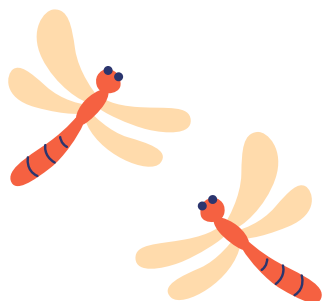




BRC Newsletter



News, Events, and More!

Be sure to check out the entire newsletter to see upcoming events, seminars, and conferences.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Blood Research
Center

Issue 13,
August 2025

Awards, Publications and more...



Matthey Flick, PhD, awarded another year of funding in collaboration with University of Virginia Charlottesville
R01 titled: *Novel mechanism underlying fibrinogen biogenesis in the endoplasmic reticulum*



Alisa Wolberg, PhD received 2nd year of NIH R01 for “Interdisciplinary approach to elucidate modifiers of bleeding phenotype in factor XI deficiency”.

UNC’s Vital Signs highlighted work from the Wolberg laboratory

Currently in press in Blood [ASH Publication](#). This work showed that plasminogen activation and activity are not required to prevent venous thrombosis/thromboembolism, and suggests that use of antifibrinolytic therapy to decrease bleeding is not expected to increase thrombosis risk. This work was first authored by Dr. Yaqiu Sang, a postdoctoral fellow in the Wolberg lab. Collaborators on this work also include several investigators from the UNC Blood Research Center (Matthew Flick, Brian Cooley, Katheryn Kapfer, and Kadri Kangro), as well as other national and international collaborators.



Awards, Publications and more...



Beatriz Caceres-Navario, MD published Case Study in ASH Hematopoiesis



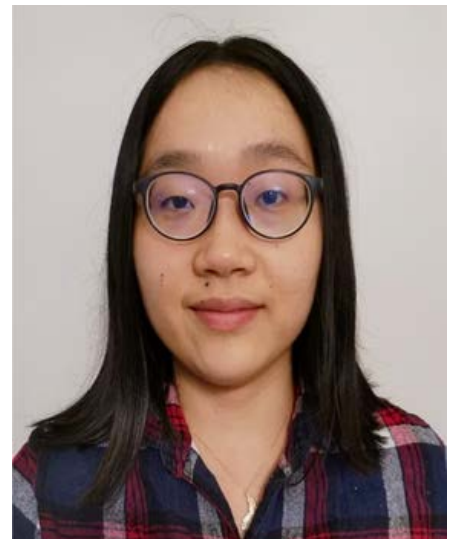
Published: *Neurologic Sequelae of Lead Intoxication in a Child With Sickle Cell Disease*

Read more on this case study: [Read more](#)

*Dr. Caceres-Navario, former Hematology T32 Trainee

Yaqiu Sang, PhD postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Wolberg's laboratory was featured in the Brinkhous Bulletin, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine's monthly newsletter.

[Read publication here](#)



Awards, Publications and more...

Congratulations

Wolfgang Bergmeier, PhD

Published article in JTH: Lack of overt bleeding or platelet dysfunction in a mouse model of vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Published article in JTH: [Read full publication.](#)

Authors: Lee RH, Jones SR, Martyanov AA, Vander Ploeg MR, Sagues CF, Bergmeier W.



Published article in Biophys Journal: Modeling platelet P2Y1/12 pathway to integrin activation.

Read full publication

Authors: Patel KB, Bergmeier W, Fogelson AL.



Kylie Hutchison, 2nd year PhD student was accepted into the UNC Certificate Program in Translational Medicine

Kylie a student within the Pathobiology and Translational Science program, was accepted into the UNC Certificate Program in Translational Medicine and selected as 1 of 4 trainees to receive funding from the certificate's T32 training grant from the National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) (NIH T32GM122741). This certificate program provides specialized training in translational and clinical research by augmenting the student's research team with a clinical co-mentor with whom they will gain clinical experience.

As a graduate student in the Blood Research Center in Dr. Erica Sparkenbaugh's lab, Hutchison is investigating the molecular and vascular drivers of placental dysfunction in sickle cell disease pregnancies.

Awards, Publications and more...

Matthew Karafin, MD MS, published the initial results of his prospective randomized clinical trial in JCI.

Summary of findings:
Patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) frequently receive red blood cell (RBC) units stored near the end of their permissible storage life. To evaluate whether storage duration influences recipient metabolism, clinical chemistry and hematological parameters, we conducted a prospective, randomized, blinded trial comparing transfusions of RBC units stored for ≤ 10 days versus ≥ 30 days.



Authors: Matthew S. Karafin, Abby S. Grier, Ross M. Fasano, Anton Ilich, David Wichlan, Ada Chang, Sonjile M. James, Hailly E. Butler, Oleg Kolupaev, Melissa C. Caughey, Daniel Stephenson, Julie A. Reisz, Nigel S. Key, Joshua J. Field, Jane A. Little, Steven L. Spitanik, Angelo D'Alessandro.

Events - Seminars - FYIs

BRC Seminar Series- UPDATE

Mark your calendar for these upcoming speakers!

September 19th

Karina Yazdanbakhsh, PhD

Lindsley F. Kimball
Research Institute, New York Blood Center
Host: Rafal Pawlinski
Location: Marsico 2004

October 3rd

Colin Evans, PhD

University of South Carolina
Host: Steve Hur
Location: Marsico 2004

October 17th

Marvin Nieman, PhD

Case Western Reserve University
Host: BRC Trainees
Location: Marsico 2004

November 7th

Leah Wuescher, PhD

University of Toledo
Host: Robert Lee
Location: Marsico 2004

November 21st

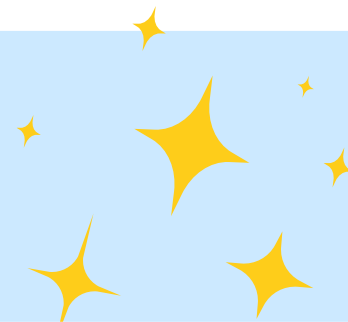
Philippe Marambaud, PhD

Feinstein Institutes for
Medical Research, Manhasset, NY
Host: Raj Kasthuri
Location: Marsico 2004

December 19th

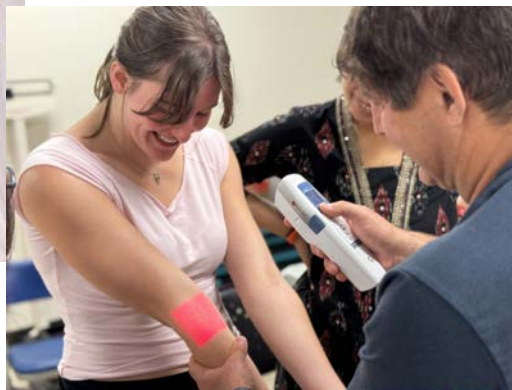
Maha Othman, MD, MSc, PhD

Queen's University, Canada
Host: Yohei Hisada
Location: Marsico 2004



~BRC Phlebotomy Workshop~

The UNC BRC sponsored
Phlebotomy Workshop held in May



Learn phlebotomy basics, develop technique and practice blood draws!

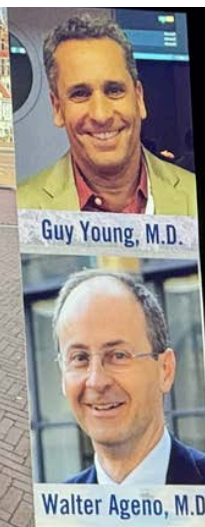
~ISTH June 21-25, 2025~



~Thank you~
Alisa Wolberg,
ISTH Annual
Congress Planning
Committee
member.



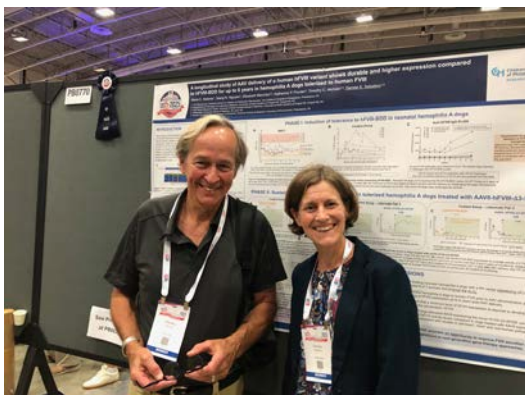
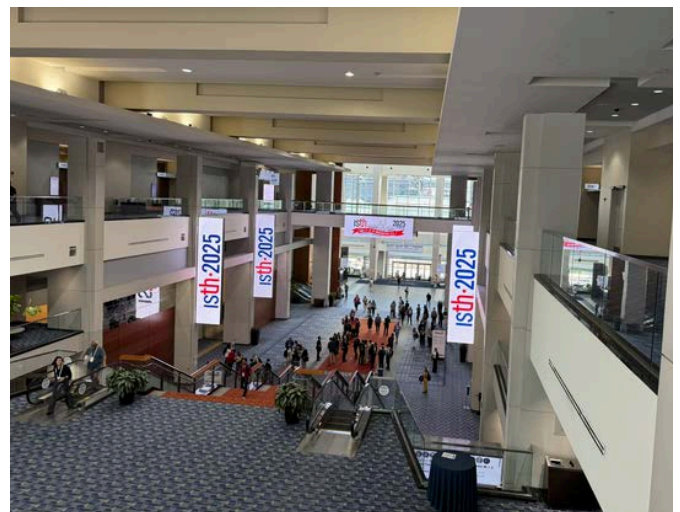
**THANK
YOU!**



ISTH Annual Congress Planning Committee



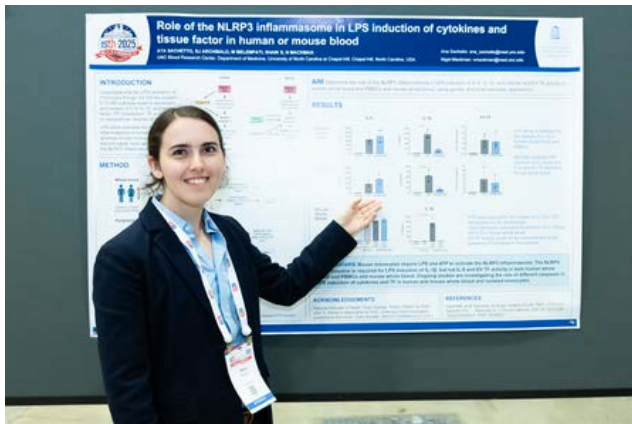
Rafal Pawlinski



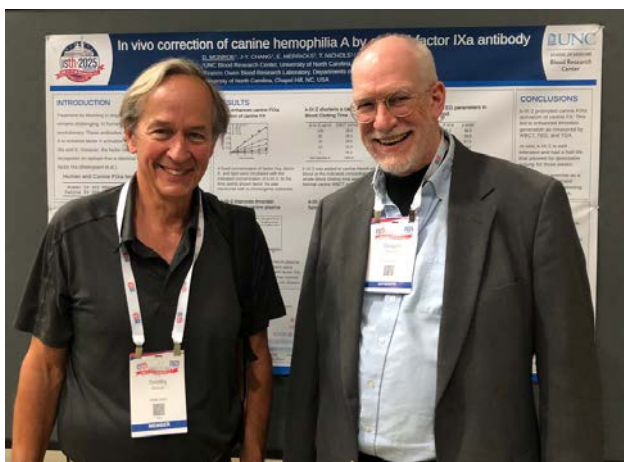
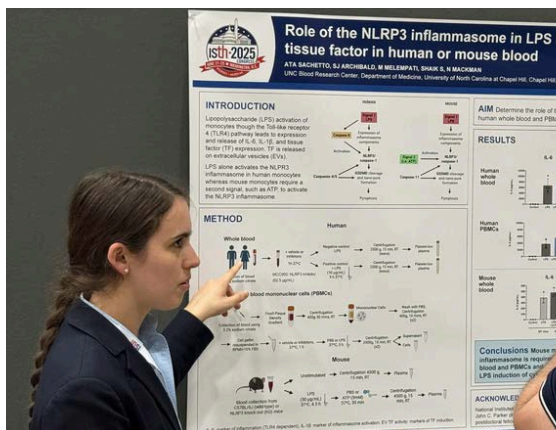
Denise Sabatino and Tim Nichols



Recap: ~ISTH June 21-25, 2025~

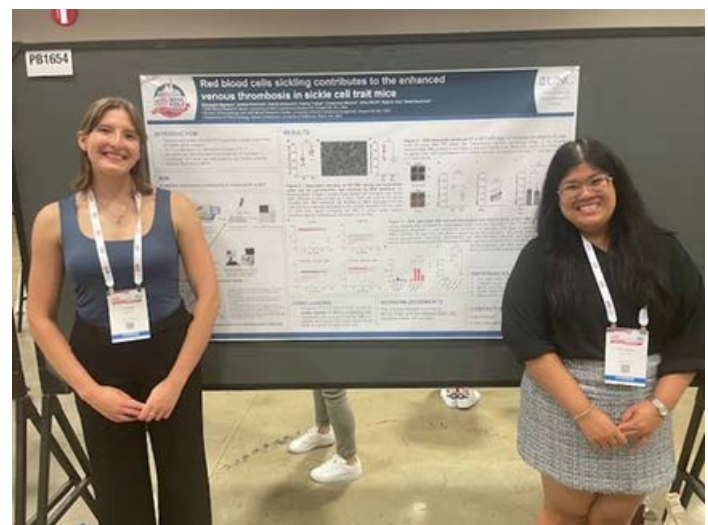
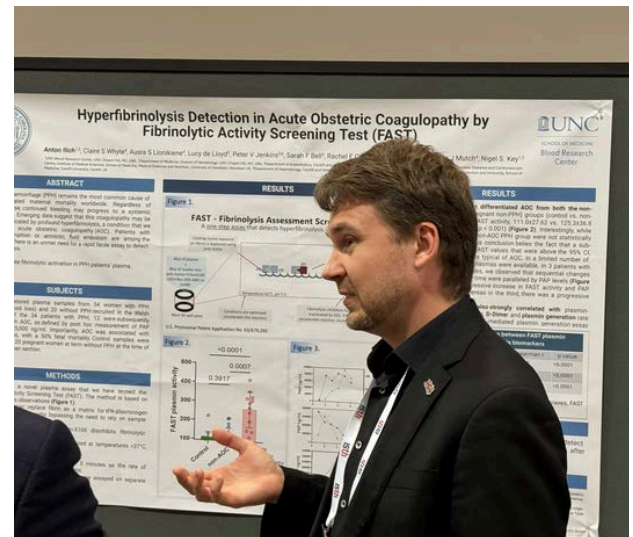


Sierra Archibald, Mackman Lab



Tim Nichols and Mac Monroe

Anton Ilicah, Key Lab



Izabela Pawlinski (Key Lab) and
Karn Seanoon (Pawlinski Lab)

Recap: ~ISTH June 21-25, 2025~



(L to R) Catherine Lapointe, PhD, (Flick Lab); Karin Leiderman; Emily Clark (Flick Lab), Steve Hur (Flick Lab) and Stephanie Reitsma (Wolberg Lab)



Robert Lee, Karin Leiderman and Erica Sparkenbaugh

~MEJ 8th floor Spotlight on our lab staff~



Many of our laboratory staff do not know each other, connecting a face to a name~ let's get to know our neighbors!

Meet the
folks on the
Orange side

~Wolberg Lab~

Young Joo (YJ) Choi, Graduate Student (Dept of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)



What is your role within the Lab?
Graduate Student (aka fibrinogen fan)

When you are not working, how do you enjoy spending your time? Caffeinating, hiking, needlepointing, and kombucha brewing!

Anything you would like us to know about you? Always down for a coffee walk—stop by for a stroll to Friend's Café or a dip into some emergency glucose (candy jar)!

Samer Issa, Research Technician



What is your role within the Lab? I function as the lab manager for Alisa's lab. I help manage orders, schedule servicing, as well as run experiments for my own projects and others.

When you are not working, how do you enjoy spending your time? Sleeping...just kidding. I enjoy working out early in the morning, playing video games, and playing my instrument.

Anything you would like us to know about you? I teach private music lessons and have been playing trombone since 7th grade.



~MEJ 8th floor Spotlight on our lab staff~

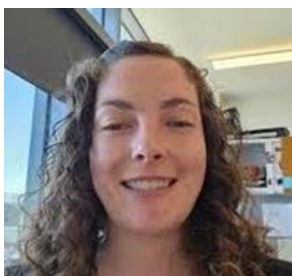


Many of our laboratory staff do not know each other, connecting a face to a name let's get to know our neighbors!

Meet the
folks on the
Orange side

~Ellsworth Lab~

Knesha Thompson, Research Technician



What is your role within the Lab?
Consenting participants for research studies, cell culture, and anything else my PI needs.

When you are not working, how do you enjoy spending your time? Nature walks, reading, listening to music, sewing, spending time with family (on the phone).

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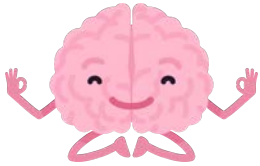
****More to come****

Meet the folks
on the Blue side

hello

Odds & Ends

FYI's and Extra Bits



Check out the BRC Wellbeing Hub!



Space created to help quiet your mind and reconnect to
find your Zen!

~Located in back of building behind the curtains~



Check out this out~
[DOM Teammate Wellness page](#)

Back by popular demand ~ STEPtember challenge!
More information to come via email~



Odds & Ends

FYI's and Extra Bits



**The 67th ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition
will take place in Orlando, Florida,
December 6-9, 2025**

UNC Reception during ASH will be held on Saturday,
December 8, 2025
7:30-9:30pm
Location: TBD

Organizer: megan_noble@med.unc.edu

[Visit ASH website for more
information](#)

UPDATE



Follow the BRC on LinkedIn!
[LinkedIn BRC](#)

Odds & Ends



FYI's and Extra Bits

**12th Symposium on Hemostasis
Beyond the Basics: Evolving Insights in Thrombosis and Hemostasis
April 21-23, 2026
The Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill**

The symposium planned for 2026, will bring together leading experts to explore the latest advancements in hemostasis, thrombosis, and related fields.

Key topics will include novel functions of the intrinsic pathway, endothelial homeostasis, innovative microfluidic devices for disease assessment, interplay between coagulation and cancer, modifications of fibrinogen in disease, and updates on thrombosis and hemostasis in women's health. This conference aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and highlight innovative research that bridges the gap between basic science and clinical applications, ultimately advancing our understanding of blood coagulation and vascular health.

Planning Committee: Karin Leiderman, PhD, UNC; Erica Sparkenbaugh, PhD, UNC; and Robert Campbell, PhD Washington University in St. Louis

[Visit symposium website to register!](#)



NEW

Now posting on **[Blue Sky!](#)**

We want your good news (publications, grants, awards, etc.) to be shared to our followers~

Username: [is@unc-brc.bsky.social](#)

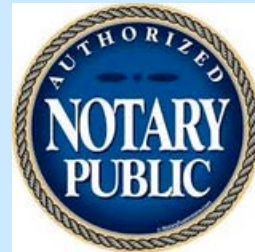
Send to your info to micah_martin@med.unc.edu for social media posting!

Odds & Ends

BRC Administrative Staff News

Need something notarized?

Send an email to:
megan_noble@med.unc.edu and
she can get you sorted and stamped



Please send any events, seminars, news items, etc.
to Micah Martin, Megan Noble or Christine if
you'd like them to be featured in the next
quarterly newsletter!