



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 14,
November 2025

Awards, Publications and more...



Dougald Monroe, PhD, Allen Ma, and Maureane Hoffman, PhD MD, published in Blood Vessels, Thrombosis, & Hemostasis.

Study findings:

Multiple inhibitors, including antithrombin (AT), heparin cofactor II, α 2-macroglobulin, and α 1-antitrypsin, contribute to thrombin inhibition in plasma. As AT is lowered, the roles of the other inhibitors become more significant.

Read more:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bvth.2025.100088>



Erica Sparkenbaugh, PhD appointed the co-chair of the 2029 HTRS Scientific Symposium Planning Committee

We are excited to announce the Planning Committee for the HTRS 2027 Scientific Symposium, a dynamic three-day scientific conference dedicated to the advancement of clinical, translational, and discovery-based science research related to disorders of hemostasis and thrombosis.



Awards, Publications and more...

Karin Leiderman, PhD and Dougald Monroe, PhD published in JTH



Mathematical analysis of emicizumab: affinity-driven complex formation and lipid-surface reactions. This study aimed to investigate emicizumab's lipid-surface dependent mechanisms through mathematical modeling and biochemical assays.

[Read more](#)

Sam Short, MD and collaborators/mentors from the REGARDS study published two papers in JTH about stroke risk in atrial fibrillation.

UNC Hem/Onc Fellow Sam Short, MD and collaborators/mentors from the REGARDS study published two papers in JTH about stroke risk in atrial fibrillation.

- Improving stroke risk prediction in atrial fibrillation with circulating biomarkers: the CHA2DS2-VASc–Biomarkers model ([DOI: 10.1016/j.jtha.2025.06.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtha.2025.06.007))
- Circulating biomarkers and ischemic stroke risk in adults with atrial fibrillation taking anticoagulation: the Reasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke study ([DOI: 10.1016/j.jtha.2025.05.029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtha.2025.05.029))



Awards, Publications and more...

Congratulations

Emily Grace Clark received an F31 award, “Disrupting the Fibrin Shield to Combat *Staphylococcus aureus* Bloodstream Infections.”

(PI: Dr. Matthew Flick)



Alexandra Jane Borst, MD awarded a large NIH U54 grant

Dr. Borst, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and other team members awarded a large NIH U54 grant which is to support a rare-disease research consortium for vascular anomalies. It has many components and CHOP is the coordinating center, Borst is a PI for one of the main clinical projects, “Developing a Natural History Registry and Biorepository for Rare Vascular Malformations”.

Awards, Publications and more...

Jane Little, MD, awarded RO1



Hypoxemia with Sleep in Sickle Cell Anemia-Prevalence, Clinical and Cellular Impact & Response to Therapy: A Multi-Site Prospective Study Accessing New Collaborative Pathways

We will examine the prevalence, impact, and response to treatment of hypoxemia during sleep in adults living with homozygous sickle cell anemia (SCA) at four comprehensive sickle cell centers across the U.S., focusing on patient reported outcomes (PROs), disease activity, cardiopulmonary health, and cellular biomarkers.

Meghana Malempati was awarded a UNC Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).

SURF projects must be carried out under the supervision of a UNC-Chapel Hill faculty research advisor. Additional collaboration with a postdoctoral fellow or graduate student mentor is encouraged when relevant to the research project. The typical SURF award is \$4,000 stipend to help students with living expenses and/or for any needed travel or supplies if applicable.

Meghana is working in the Mackman Lab



Awards, Publications and more...

Ana Sachetto PhD was awarded a Top Poster Award and Early Career Travel Award at ISTH 2025 Congress



Each year, the ISTH Congress Scientific Committee rewards abstracts of outstanding quality and provides the submitting author with a Travel Award to attend the ISTH Congress. Three categories of Travel Award are distributed: Early Career Awards (165 awards), Reach-the-World Awards (90) and Bangkok Legacy Fund Travel Award Awards (32).

The Early Career Awards are provided in the form of travel awards to those who meet the ISTH criteria for an Early Career attendee and submit a highly rated abstract. Travel Awards, consisting of \$500 USD, are specifically intended to assist the presenting author with their travel related expenses to and from the Congress. To be eligible for an Early Career Award, you must be the presenting author of an abstract submitted to the congress.

Ana Sachetto PhD is chair of the UNC Postdoctoral Association

The PDA is a social and collaborative space where postdoc volunteers come together to discuss relevant issues and try to find ways to improve the postdoc experience for the 800-1000 postdocs on UNC campus at any given time. Our main goals are to foster a sense of community among postdoctoral scholars, to provide resources for professional development, and to generate awareness about problems common to all postdocs. Ana is a postdoc in the Mackman Lab.

Awards, Publications and more...

Mackman Lab publishes two articles [Read full article](#)



"Evaluation of a new commercial assay for the measurement of tissue factor activity of extracellular vesicles isolated from human plasma"

Tissue factor (TF)-positive extracellular vesicles (EVs) are released into the circulation and activate coagulation in several diseases, such as sepsis, viral infections, and cancer.

[Read full article](#)

Optimization of a Western blot protocol for the detection of low levels of tissue factor in human cells"

The tissue factor (TF)/activated factor VII complex is the major activator of the coagulation system. TF is expressed by a variety of cells, including activated monocytes and tumor cells. Increased TF expression can cause thrombosis in different diseases, including sepsis, viral infections, and cancer. We have previously described a method for analyzing human TF in high-expressing cells by Western blotting.

Nirupama Ramadas PhD, review paper published in RPTH

"Emerging pathways in thromboinflammation of sickle cell disease: novel findings in disease pathogenesis"

Dr. Ramadas is a postdoc in the Sparkenbaugh Lab.

[Read more](#)



Awards, Publications and more...

Pathobiology and Translational Science graduate program annual student symposium

On October 7, the Pathobiology and Translational Science graduate program had their annual student symposium. BRC trainees presented posters (YJ Choi – Wolberg Lab, Claire Reist – Flick Lab) and one gave a talk (Kylie Hutchison – Sparkenbaugh Lab). Alisa Wolberg, Steve Hur, and Erica were BRC faculty in attendance. We also had several postdocs, techs, and fellows come out to support the trainees.

Trainees YJ Choi, Claire Reist, Joanne Alfred and Kylie Hutchison attended. YJ and Claire had posters and Kylie had one of three invited oral presentations. BRC faculty in attendance included Drs. Sparkenbaugh, Wolberg, Hur.



Awards, Publications and more...

Three postdoctoral fellows in the BRC have received recognition from the American Society of Hematology.

Dr. Alexey Martyanov (PI: Dr. Wolfgang Bergmeier) was awarded the Richard T. Silver, MD Abstract Achievement Award for Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPNs). He will give an oral presentation entitled “Platelet priming in MPN triggers pro-thrombotic intermediate affinity state in α IIb β 3 integrin” on Sunday December 7, 2025 at 9:30 AM in Room W304-EFGH.



Dr. Nirupama Ramadas (PI: Dr. Erica Sparkenbaugh) received an ASH Abstract Achievement Award for her abstract entitled “Selective PARI activation mitigates pain and neuroinflammatory markers in a murine model of sickle cell disease.” Her poster session is Sunday December 7 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Poster Hall.

Dr. Karnsasin Seanoon (PI: Drs. Brandi Reeves/Rafal Pawlinski) received an ASH Abstract Achievement Award for her abstract entitled “Thrombopoietin inhibition abrogates JAK2V617F clonal expansion in a murine model of myeloproliferative neoplasm.” Her poster session is Saturday December 6 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM in the Poster Hall.



Events - Seminars - FYIs

BRC Seminar Series- UPDATE

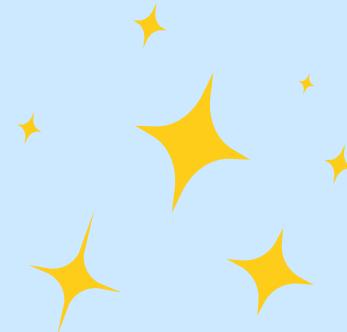
Mark your calendar for these upcoming speakers!

Fall Seminars

November 21st

Philippe Marambaud, PhD

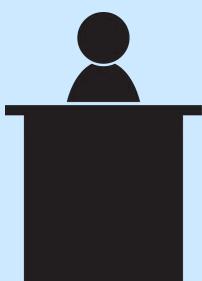
Feinstein Institutes for
Medical Research, Manhasset, NY
Host: Raj Kasthuri
Location: Marsico 2004



December 19th

Maha Othman, MD, MSc, PhD

Queen's University, Canada
Host: Yohei Hisada
Virtual seminar



Spring Seminar information
coming soon!

Seminar Coordinator: micah_martin@med.unc.edu

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 6, 2025
7:30-9:30pm
Hyatt Regency Orlando, Room: Celebration 8

Organizer: megan_noble@med.unc.edu

[**Visit ASH website for more
information**](#)



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 News

December holiday reminders-

Winter Holiday Break Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Monday, Dec. 29*

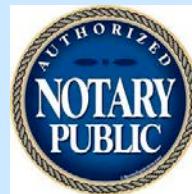
University closed** (Optional workdays)
Tuesday, Dec. 30** & Wednesday, Dec. 31**

**Update on University Closed Days: To provide additional flexibility for employees, the following will be optional workdays for employees as opposed to University Closed days, where they would be required to use leave:

Personal Observance Leave time (8 hours): expires on December 31, 2025.

Need something notarized?

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



NEWS
ALERT

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!

Odds & Ends

FYI's and Extra Bits



BRC Wellbeing Hub in MEJ!

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

~Located in back of building behind the curtains~

More resources on the DOM Wellness page~

[DOM Wellness information](#)

BRC December Holiday Food Drive!



**COMING
SOON**
Stay Tuned