

# The Pulse

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

Welcome to the first edition of The Pulse, the biannual UPMC Cardiovascular Fellowship Program newsletter. Every June and December we will be distributing this newsletter 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

### Comings and Goings

It gives us great pleasure to present the 2014 graduates of the UPMC Cardiovascular Fellowship Program and what they will be doing in the coming year:

- Michael Curren, MD, will be joining the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute. Dr. Curren will be clinically based at UPMC St. Margaret, and will continue his work with physician documentation services at UPMC.
- Anthony Dota, MD, will be joining the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- Eric Dueweke, MD, will be joining the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute at UPMC Northwest.
- Brian Henry, MD, PhD will be continuing the research phase of his fellowship.
- Gavin Hickey, MD, will be joining the Advanced Heart Failure Fellowship program at UPMC.
- Jacob Jentzer, MD, will be joining the Critical Care Medicine Fellowship program at UPMC.
- Christopher Jones, MD, will be joining the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program at UPMC
- Ronak Patel, MD, will be joining Northwest Ohio Cardiology Consultants, part of Promedica Health System, based in Toledo, Ohio.
- Andrew Pogozelski, MD, will be joining the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Section at Allegheny General Hospital
- Rashmee Shah, MD, will be joining the faculty at the University of Utah School of Medicine.
- Donald Siddoway, MD, will be joining the Electrophysiology Fellowship program at UPMC.
- Madhur Singh, DO, will be joining the Electrophysiology Fellowship program at UPMC.

*We thank all of our graduates for their dedication and hard work. We also wish them the best as they pursue the next phase of their career.*

We are pleased to announce the members of the incoming fellowship class, along with their medical schools and internal medicine programs:

**Robert A. Baumgartner, MD**  
Medical School:  
New York University - 2010  
Residency:  
Tufts Medical Center - 2013

**Aken A. Desai, MD**  
Medical School:  
University of Michigan - 2011  
Residency:  
University of Michigan - 2014

**Amber E. Johnson, MD, MBA**  
Medical School:  
Jefferson Medical College  
- 2011  
Residency:  
Johns Hopkins - 2014

**Yasser Rodriguez, MD, MBA**  
Medical School:  
University of Miami - 2011  
Residency:  
University of Michigan - 2014

**Meshe Chonde, MD**  
Medical School:  
George Washington  
University - 2010  
Residency:  
Cedars Sinai - 2013 Chief  
Resident - 14

**Andrea Elliott, MD**  
Medical School: University of  
Texas  
at Houston - 2010  
Residency: UPMC - 2013  
Chief Resident - 2014

**Matthew M. Lander, MD**  
Medical School:  
Drexel University - 2010  
Residency:  
UPMC - 2013

**Manling Zhang, MD, MS**  
Medical School:  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University  
- China- 1998  
Residency:  
Medstar Good Samaritan  
Hospital - 2014

**Eli M. Friedman, MD**  
Medical School:  
Chicago Medical School - 2011  
Residency:  
UPMC - 2014

**Joshua E. Levenson, MD**  
Medical School:  
University of Pittsburgh - 2011  
Residency:  
University of Michigan - 2014

*We welcome the newest members of our fellowship family, and wish them all the best.*

## Research Pathway

There are a lot of exciting things happening in research for our fellows:

Dr. Mark Gladwin assumed the role of Research Director of the Heart, Lung, Blood, and Vascular Medicine Institute of the University of Pittsburgh in June of 2013. Dr. Gladwin brings a wealth of experience in a broad range of translational research and an outstanding track record of mentoring to his new role.


The "B2B" (bench to bedside) cardiovascular fellowship research pathway was created and will be available to the incoming fellowship class. This pathway will allow research-oriented fellows to complete the vast majority of their clinical training in the first two years of fellowship. They will then have two fully supported years to pursue their research interests with an emphasis on securing funding for their transition to an independent researcher. For those fellows not on the B2B track there are outstanding research and educational opportunities that can be completed within the standard three year fellowship training period.

A number of efforts are underway to support fellow research:

- An annual research retreat at Seven Springs where fellows and faculty can mingle and explore common research interests
- Annual grants of up to \$10k per year to support fellows research projects
  - > Grant writing workshops
  - > Physician-scientist career development conference series
  - > Research in progress conference
  - > Basic science boot camp to introduce fellows to current bench techniques

## Accomplishments

UPMC Cardiovascular Fellows continue to staff our monthly voluntary free cardiology clinic, a subspecialty clinic of the Birmingham Free Clinic on Pittsburgh's South Side. Through this clinic, our fellows have provided cardiovascular care to hundreds of Pittsburgh area patients who otherwise would have no access to care. On site services provided include history and physical examination, ECG, Echocardiography, and medication dispensing. Offsite services provided include blood work and Stress Echocardiography.



UPMC Cardiovascular Fellows have been volunteering their time to provide community screening services to the Pittsburgh community and

beyond. These screening events are held under the aegis of the HVI's COACH (Community Outreach and Cardiovascular Health) Program. Clients who attend these events have the opportunity for blood pressure, heart rate, height and weight, lipid and blood glucose screening. Counseling is then provided at the "Ask the Experts" table. Educational materials pedometers are

available for clients as well. Over the last 3 years, fellows have participated in well over one hundred COACH screening events. In addition to local screening events, cardiovascular fellows have joined the COACH team each of the last 3 years on its annual trip to Madison Square Garden in New York City for the Maggie Dixon Classic NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. Maggie was the coach of the Army women's basketball team and the sister of Pitt Men's Basketball coach Jamie Dixon prior to succumbing to sudden cardiac death. In her honor the Dixon Foundation and COACH provide screening and educational services annually at her namesake tournament.

UPMC Cardiovascular Fellows continue to distinguish themselves. Dr. Anil Purohit, a current 2nd year fellow, recently received a Fogarty Fellowship. This prestigious award will fund Anil's yearlong research project studying cardiovascular risk factors and outcomes in a population in Malawi, Africa. Anil has a longstanding interest in global cardiovascular health, having come through UPMC's Global Health Track during his internal medicine residency. Anil will be in Malawi from July of 2014 to June of 2015. We wish him all the best.



We are pleased to announce that work on the renovation of the Shaver Conference Room will begin this summer. As most of you know, Dr. James Shaver was a longtime member of the cardiology faculty

of UPMC, serving at various times as Division Chief and Program Director of the Cardiovascular Fellowship. In his honor, we will be renovating the conference room on Scaife 5 that carries his name. The renovation will include the installation of display cases that will hold memorabilia from Jim's career and a newly executed oil painting of Jim. All new furniture and completely new electronics, including a full telemedicine system, will be installed. Once completed, the Shaver Conference Room will not only be a fitting tribute to everything Jim meant to the cardiology division of UPMC, but will also serve as the hub of our educational activities.

We'd like to thank all of you who contributed to our fundraising efforts to support this renovation. We will be sure to forward photos of the completed project and information about the rededication planned once complete.