

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

Congratulations Graduates!

We congratulate the 2017 graduates of the UPMC Cardiovascular Fellowship Program and wish them all the best in their next endeavors.

Robert A. Baumgartner, MD, will continue to the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at UPMC.

Meshe Chonde, MD, will join the Department of Critical Care Medicine at UPMC.

Aken Desai, MD, will continue to the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

Andrea M. Elliott, MD, will undertake a T32 research/clinical project at UPMC.

Jeffrey A. Fowler, DO, will join the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute as an invasive cardiologist at UPMC Presbyterian and VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Yaron Fridman, MD, will join Mission Health in Ashville, N.C., as an advanced imaging specialist.

Eli Friedman, MD, will join Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Fla., as a general cardiologist and sports cardiologist.

Amber E. Johnson, MD, MBA, will undertake a T32 research/clinical project at UPMC.

Matthew M. Lander, MD, will continue to the Heart Failure Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Joshua E. Levenson, MD, will join the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute as a general noninvasive cardiologist and associate program director of the Cardiovascular Fellowship.

Christopher B. Link, MD, will join the Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, as a heart failure specialist.

Michael D. Mulock, MD, will join Jefferson Regional Hospital in Pittsburgh as an interventional cardiologist.

Christopher E. Pray, MD, will join St. Clair Hospital and South Hills Cardiology in Pittsburgh.

Yasser Rodriguez, MD, MBA, will continue to the Electrophysiology Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Manling Zhang, MD, MS, will continue to the Advanced Heart Failure Fellowship at UPMC.

Awards & Honors

We offer sincere congratulations to this year's award recipients:

Advanced Heart Failure/Cardiac Transplant Fellow Recognition Award in Memory of Jeffrey Wierenga

Christopher B. Link, MD

This award was established in memory of Jeffrey Wierenga, the longest-living single heart transplant recipient, to recognize the fellow who most embodies the hope, promise, and reality of transplantation procedures.

Chief Fellow Award

Andrea M. Elliott, MD

This award is presented to the chief fellow to acknowledge her dedication and leadership in the fellowship over the past year.

Galal M. Ziady Memorial Award

Amber E. Johnson, MD, MBA

This award is presented to a fellow who is focused on the treatment of disadvantaged communities and patients.

James A. Shaver Memorial Award

Manling Zhang, MD, MS

This award is presented to the fellow who best exemplifies Dr. Shaver's deep commitment to cardiovascular education.

Edward I. Curtiss Memorial Teacher Award

Mark Schmidhofer, MD

This award is presented to the faculty member who demonstrates outstanding excellence in teaching the cardiology fellows.

Excellence in Research Award

Manling Zhang, MD, MS

This award is presented to a fellow that exhibits significant past research discoveries and promise for the future.

Quality Improvement: CPR Status Work Group



Joshua Levenson, MD

As second year fellows, Aken Desai, MD, and Joshua Levenson, MD, noted that some of the patients they resuscitated in the hospital had expressed clear wishes not to be resuscitated were they to arrest. Josh and Aken collected local data that showed that only half of cardiology patients had resuscitation preferences discussed with them upon admission to our services. With this in deficiency in mind, they developed a quality improvement project with the goal of preventing CPR in any patient that had expressed wishes to forego such measures.

A CPR status work group comprised of cardiology fellows, faculty, and advanced practice providers (APPs), palliative care faculty, and quality improvement experts was formed. This group built on the assumption that all cardiology patients should have a discussion about code status with their health care team on admission to the hospital. To provide support for these discussions, APPs participated in a two-hour,

cardiology-focused communication training led by palliative care faculty. Simultaneously, CPR status documentation rates were publicly reported each month. Within six months, more than 96 percent of cardiology patients had code status resuscitation preferences documented. Rates have been sustained to date. Most importantly, there have been no reports of CPR against cardiology patients' presumed or documented wishes since starting the QI initiative in December of 2015. With further support from the UPMC Wolff Center, Josh is now partnering with the Divisions of Cardiac Surgery, Hematology-Oncology, and General Surgery, sharing his experiences and helping others to replicate these successes.

Starting July 1, 2017, Josh will serve as the Associate Program Director for the Cardiology Fellowship, focusing on quality improvement and patient safety programs and curricula. Clinically, he will practice as a noninvasive cardiologist at UPMC Shadyside, spearheading quality efforts within the HVI and throughout the UPMC system.

There Must Be Something in the Water...

Congratulations to all the fellows with new additions to their families this year! Our HVI family is growing quickly.



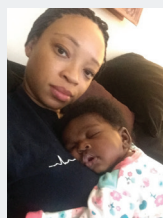
George Cater and George



Andrea Elliott and Luke



Sebhat Erquo and Yohana



Amber Johnson and Leilani



Helen Huang and Charlotte



Zach Rhinehart and Elliot



Wei Sun and Leon



Mourad Senussi and Lara



Jonathan Wertz and Finn



Manling Zhang's son Ethan

Share Your Publication News

Have you had an article published recently? Share this news with the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute for inclusion in a new section of the Our Research page on the HVI website! Email the link to your article, along with a brief description, to HVIpublications@upmc.edu.

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



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