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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Family Medicine

January 2022 Intercom

Family Medicine Inpatient Service (FMIS) Opens at New State-of-the-Art Wing at UNC Hospital Hillsborough Campus



Pictured from left to right: Michael Baca-Atlas, MD, residents Avanthi Jayaweera, MD, Alexis Halyard, MD, and Becca Begley, MD, Family Medicine Inpatient Service Director Yee Lam, MD, PhD, Pharmacotherapy Residency Director Jesica Mangun, PharmD, BCPS, and UNC Family Medicine Chair Margaret Helton, MD.

From Margaret Helton:

We're excited to share that the UNC Family Medicine Center inpatient service (FMIS) moved into its new unit on the first floor of the new UNC Hospital Hillsborough Campus on January 7, 2022. The unit is a beautiful state-of-the-art facility with spacious, private patient rooms and ample workspace for resident and attending physicians. The nursing stations are functional and welcoming, and the entire unit is designed to provide excellent health care in a modern setting.

In the 1980s, the family medicine inpatient service was on the 3rd floor of the Gravely Building, which was the old tuberculosis infirmary. In the 1990s, the service moved to 3 West in the Main Hospital, and in the 2010s moved to 8 BedTower. While adequate, these facilities were old, had semiprivate rooms for the patients, and limited workspace for the health care teams. The family medicine inpatient service moved to UNC Hillsborough Hospital in April 2020 and transformed the hospital into a busy facility that is poised for growth. The new tower is a major step in that growth and family medicine is proud to literally be on the ground floor of this exciting expansion for UNC Health. Hillsborough Hospital is poised to continue growing, with more services locating there over the next five years.

The family medicine inpatient service provides hospital care for family medicine patients as well as those from Piedmont Health Services, and services local primary care practices. It is a full-spectrum service for adult inpatient care and a rich training environment for our residents, medical students, pharmacy students, and other health professionals. We are honored to serve our patients and thrilled to now be able to do so in a beautiful new facility!

Bogdewic Named Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development



Congratulations to Steve Bogdewic, PhD, who began serving as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development (FALD) in the UNC School of Medicine on Jan. 1, 2022!

Bogdewic has served FALD since [July 2019](#) as an executive coach, and he brings extensive experience from his time as Executive Vice Dean at Indiana University School of Medicine to this position. In the Senior Associate Dean role, he will work closely with Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Jennifer Wu, MD, MPH, on building a vision for FALD's future.

From Dr. Bogdewic:

"This new position will entail my working with Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jennifer Wu, to build a vision for the future of Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development. This is happening at a pivotally important time in healthcare and academic medicine. Our faculty, as well as all healthcare providers, have faced unimaginable challenges as they combat a pandemic that has persisted for over two years. Stress, burnout, and fatigue are at their highest levels. I will be working with like-minded colleagues to do what we can to develop mechanisms to support and strengthen our colleagues. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve at this unique point in time."

Reddy Named Medical Director of UNC Health Virtual Care Center

Congrats to Vinay Reddy, MD, MPH, who has been named Medical Director of the UNC Health Virtual Care Center! Reddy was chosen to lead the technological center of UNC Health's Virtual Care Services because of his work to date in the Virtual Care space and his colleagues' respect for him, given his knowledge in this field. He will be providing the medical oversight for implementation and technology resources used for virtual care services across the UNC Health system. Reddy joins Amir Barzin, DO, MS, Medical Director for UNC Health Virtual Care Services, in key Family Medicine leadership roles in this formative time for Virtual Care at UNC Health. They hope to drive Virtual Care's goals of improving access, decreasing barriers to care, and allowing for greater patient flexibility when scheduling to patients interact with their health more seamlessly.



Staff Launch Improvement Project for Onboarding Process

On January 19th, the clinic began an improvement project on the staff onboarding process. The team is very involved and will work through the end of February, engaging co-workers outside of the team for ideas to help improve and address additional “waste” in the operation. As project lead Brian Wiggs states, “The goal is to create a more organized, consistent, and standardized staff onboarding process so staff feel more prepared and supported in providing quality care to our patients.”





This and other efforts aim to improve the work environment for staff at Family Medicine, and we are happy to celebrate our colleagues' efforts towards this goal!

NC FIT Continuing Technical Assistance With New Grant from NCDHHS

Congrats to [NC FIT](#) and the [JUSTICE TA Team](#) for continuing their important work as a hub providing technical assistance to grantees of the NCDHHS funded "Opioids & COVID: Supporting Justice-Involved Individuals with SUD during COVID" program. Per director Evan Ashkin, MD, NC FIT will be continuing Technical Assistance (TA) work around the state per a new grant from NCDHHS. They will continue to partner with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition and the Duke Opioid Collaboratory on the JUSTICE TA Team, and will expand their services to a new set of awardees to implement a combination of jail-based MAT, diversion programs to provide treatment to people with substance abuse disorders (SUD) and mental illness instead of jail and to enhance harm reduction programs and syringe services.





Community health worker Tommy Green working from his car

From Ashkin: "We are excited about the opportunity to expand TA from our original 17 sites across the state to a total of 27! The work we are assisting with is inspirational, grassroots and has helped bridge gaps between health departments, law enforcement, jails, EMS, treatment providers, local harm reduction, and community reentry partners. We are especially grateful to have many team members with lived experience of drug use and

incarceration on our Justice TA team, adding their voice, perspective, wisdom, and generosity to the conversation."

Learn more about the JUSTICE TA Team program at: go.unc.edu/JusticeTATeam

Pathman, Sonis Publish Study Examining how Pandemic is Adversely Affecting Clinicians in Safety-Net Practices Around the Country

The COVID-19 pandemic has stressed our health system and those on the frontlines caring for hospitalized and emergency room patients. Clinicians are exhausted, and their work has not been "normal" since the pandemic started. Most of the reporting, as well as research on the topic, has paid attention to emergency care clinicians on frontlines who have heroically dealt with wave after wave of overwhelming sickness bringing crisis and uncertainty. Often overlooked are the effects the pandemic has also had on our primary care workforce, most notably in safety-net practices around the country where patients are most at risk from worse outcomes due to COVID-19.



Don Pathman, MD, MPH



Jeff Sonis, MD, MPH

In a [recent article](#) in the official journal of the U.S. Surgeon General, *Public Health Reports*, UNC Family Medicine's Don Pathman, MD, MPH, Jeff Sonis, MD, MPH, and colleagues address how the pandemic is affecting clinicians in primary care safety-net practices around the country. The study involves data from 1,800 National Health Service Corps (NHSC)

clinicians in 20 states during the first 9 months of the pandemic and includes clinicians in primary care, behavioral health, & dental health.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all communities in the United States, but infections, deaths, and financial and social disruption have been most severe in low-income, socially vulnerable, and predominantly racial and ethnic minority communities, both rural and urban," reads the article. "Among all outpatient practices, those that serve these communities may have been disproportionately affected, including federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health centers, community mental health and drug treatment centers, and other safety-net practices."

Patient health impacts

Patient health and at home situations struggled in many communities, with clinicians reporting that the pandemic was having an adverse impact on the physical health of over half of their patients, a greater toll on patient's mental health, and noted increases in alcohol consumption and abuse of other substances. Additionally, over half of patients' financial situations were reported to suffer due to the pandemic. Anxiety about the pandemic and struggles with the infrastructure of telehealth in safety-net communities led to patients discontinuing their continuity care, leaving chronic conditions untreated.

Work upheaval

As patient visits dropped significantly and the challenges of moving many visits to telephone or telehealth became clear, clinicians saw a world of upheaval in their day-to-day work. Dental health clinicians were especially impacted, being four times more likely to report loss of paid work hours, furloughs, or seeing their

practices close than primary care and behavioral health, who were more able to see patients remotely. On top of disruptions in their work, many clinicians reported safety concerns given the limited resources to procure adequate protective equipment, lack of screening and local expertise, and work situations with no option to work remotely or in an area of lower risk. Compounding the matter was a lack of support with stress management and childcare in many practices and communities.

Clinician well-being suffers

Given these challenging circumstances, it is not surprising that the study found many clinicians' well-being suffered significantly. Over three fourths were found to be "at risk for mental distress" including fatigue, burnout, propensity for medical errors, and career dissatisfaction. These findings bode poorly for continued resiliency in the face of a continuing pandemic as well as future clinician retention in safety-net communities. To help with current and future needs in safety-net practices, the article calls on legislators and administrators in these agencies to build a culture within safety-net practices of listening to, caring for, and supporting clinicians and staff, and that supports their mental health.

Moving forward

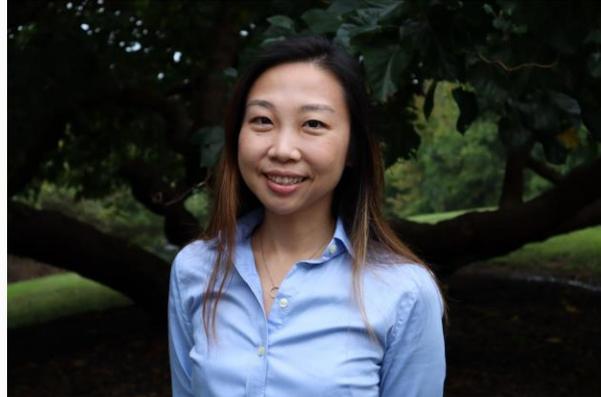
We are most likely going to deal with the adverse effects of the pandemic on clinician mental well-being for many years. Provider mental health has been shown to worsen after a pandemic, yet we are still dealing with another wave of the currently pandemic. Life is not normalized, practices in low-income, socially vulnerable, and predominantly racial and ethnic minority communities have not normalized, and many patients are having to deal issues they have that are tied up with the pandemic. Our healthcare system is still overwhelmed, and clinicians are stretched thinner and thinner. Millions of healthcare workers are affected. Considering most people receive most of their care in primary care practices, all of us who rely on them are affected, especially those most vulnerable.

Read the full article, titled "Experiences of Safety-Net Practice Clinicians Participating in the National Health Service Corps During the COVID-19 Pandemic," at PubMed:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34694922/>

Won Named Senior Director of the Family Medicine Center

In case you missed it, please congratulate Yessi Won, MHA, for being named Senior Director of the Family Medicine Center! From Kevin Tate, MHA, Vice Chair for Administration:



I am happy to announce that Yessi Won has been promoted to Senior Director at Family Medicine. In her new role, she will be responsible for the financial, strategic, and operational oversight of the clinical operations at the Family Medicine Department, which includes services at the Aycock Family Medicine Center, Durham and Carraway Village FMCs, Town of Chapel Hill Wellness @Work, Chatham Hospital, and Hillsborough Hospital.

Yessi joined UNC Family Medicine in 2017 and has been instrumental in opening Urgent Care, expanding patient care services, navigating COVID operations, and advocating for Family Medicine at the Medical Center and System levels.

Preventive Medicine Resident Rowe Pens Article for ABC News



Preventive Medicine Resident Robert Rowe, MD, MBA, wrote a featured [article for ABC News](#) on how "Mild COVID" was many times challenging and can be a major disruptor. Dr. Rowe penned the feature while working with the ABC managing editor for the Medical Unit during an elective rotation on public health media and messaging where he immersed himself in the field of medical journalism to help increase awareness about a broad range of health topics and policy issues.

To read the article, visit the [ABC News website](#).

Donahue, Halladay Write Article on COVID Pandemic's Impact on Primary Care's Practice Based Research Networks

Family Medicine's Katrina Donahue, MD, MPH, Jacquie Halladay, MD, MPH, and UNC Children's Michelle Hernandez, MD, along with researchers from across the country recently posted a salient article on *Health Affairs* "Forefront" titled "[The Watershed Of Practice-Based Research: Lessons And Opportunities From The COVID Pandemic](#)." Using



Katrina Donahue, MD, MPH



Jacquie Halladay, MD, MPH

the analogy of a watershed to explain the primary care system and how the pandemic has affected it, the post establishes how primary care's Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) are the vital "infrastructure best suited to measuring and improving the health of the national primary care watershed." The primary care system is "where and how most people get most of their health care." Primary care was already suffering large rates of burnout pre-pandemic, with rates continuing as

more variants develop. Similarly, PBRNs were already struggling for resources and funding before the pandemic which further depleted much of the limited flow of resources maintaining research infrastructure and capacity. Donahue states, “Primary care practice-based research networks are critical for addressing and improving health by answering the pressing problems in primary care, where most people receive most of their care. The pandemic has ravaged these networks, leaving the ones that survived on shoestring budgets.”

PBRNs that have survived have had to adapt to limited resources, leading to a fragmented system of research also hindering pandemic response. Noting the lack of infrastructure supporting research in health care settings Halladay notes, “These networks can rapidly address pressing issues, such as health inequities and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy but need adequate resources to do so. Without a dedicated NIH institute or Center focused on primary care, efforts need to be put in place to rethink how to support this critical work.”

Read the article on the [Health Affairs website](#).

Donahue, Halladay, and Hernandez worked on this project as a part of the NC TraCS-supported [North Carolina Network Consortium \(NCNC\)](#). NC TraCS support is key to NCNC’s fiscal support for project management, support for practice coaching, and other key administrative functions.

Moore on PBS Panel Discussing Farmer Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (This Friday, 2/4)

Modjolie Moore, MD, Medical Director for the NC Farmworker Health Program, will be on an upcoming PBS episode of [ncIMPACT](#) covering "Farmer Mental Health and Suicide Prevention." The episode will include field stories featuring the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute’s peer-to-peer farmer support program and teletherapy support for farmworkers in rural communities, as well as a panel discussion hosted by Anita Brown-Graham that Dr. Moore took part in on behalf of the NCFHP.



The episode premieres this Friday, February 4th at 7:30pm, and can be streamed on the [ncIMPACT website](#) after the premiere.

Shoenbill to Serve as Co-Chair of the Telehealth Working Group NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center Initiative



Kim Shoenbill, MD, PhD, was selected to serve as Co-Chair of the Telehealth Working Group for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center Initiative. Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a dramatic increase in use of telehealth to deliver cancer-related care. Shoenbill's recent research in how telehealth services can reach more people has received a great deal of national attention, with the study [An Analysis of Inpatient Tobacco Use Treatment Transition to Telehealth](#) providing the first analysis of inpatient tobacco use treatment during the transition to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Congrats on this important work!

3-Year Resident Hughes, Butler Publish Case Study in Journal of Urgent Care Medicine

Third-Year Resident Rachel Hughes, MD, and Erik Butler, DO, recently published a case study in the *Journal of Urgent Care Medicine*. This is reportedly the first publication in the journal since we opened our Urgent Care Center!

[Read the study, "Atypical Skin Abscess Caused by Nontuberculous Mycobacterium," here.](#)



Rachel Hughes, MD



Erik Butler, DO

Vielot Awarded Pilot Funds from NC TraCs for HPV Vaccination Trial Study



Nadja Vielot, PhD, was recently awarded \$2k in pilot funds from NC TraCS for her project titled “Determining eligibility and readiness for rural North Carolina clinics to participate in an HPV vaccination trial: a feasibility study.” This grant is a supplement to the Innovations Award she received from Family Medicine last March. Congrats!

Be on the Lookout for the UNC SOM/UNC Health DEI Climate Survey!

The UNC School of Medicine and UNC Health are partnering with Press Ganey to launch a DEI Climate Survey, which will be open from February 8-26, 2022. A direct, personalized link will be sent to all faculty (including physicians), staff, students, and trainees in UNC School of Medicine and UNC Health. Be on the lookout for an email with YOUR personalized link from Press Ganey, and make sure you complete the survey! The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete - all responses are confidential. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to reid_johnson@med.unc.edu.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Climate Survey

 **FEBRUARY 8-26**

Take the survey today so that your voice is heard.
Your feedback is extremely important to us!



Why is the DEI Climate Survey important?

- UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine values the rich diversity of our teammates, faculty, physicians, staff, students, and trainees. We are committed to building an equitable and inclusive environment for everyone to work, learn, and excel.
- Our most valuable resource is our people, and it's very important to get your feedback.
- An important step in creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work and learning space is to understand your perspectives and viewpoints regarding your work and learning experiences at UNC Health and UNC School of Medicine. We hope that you will agree to participate so that your voice can be heard.
- Your feedback will help leaders continue to develop goals and metrics focused on improving the work and learning environments. For example, SOM will develop action items for their Inclusive Excellence Plans (IEPs).

Research and Scholarship

Publications:

Schonberg MA, Hamel MB, Davis RB, Karamourtopoulos M, Pinheiro A, Hayes MC, Wee CC, **Kistler C**. [Primary Care Providers' Perceptions of the Acceptability, Appropriateness, and Feasibility of a Mammography Decision Aid for Women Aged 75 and Older](#). *MDM Policy Pract.* 2022 Jan 21;7(1):23814683221074310. doi: 10.1177/23814683221074310. eCollection 2022 Jan-Jun.

Davidson KW, Mangione CM, Barry MJ, Cabana M, Caughey AB, Davis EM, **Donahue KE**, Doubeni CA, Krist AH, Kubik M, Li L, Ogedegbe G, Pbert L, Silverstein M, Simon M, Stevermer J, Tseng CW, Wong JB. [Actions to Transform US Preventive Services Task Force Methods to Mitigate Systemic Racism in Clinical Preventive Services](#). *JAMA* 2021;326(23):2405-2411. PMID: 34747970.

Narowski TM, Raphel K, Adams LE, Huang J, **Vielot NA**, Jadi R, de Silva AM, Baric RS, Lafleur JE, Premkumar L. [SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine induces robust specific and cross-reactive IgG and unequal neutralizing antibodies in naive and previously infected people](#). *Cell Reports.* 2022 Feb 1;38(5):110336. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2022.110336. Epub 2022 Jan 20. PMID: 35090596

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Kahwati LC, **Asher GN**, Kadro ZO, Keen S, Ali R, Coker-Schwimmer E, Jonas DE. [Screening for Atrial Fibrillation: Updated Evidence Report and Systematic Review for the US Preventive Services Task Force](#). *JAMA*. 2022 Jan 25;327(4):368-383. doi: 10.1001/jama.2021.21811.PMID: 35076660

Shoenbill KA, **Baca-Atlas MH**, Wilhoit-Reeves SB, Baca-Atlas SN, Smith CA, **Goldstein AO**. [Evaluating a Tobacco Treatment Program's Transition to Telehealth Using a Social Determinants of Health Lens](#). *Nicotine Tob Res*. 2022 Jan 17:ntac016. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntac016. Online ahead of print.PMID: 35038749

Kistler CE, Wretman CJ, Zimmerman S, Enyioha C, Ward K, Farel CE, Sloane PD, Boynton MH, Beeber AS, Preisser JS. [Overdiagnosis of urinary tract infections by nursing home clinicians versus a clinical guideline](#). *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2022 Jan 11. doi: 10.1111/jgs.17638. Online ahead of print.PMID: 35014024

Gbolahan OB, O'Neil BH, McRee AJ, Sanoff HK, Fallon JK, Smith PC, Ivanova A, Moore DT, Dumond J, **Asher GN**. A Phase I evaluation of the effect of curcumin on dose-limiting toxicity and pharmacokinetics of irinotecan in participants with solid tumors. *Clinical and Translational Science*. Accepted for publication.

Vielot NA, Reyes Y, Blette B, González F, Toval-Ruiz C, Gutiérrez L, Vílchez S, Diez-Valcarce M, Vinjé J, **Becker-Dreps S**, Bucardo F. First episodes of norovirus and sapovirus gastroenteritis protect against subsequent episodes in a Nicaraguan birth cohort. Submitted, *Epidemiology*, 9 typed pages.

Presentations:

Becker-Dreps, S. Childhood Diarrhea after Global Rotavirus Vaccine Rollout: Meet the Caliciviruses. *UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases Friday Conference*. January 14, 2022.

Jayaweera, A, Trikantopoulos E, Ryan M. Students Lead the Way: Building Physician Advocates for Underserved Communities Through a Student-Led

Advocacy Curriculum. *2022 STFM Conference on Medical Student Education*.
January 27, 2022.

Bogdewic, S. A Lesson in Personal Filters: Bias and Self-Awareness. *Workshop presented to fellows in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, Virtual*. January 2022.

Bogdewic, S. The Leadership Practice Model. *Seminar presented at the Inaugural UNC Health Clinical Leadership Program, UNC Health, Virtual*. January 2022.
