of programs, will provide trainees the opportunity to master the subspecialty knowledge required to provide lifelong ACHD care effectively.

Lan Nguyen, MD, one of our outstanding graduating fellows, will be starting in our ACHD fellowship this July. Completion of this fellowship will provide her with the skills, knowledge, and attitude to become a leader in the field of ACHD medicine.

Farewell to Morteza Amidi, MD

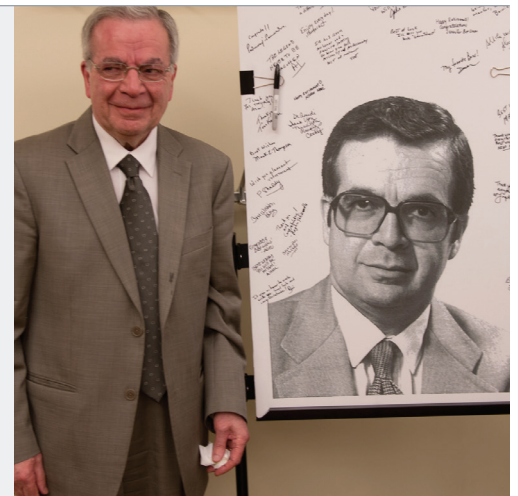
By Suresh Mulukutla, MD

After more than 30 years of service, Morteza Amidi, MD has retired from the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS) and the University of Pittsburgh. It is truly the end of an era, during which Dr. Amidi transformed the cardiology division at VAPHS into one of the preeminent VA hospital cardiology programs in the United States.

Dr. Amidi received his medical degree from Tehran University of Medical Sciences School of Medicine and completed his training in general and interventional cardiology. After immigrating to the United States, he joined VAPHS and the University of Pittsburgh in 1982 and has been chief of cardiology since 1985. In this role, Dr. Amidi established the interventional cardiology program at VAPHS, which has treated countless veterans. He created a culture that put veterans and their families first, always emphasizing patient safety and comfort. Far before the VA established the "I CARE" ethics directive, Dr. Amidi focused upon the core principles

of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence.

Beyond Dr. Amidi's positive influence on patients and the hospital, he touched innumerable trainees. For decades, Dr. Amidi was always the first one at the hospital. While the rest of the staff, physicians, and cardiology fellows came in for their day's work, Dr. Amidi was already seated in his chair, having pored over numerous medical journals for several hours. He was legendary for the time he spent in examining ECGs with fellows, or in reviewing the interpretation of coronary angiograms. For these efforts, he received the Distinguished Teaching Award multiple times, as well as the Award of Excellence in Clinical Instruction. However, Dr. Amidi would not simply talk to people about medical knowledge. To many, he was a father figure who provided countless pearls of wisdom about life in general. He is one of those rare personalities who is so easily approachable, with whom one can discuss how



to deal with complex medical problems or complex life challenges.

Now, after retirement, Dr. Amidi plans to spend time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He plans on traveling more and delving more into his new hobby — the study of relativity. Dr. Amidi certainly leaves a grand legacy, and we all hope we can honor that with our future efforts.



UPMC is an equal opportunity employer. UPMC policy prohibits discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, genetics, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected group status. Further, UPMC will continue to support and promote equal employment opportunity, human dignity, and racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in UPMC programs and activities. This commitment is made by UPMC in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.