Welcome Our New Fellows

As a new year begins, we are excited to welcome six new Cardiovascular Disease fellows and two new fellows in our subspecialty program for the 2015-2016 year. We are also delighted to be bringing four old fellows into new roles in Cardiac Imaging, Interventional Cardiology, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology, and Advanced Cardiology research at the UC.

Our incoming class is an accomplished group and we are confident they will all be a great addition to the Section. To get to know each of our new fellows, you can view their photos and bios on subsequent pages. Here’s to a great year!

A Year for the Books: 2014 to 2015 Fellowship Year

The 2014-15 fellowship year was filled with many highlights, honors, accomplishments and more among our outstanding fellows. Our fellows have worked hard and dedicated many hours to the Department and we could not be more proud. Thank you for all of your hard work and congratulations to the six graduates.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

We’d like to welcome Adam Oesterle as the new Chief Fellow for the 2015 – 2016 fellowship class! We look forward to what you will bring to the team. And a big thank you to Amita Singh for her outstanding work as Chief Fellow for the past year.

The New Faces of Cardiology Fellowship

Bhavna Balaney
I grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago and stayed in the area at University of Illinois at Chicago for both undergrad and medical school. I met my husband in medical school, and we moved to Pittsburgh for residency at UPMC. For the last year I've been working as a hospitalist at the VA in Pittsburgh while my husband finished up his Med-Peds residency, and we are both looking forward to moving back to sweet home Chicago! During any free time I look forward to being able to spend more time with our families, reading, traveling, trying my hand at photography, reacquainting myself with Chicago's restaurants, and being able to watch Chicago sports teams win in Chicago's stadiums (it's just not the same watching a Blackhawks game in Pittsburgh). I'm excited (also nervous!) about starting cardiology fellowship at U of C and can't wait to meet everyone.

Rohan Kalathiya
I was born in India and moved to the US at the age of 12. Somehow, I ended up in Kentucky where I spent more than a decade immersing myself in basketball, horses, and bourbon. I attended the University of Kentucky, majoring in Chemical Engineering, and then received my medical degree from the University Of Kentucky School Of Medicine. I finally ventured to the east coast for my Internal Medicine residency at Johns Hopkins. I spent the last year at Hopkins working with Dr. Ryan Tedford on creating an LVAD database to study long-term hemodynamic changes in these patients. I have enjoyed my time in Baltimore but am excited to explore the Windy City. In my free time (which is when I am not watching sports), I enjoy traveling, exploring new restaurants, and spending time with family and friends. I am thrilled to be in Chicago and look forward to meeting everyone and starting fellowship.

Kalie Kebed
I was born in South Korean and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota with two younger brothers. I majored in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota and stayed there for medical school. During that time, I worked part time at the Minneapolis Heart Institute helping implement a regional transfer network for out of hospital cardiac arrest. From there, my husband and I moved to Rochester for Internal Medicine residency at Mayo Clinic. I enjoyed my time at Mayo and was privileged to work on Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy MRI projects, specifically looking at the apical HCM subtype. Outside of work, I love spending time with my one year old son Noah, trying new restaurants, and catching a baseball game. I am so excited to start at the University of Chicago and meet my co-fellows.
**Luke Laffin**

I was born in Calgary, Canada and attended the University of Calgary while majoring in Chemistry. Following my undergraduate degree, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee to attend Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Chicago was my next stop and I have been at the University of Chicago for the past 4 years. I completed my internal medicine residency and then a one-year hypertension fellowship with George Bakris. I’ve had the great fortune to perform cardiology research with multiple members of the cardiology department at U of C, including cardiac sarcoidosis research with Amit Patel and focused cardiac ultrasound research with Kirk Spencer. I’m a big sports fan, especially the Packers, and try to get out on the golf course as often as I can. I am looking forward to getting started in July, meeting my new co-fellows, and continuing my training at U of C.

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**Nikhil Narang**

I was born and raised in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. I ventured to Atlanta for college at Emory University where I majored in Biological Anthropology. I returned to Chicago where I completed medical school at the University of Illinois-Chicago. I was thrilled to match at University of Chicago for residency and now am even more excited to stay for fellowship. 2015 has been a great year as I recently got married to my long-time college girlfriend (Avani) and had wonderful honeymoon exploring Tuscany where I finally learned something about wine. I am a Chicago loyalist and like all others, take advantage of the beautiful summer months with being outdoors, attending concerts and festivals and enjoying the world class dining and sports this city has to offer.

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**Jeremy Stone**

I was raised on a farm near Coleridge, Nebraska - a small town in the Northeast part of the state. I majored in Biology at University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and took a short drive up the interstate to University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE for medical school and subsequent internal medicine residency. Obviously, it’s about time I got out of Nebraska and challenged myself in a new location! I’ve done research with Dr. Tom Porter here at UNMC in low flow, low gradient severe aortic stenosis and improving the use of continuity equation for assessing aortic stenosis with TTE. I am a huge music fan, and I enjoy composing piano/electronic music in my free time. I will definitely be recruiting people to join me for some concerts coming up. I also enjoy international travel, and most recently gave my camera a workout in South Africa and Italy. I am very excited to meet everyone and start fellowship at University of Chicago!
The Advanced Fellows of 2014 - 2015

Karolina Marinescu – Advanced CHF

I was born and raised in Wroclaw, which is a large city on the southwest of Poland. My family and I immigrated to the US in 1992 settling down in Chicago, where I attended high school, college, and eventually Chicago Medical School. It was in my fourth year of medical school that I met my husband. Residency match took us to different cities, so I transferred to Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center where I finished my Internal Medicine residency, and stayed on for a Chief year and Diagnostic Cardiology Fellowship. In addition to competing my training, our family grew to include two wonderful little boys, Alex, who is 4, and Mikey, who is 2, and my closet grew as my shoe collection increased several fold. Besides those, I also love music, dancing, singing (to my husband’s dismay), reading, traveling and cooking. I’m incredibly excited to start this new chapter in my life, and move back to my other great love, Chicago.

Zaid Aziz – Electrophysiology

I grew up in Bourbonnais, Illinois. For my undergraduate education I ventured to the University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign where I majored in engineering computer science. I first came to Chicago to attend medical school at Rush University, and stayed at Rush for an internal medicine residency and an academic hospitalist year. I am currently finishing my “Midwest tour”, completing my cardiology fellowship at Saint Louis University, and a one year electrophysiology fellowship at St Vincent’s Hospital in Indianapolis. I enjoy international travel, exploring new restaurants, Netflix “binge” watching, and being a completely biased Chicago sports fan. I am looking forward to return to Chicago to continue my electrophysiology training at the University of Chicago.
Let’s Get Personal

Fellows DO have a life outside of Cardiology! Here are a few major events that took place over the course of 2014-2015:

Holy Matrimony

- **November 11, 2014** - Isida Byku happily married Tomas Kuprys!
- **August 23, 2014** - Akhil Narang and Disha Narang tied the knot!

Fellowship Class of 2043

- **February 17, 2015** - Leo Chandra Seides was born to proud parents, Amita Singh and Ben Seides.
- **November 25, 2014** - Annie Nguyen and John Potts welcomed Charlotte Ann Potts and James Nguyen Potts to their family.

Leo, James and Charlotte are our newest and cutest additions to the Section of Cardiology.

**Above:** James and Charlotte Potts.  
**Left:** Leo Seides.
Congratulations to the 2015 Graduates!

- LiYing Cai will be working at a private practice in Los Angeles.
- Jose Chavez will be an Interventional Cardiology fellow at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.
- Raider Estrada will be the Interventional Cardiology fellow here at the University of Chicago.
- John Green will be the Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology fellow here at the University of Chicago.
- Anuj Mediratta will be the Advanced Cardiac Imaging fellow here at the University of Chicago.
- Corey Tabit will be an Advanced Cardiology Research fellow here at the University of Chicago.

Honors & Achievements
Here's a closer look at some of the stellar work of our fellows this year:

- **Ben Chung**: 2015 Pritzker Poetry Contest Winner
- **Raider Estrada**: Outstanding Service Award – University of Chicago Medicine
- **Jonathan Grinstein**: Featured Presentation in XXX Science – University of Chicago Morton Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day
- **Anuj Mediratta**: Illinois FIT Co-Representative
- **Akhil Narang**: FIT Section Leadership Council
- **Corey Tabit**:
  - Society for Vascular Medicine Travel Award
  - Featured Presentation in Basic Science – University of Chicago Morton Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Sciences Research Day
  - Featured Presentation in Clinical Science – University of Chicago Morton Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Sciences Research Day
For the first time in 50 years we will welcome a new fellowship class without our beloved, Rory Childers.

Dr. Childers came to the University of Chicago in 1963 as a Cardiology fellow. He became a renowned authority on the movement of electrical impulses within the beating heart and the use and interpretation of electrocardiograms. During his career, Rory published more than 100 papers and abstracts, primarily on electrocardiography. He lectured widely and received many honors.

We lost Rory on August 27, 2014. Rory loved U of C, and he especially loved our fellows. July 1 was among his favorite days of the years because of the new cycle of trainees. He was an amazing colleague, physician, and friend. Rory represented the very best of the University of Chicago through his research, teaching and patient care. He was also a legendary educator, who had won our faculty teaching award so many times that finally, in 2004, we named it after him. That seems particularly fitting as we reflect on him today.

2014-2015
Rory R. Childers Cardiology Teaching Award

Each year the fellows have the difficult task of choosing a faculty member to give the prestigious Rory Childers Teaching Award. It goes to a faculty member who the graduating class feels has inspired them and provided and outstanding mentorship and teaching.

This year, The Rory R. Childers Cardiology Teaching Award was presented to Roberto Lang (pictured to right). Congratulations, Dr. Lang!
The Sixth Annual Cardiovascular Research Day (CRD) Symposium was held on April 24, 2015 at DCAM. The symposium highlighted the research within the Sections of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Cardiac Anesthesiology and Interventional Radiology. This day is named in honor of our esteemed friend, mentor and colleague who we continue to miss greatly. Our guest of honor was Dr. Toren Finkel he presented “Mitochondria, Aging, and Cardiovascular Disease” at our Cardiology Grand Rounds.

Our seven featured abstract winners show off their plaques on Cardiovascular Research Day. This year there were eight featured abstracts in the categories of basic and clinical sciences. **Front Row:** Wenndy Hernandez, PhD; Marion Hoffmann Bowman, MD, PhD; James Liao, MD; and Cevher Ozcan, MD. **Back Row:** Keigo Kawaji, PhD, Corey Tabit, MD; (Cardiology Fellow), Mike Broman, MD; Jonathan Grinstein, MD; (Cardiology Fellow), and Bijoy Chellan.

Cardiovascular Research Day wouldn’t have been possible without the participation of our faculty!

James Liao, MD
Marion Hofmann Bowman, MD, PhD
Francis Alenghat, MD, PhD
Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, MD
Dottie Hanck, PhD
Victor Mor-Avi, PhD
Sandeep Nathan, MD, MSc
Matthew Sorrentino, MD
Gaurav Upadhyay, MD
**Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day: Abstracts**

- **Andrew D. Beaser, Ryan Cunnane,** Nneka Ewulonu, Joshua D. Moss, Gaurav Upadhyay, Martin C. Burke, Pierce Vatterott, Michael Broman, Olusegun Oyenuga

- **Oyenuga, John Green, Sukit Ringwala,** and Hemal M. Nayak “Degree of Cardiovascular Implantable Electronic Device Lead Adherence as Assessed by Intravascular Ultrasound Predicts Difficulty of Extraction”

- **LiYing Cai,** Karima Addetia, **Diego Medvedofsky,** Jeanne M. DeCara, Roberto M. Lang and Kirk T. Spencer “Right Ventricular Involvement in Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy”


- **Jonathan Grinstein,** Eric Kruse; Gabriel Sayer; Savitri Fedson; Gene H. Kim; Colleen Juricek; Takeyoshi Ota; Valluvan Jeevanandam; Roberto M. Lang; and Nir Uriel “Novel Parameters for Grading Aortic Insufficiency Severity in Patients with Left Ventricular Assist Devices”

- **Alex Gyftopoulos,** Anuj Mediratta, Karima Addetia, **Jonathan Grinstein,** Janet Friant, Steven Tate, James Walter, Jonathan Paul, Atman P. Shah, Victor Mor-Avi, Roberto M. Lang, Sandeep Nathan, John E. Blair “Direct Pulmonary Arterial Pressure Measurement and Echocardiographic Evaluation Of Right Ventricular Function In Patients Undergoing Catheter-Based Therapy For Acute Pulmonary Embolism”

- **Benjamin Kenigsberg,** Jose Chavez, Elizabeth Retzer, Janet Friant, Sandeep Nathan, Atman Shah “Clinical Outcomes of Transcutaneous Aortic Valve Replacement by a Transfemoral Versus Iliac Conduit Approach”

- **Anuj Mediratta,** Alex Gyftopoulos, Karima Addetia, **Jonathan Grinstein,** Steven Tate, Janet Friant, Jonathan Paul, Atman P. Shah, Victor Mor-Avi, Roberto M. Lang, Sandeep Nathan, John E. Blair “Echocardiographic Evaluation of Right Ventricular Function In Patients Undergoing Catheter-Based Therapy For Acute Pulmonary Embolism”

- **Anuj Mediratta,** Karima Addetia, **Diego Medvedofsky,** Victor Mor-Avi, Roberto M. Lang “Echocardiographic Evaluation of Right Ventricular Function in Patients with McConnell’s Sign: The Added Benefits of Right Ventricular Free Wall Strain”

- **Diego Medvedofsky,** Karima Addetia, Amit R. Patel, Anke Seldmeier, Rolf Baumann, Victor Mor-Avi, Roberto M. Lang “Novel Approach to Three-Dimensional Echocardiographic Quantification of Right Ventricular Volumes and Function from Focused Views”

- **Diego Medvedofsky,** Javier Leon Jimenez, Karima Addetia, Roberto M. Lang, Victor Mor-Avi, Amit R. Patel “Quantification of the Severity of Tricuspid Regurgitation from Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Cine Images”


- **Diego Medvedofsky,** Kirk Spencer, Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, Karima Addetia, Doron Ahronson, Victor Mor-Avi, Roberto M. Lang, Avinoam Shiran “Tricuspid Regurgitation Progression and Regression in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Associated Factors and their Effects on Outcomes”

Cardiovascular Research Day hosted keynote speaker, Toren Finkel, MD, PhD from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day continued...

- **Sara Kalantari, Elizabeth Retzer, Gabriel Sayer, Gene Kim, Savi Fedson, Valluvan Jeevanandam, Atman Shah, Nir Uriel** "Successful Percutaneous Trans-Catheter Treatment of Left Ventricular Assist Device Outflow Graft Stenosis with a Covered Stent"

- **Dave Pandya, Karima Addetia, Anuj Mediratta, Joshua D. Moss, Hemal Nayak, Roberto M. Lang, Gaurav Upadhyay** "Improving Right Ventricular Lead Tip Localization Utilizing 3D-Echocardiography"

- **Mita Patel, Victor Mor-Avi, Sandeep Nathan, Roberto Lang, Amit Patel** "Diagnostic Performance of Regadenoson Stress CMR for Detection of Coronary Artery Disease"

- **Bryan Smith, Nir Uriel, Val Jeevanandam, Gene Kim, Gabe Sayer, Savitri Fedson, T. Ota, Atman Shah** "Novel Aortic Valve Closure in Patient with Aortic Insufficiency After Placement of Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)"

- **Corey E. Tabit, Charina F. Alcain, Gene H. Kim, Thomas Spiegel, Alicia D. Fagan, Patrick R. Ward, Nicolas A. Aguilar, Samira Qadir, Ankur Sharma, Kirk T. Spencer, Rupa Mehta Sanghani** "A Bundled Multidisciplinary Acute Decompensated Heart Failure Clinical Pathway Reduces Hospital Readmission and Identifies High Risk Patients"

- **Corey E. Tabit, Gene H. Kim, Savitri E. Fedson, Gabriel Sayer, Valluvan Jeevanandam, Nir Uriel, James K. Liao** "Elevated Expression of Angiopoietin-2 Promotes Increased Angiogenesis and is Associated with Increased Thrombin Activation in Human Patients with Continuous-Flow Left Ventricular Assist Devices"

Chief of the section of Cardiology presents plaques to Cardiology fellow Corey Tabit (top left) and Jonathan Grinstein (top right). Dr. Tabit had a featured abstract in both the clinical and basic science category. Dr. Grinstein had a featured abstract in clinical science. Our fellows were well represented at the with many posters on display during the poster session.
Department of Medicine Research Day

- **Jonathan Grinstein** “Novel Parameters for Grading Aortic Insufficiency Severity in Patients with Left Ventricular Assist Devices”
- **Sara Kalantari** “Successful Percutaneous Trans-Catheter Treatment of Left Ventricular Assist Device Outflow Graft Stenosis with a Covered Stent”
- **Mita Patel** “Semi-Quantitative Assessment of Resting Perfusion in Chronic Myocardial Infarction”
- **Elizabeth Retzer** “Utilization of a Mechanical Compression Device Increases Return of Spontaneous Circulation in Patients with Cardiac Arrest in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory”
- **Bryan Smith** “Novel Aortic Valve Closure in Patient with Aortic Insufficiency After Placement of Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD)”
- **Corey E. Tabit** “Elevated Circulating Levels and Endothelial Expression of Angiopoietin-2 in Humans with Continuous Flow Left Ventricular Assist Devices is Associated with Increased Angiogenesis”

Impressive Academic Production

Publications


VISIT THE CARD-FELLOWS SITE!
http://cardsfellows.bsd.uic.edu/default.asp
Publications continued...


Abstracts


Abstracts continued...


- **Mediratta A**, Medvedofsky D, Lang RM, Mor-Avi V, Patel AR. Myocardial Perfusion Abnormalities in Patients with Severe Aortic Stenosis Undergoing Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement. *Poster presentation at Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, July 2015, Las Vegas, NV.*


- **Smith B**, Uriel N, Jeevanandam V, Kim G, Sayer G, Fedson S, Ota T, Shah A. Novel Aortic Valve Closure in Patients with Aortic Insufficiency After Placement of Left Ventricular Assist Device, Poster Presentation, University of Chicago, Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology, International Society of Heart and Lung Transplant Annual Meeting, April 15-18, 2015, Nice, France.

- **Smith B**, Uriel N, Jeevanandam V, Kim G, Sayer G, Fedson S, Ota T, Shah A. Novel Aortic Valve Closure in Patients with Aortic Insufficiency After Placement of Left Ventricular Assist Device, Poster Presentation, University of Chicago, Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine Research Day, Chicago IL, March 3, 2015.

- **Smith B**, Uriel N, Jeevanandam V, Kim G, Sayer G, Fedson S, Ota T, Shah A. Novel Aortic Valve Closure in Patients with Aortic Insufficiency After Placement of Left Ventricular Assist Device, Poster Presentation, University of Chicago, Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology, 7th annual Morton F. Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day, Chicago, IL, April 24, 2015.
Posters and Presentations

- **Beaser**: Oral Presentation (first author) at Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) Meeting May 2015 – Degree of CIED Lead Adherence as Assessed by Intravascular Ultrasound Predicts Difficulty of Extraction

- **Beaser**: Poster (second author) at American Heart Association (AHA) Meeting November 2014 – Erroneous diagnosis of Brugada syndrome: advanced multimodality coronary evaluation to establish an ischemic etiology for recurrent ventricular arrhythmia


Posters and Presentations continued...


- Mediratta A, Medvedofsky D, Lang RM, Mor-Avi V, Patel AR. Myocardial Perfusion Abnormalities in Patients with Severe Aortic Stenosis Undergoing Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement. Poster presentation at Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, July 2015, Las Vegas, NV.

- Dave Pandya, Karima Addetia, Anuj Mediratta, Joshua D. Moss, Hemal Nayak, Roberto M. Lang, Gaurav A. Upadhyay “Improving Right Ventricular Lead Tip Localization Utilizing 3D-Echocardiography”