

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

Fellowship Leadership



After nine years of excellent leadership and mentorship, **Dr. Michael Mathier** stepped down as director of the fellowship program to focus on his roles as associate director of Cardiology for the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute and the section head of Heart Failure and Pulmonary Hypertension. He will continue to remain active in the fellowship as an associate program director, helping develop the curriculum and provide career mentorship for fellows.



Dr. Katie Berlacher now serves as fellowship program director. She is a graduate of our fellowship program, holds a master of science in Medical Education, and has served as associate program director for the past three years. Her enthusiasm and innovative educational ideas strengthen and enrich the program. We know she will successfully build upon the traditions of the phenomenal training program that Drs. Shaver and Mathier have so skillfully established.



In September, we welcomed **Dr. Stephen Chan** to the HVI/VMI family. In addition to taking on the role of director for the Center for Pulmonary Vascular Biology, we asked him to serve as an associate program director, focusing specifically on fellowship research. Current and future fellows will certainly benefit from his vast research experience and mentorship, as well as his creative thoughts and energy.



Dr. Mark Schmidhofer, director of the CICU, continues to serve as an associate program director for the fellowship and oversees much of the training in cardiac critical care, as well as quality care initiatives. He remains the favorite ombudsman and confidante of the trainees.

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 2016!

We welcome:

- **George Cater, MD**, Residency - UPMC
- **Malamo Countouris, MD**, Residency - UPMC
- **Ding Qin, MD**, Residency - UPMC
- **Zachary Rhinehart, MD**, Residency - UPMC
- **Mourad Senussi, MD**, Residency - Cleveland Clinic
- **Roy Sriwattanakomen, MD**, Residency - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- **Wei Sun, MD**, Residency - Mount Auburn Hospital in Massachusetts
- **Alicia Topoll, MD**, Residency - Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas

Fellowship News continued

Fellowship Grant Awardees & Projects

In 2014, the HVI and VMI collaboratively began funding fellowship research by offering annual grants up to \$10,000 per project. There are no limitations in terms of area of research. We've encouraged fellows 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.

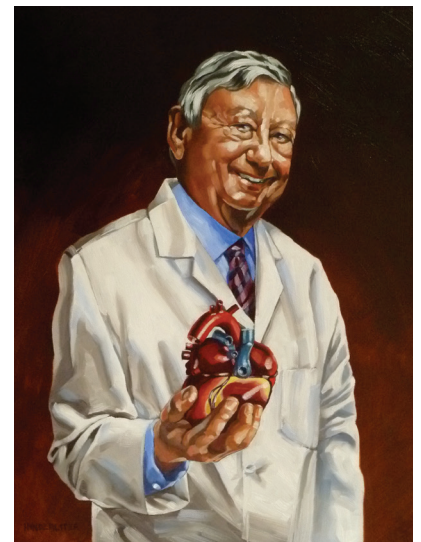
The winners of the 2015 HVI/VMI fellowship grants are:

- **Robert A. Baumgartner, MD**, *The Microbiological Investigation of Coronary atherosclerosis in Oral Secretions, Blood, Ex vivo Thrombus, and Stool (MICROBES) Study Group*
- **Meshe Chonde, MD**, *Attenuation of Myocardial Dysfunction after Cardiac Arrest*
- **Andrea Elliott, MD**, *Evaluation of Exogenous Testosterone Therapy on the Coagulation Profile*
- **Eli M. Friedman, MD**, *Blood Testing of Pittsburgh Marathon Runners to Determine Biomarker Levels in Both Those with CAD Risk Factors and Healthy Runners*
- **Amber Johnson, MD**, *Understanding and Addressing Disparities in Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) Use at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center*
- **Manling Zhang, MD**, *Myocardial GCN5L1 and How it Protects the Heart against Pressure Overload*

Accomplishments

Shaver Endowed Chair Establishment

Thanks in part to the generosity and perseverance of former trainees, current and former faculty members, and other friends of our division, we are happy to announce the establishment of the **James A. Shaver MD Endowed Chair in Cardiology** at the University of Pittsburgh. The Shaver Endowed Chair will provide much-needed support for our division, with a particular focus on the enhancement of our cardiology training programs. These programs were so important to Jim Shaver and remain the core of our division.



Request for Updates

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 goppmندا@upmc.edu with your current email address and any updates that you might like to share.

Activities

Summer Party

Nearly 100 fellows, faculty members, family members, and friends enjoyed the 2015 Fellow Summer Party this August.

