



department  
of medicine  
**WOMEN**

# women

at the forefront

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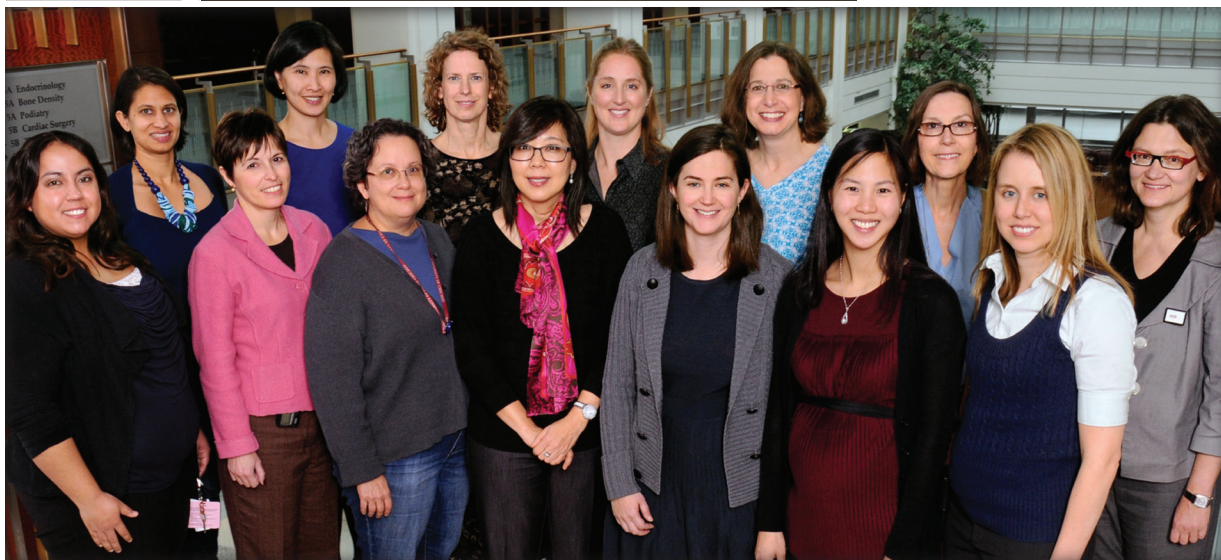
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Committee  
Mission  
Statement

To develop and enhance the academic environment for women faculty and trainees through networking, mentorship, professional development, and advocacy.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**  
MEDICINE



The Department of Medicine Women's Committee continues to serve as an important mechanism for dialogue, representation and leadership among women faculty in the Department of Medicine. In this update you will read about the latest accomplishments by our women faculty including two new named professorships, the appointments of eight women to our faculty and several others to leadership positions, in addition to an abundance of awards earned by our amazing women faculty. I hope that you enjoy the second edition of the Department of Medicine's Women's Committee Newsletter.

**Everett E. Vokes, MD**  
Chair, Department of Medicine

Since our inaugural edition of the Department of Medicine Women's Newsletter, we are excited to see that significant strides are underway to increase diversity and inclusion in the BSD. Our Dean's communication on the status of women and underrepresented minorities in the BSD highlights the continued need to create opportunities for the advancement and leadership for women. The Department of Medicine's response to the Dean's report highlighted four priority areas enhancing diversity in faculty recruitment, increase opportunities for mentorship and faculty development, provide increased opportunities for leadership development and promotion and recognition for outstanding efforts related to advancing diversity and inclusion. Our Women's Committee continues to work closely with leadership to provide insight into issues related to women, collaborate on faculty development programs and to celebrate the accomplishment of women faculty and trainees. Again, we invite you in joining us in recognizing the accomplishments of our faculty and trainees.

**Karen E. Kim, MD, MS**  
Chair, Department of Medicine Women's Committee





## women in the news faculty spotlight



**Marisa-Luisa Alegre**  
MD, PhD

Professor  
of Medicine

Rheumatology

Dr. Alegre is a basic immunology researcher who focuses on the mechanisms that induce or maintain tolerance in T cells, as well as on the environmental signals that can prevent or break this tolerance. This interest spans the development of T cells in the thymus, the upregulation of surface molecules that terminate T cell activation, the biology of regulatory T cells that can suppress responses by effector T cells, and the consequences of bacterial infections on these specific pathways of tolerance. The biological significance of these events is tested in mouse models of autoimmunity and transplantation as well as in clinical samples obtained from transplant recipients and infected patients. Dr. Alegre was born in Madrid, Spain. She received her MD degree from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium and her PhD in Immunology from the University of Chicago. She completed her clinical training in Internal Medicine and Intensive Care prior to focusing completely on research. Dr. Alegre was a post-doctoral scholar in the laboratory of Craig Thompson when he directed the Knapp Center for Lupus and Immunology Research. She has been principal investigator of her research laboratory at the University of Chicago, in the Section of Rheumatology since 1999.



**Christine Babcock**  
MD, MSc, FACEP, FAAEM

Assistant Professor  
of Medicine

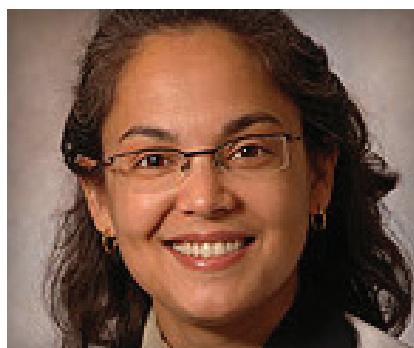
Emergency  
Medicine

Director

Emergency  
Medicine  
Residency  
Program

Dr. Babcock received her MD from the University of Wisconsin Medical School and completed her Emergency Medicine training at the University of Chicago in 2007. She currently is an Assistant Professor and serves as the Director of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program, a position she has held since October 2011.

Dr. Babcock has been recognized as an outstanding clinician, educator, and role model by the Emergency Medicine residents. In recognition of her outstanding work she was the recipient of the Outstanding EM Faculty Mentorship Award by the 2010 EM graduating class. Dr. Babcock is also interested in disaster preparedness and has been actively involved in multiple international medical efforts including being an integral member of the first response team deployed to Haiti.



**Savitri Fedson, MD**

Associate Professor

Cardiology

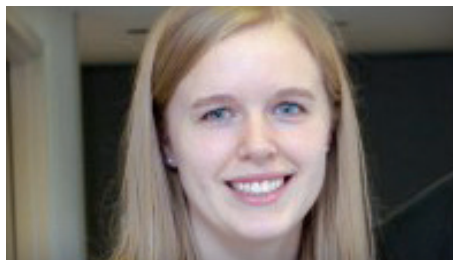
Savitri E. Fedson, MD, received her MD at the University of Virginia in 1996 and is a graduate of our IMR program. She served as chief resident at Cook County Hospital for one year prior to enrolling in our Cardiology fellowship training program in 2000. Upon completion, she continued her training as a Heart Failure/Transplant fellow for one year at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In 2003, she returned to the Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology where she currently serves as Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, Director of the Cardiac Care Unit and Associate Vice Chair for Clinical (Inpatient) Operations.

Savi's clinical interests are focused on the hemodynamics of heart failure. She is involved in clinical research studies looking at the application of new echocardiographic technologies in the diagnosis of early heart failure and for heart failure prevention.





## trainee spotlight

**Julia Espel, MD**Chief Medical  
ResidentDepartment  
of Medicine

Dr. Julia Espel received her MD from the University of Minnesota and completed her residency training in internal medicine at the University of Chicago. She is currently serving as chief medical resident and will begin fellowship training in Pulmonary/Critical Care at Northwestern University. Dr. Espel's research interest is in the area of interstitial lung disease and the management of patients in need of critical care.

## new faculty

**CARDIOLOGY****Alice Perlowski, MD**—Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Perlowski specializes in caring for patients with structural and congenital heart disease, including: aortic stenosis (balloon aortic valvuloplasty and transcatheter aortic valve replacement); mitral valve disease; atrial septal defects; patent foramen ovale; and paravalvular leaks. She also has an interest in clinical management and peripheral interventions for patients with peripheral arterial disease (PAD) and venous disease, as well as patients with atrial fibrillation requiring left atrial appendage occlusion. Dr. Perlowski focuses on sports cardiology and women's cardiovascular health. She has participated in several large, multicenter clinical trials in structural heart and peripheral arterial disease.

**ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES & METABOLISM****Alexandra Dumitrescu, MD, Ph.D**—Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Dumitrescu received her MD at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila in Bucharest, Romania in 1998. Dr. Dumitrescu's research is focused on the study of the pathophysiology of inherited defects affecting the thyroid function, in particular those involving transmembrane thyroid hormone transport and intracellular thyroid hormone metabolism. Her clinical interests include endocrinology, thyroidology, inherited thyroid diseases and genetic syndromes.

**Colleen Flynn, MD**—Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Flynn received her medical degree in 2006 from Jefferson Medical College. She completed her Endocrinology fellowship at the University of Chicago. Dr. Flynn's academic interest is focused on clinical research in the area of adipocyte regulation of aldosterone in obesity. She has been involved in ongoing projects in the Section dealing with vascular compliance and endothelial function. Her highly novel studies assess potential alterations in the secretion of adipocyte-derived factors between pre and postmenopausal women and the impact of these "adipokines" to alter aldosterone secretion from cultured adrenal cells.

**GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE****Neda Laiteerapong, MD**—Instructor

Dr. Laiteerapong received her MD from Boston University and completed her Master's in Health Studies and General Internal Medicine Fellowship at the University of Chicago. Dr. Laiteerapong's research interest in improving the care of adults with multiple chronic conditions, especially those with diabetes and other comorbidities. Her work has focused on understanding how diabetes and other chronic conditions affect patients' quality of life and medical decisions.

**GENETIC MEDICINE****Barbara Stranger, PhD**—Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Stranger's research focuses on both human disease genetics and basic genome research in a population-based paradigm. Her research uses a combination of experimental and computational approaches to elucidate the identity, function, and evolutionary history of functional regions of the genome in order to gain a better understanding of the genetic basis of complex phenotypes in health and disease. Her research interests include diseases with an immune component, human pregnancy, genome transcriptional regulation, the epigenome, and human evolution.

**HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY****Jane Churpek, MD**—Assistant Professor of Medicine

After receiving her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Churpek completed internal medicine and fellowship training in Hematology/Oncology at the University of Chicago. The broad goal of Dr. Churpek's research is to investigate the role of germ line genetics in the etiology of hematologic malignancies. Dr. Churpek's clinical interests include acute leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, bone marrow failure, stem cell transplant and hereditary susceptibility to cancer (with a special focus on hematologic malignancies).

**PULMONARY/CRITICAL CARE****Rekha Vij**—Instructor

Dr. Vij is a graduate of the PSOM and our IMR program where she served as Chief Resident. She recently completed her fellowship training in the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and was recruited to serve in the Interstitial Lung Disease Program. Dr. Vij will focus her research efforts on application of genomic methods in the characterization of ILD patients, with a goal of identifying molecular signatures that predict important clinical outcomes such as mortality related to pulmonary fibrosis.

**RHEUMATOLOGY****Reem Jan, MD**—Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Jan's academic interests are in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and antiphospholipid syndrome, and the link between inflammatory diseases and thromboembolism. She also takes an active interest in medical education. Her clinic practice is in general rheumatology, with special interests in SLE, psoriatic arthritis, and autoimmune dermatological disease.



## recent promotions

**PROFESSORS****Karen Kim, MD**

Gastroenterology, Hepatology &amp; Nutrition

**Marisa Alegre, MD, PhD**

Rheumatology

**Carol Semrad, MD**

Gastroenterology, Hepatology &amp; Nutrition

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR****Susan Hong, MD**

General Internal Medicine

**Victoria Villafior, MD**

Hematology/Oncology

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR****Gina Dudley, MD**

General Internal Medicine

**Valerie Press, MD**

Hospital Medicine

**Milda Saunders, MD**

Hospital Medicine

**Anna Zisman, MD**

Nephrology



## new leadership appointments

**TAMARA VOKES, MD****Professor of Medicine, Endocrinology**

Dr. Tamara Vokes was recently appointed as the Medical Director of the Department's specialty practice at 150 E Huron. In addition to this new role, Dr. Vokes also serves as the Director of the Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease Clinic and the Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism fellowship program.

As Medical Director for 150 E. Huron, Dr. Vokes is responsible for the operations of the Department's downtown outpatient clinic that includes specialists in cardiology, personalized health and prevention, endocrinology, dermatology, sleep disorders and pulmonary medicine.

**DOM WOMEN'S COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Karen Kim, Deb Burnet, Anne Sperling, Carol Semrad, Needa Laiteerapong, Olatoyosi Odenike, Erin Jenkins, Seema Limaye, Mindy Schwartz, Susan Glick, Minoli Perera, Nicole Stankus, Helen Te, Lisa Vinci, Julie Oyler, Valerie Press, Kathleen Mullane, Wallene Yang

**HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY CHIEF SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Michelle Le Beau, Vinny Arora, Karen Kim (Everett Vokes—Chair)

**PSDP COMMITTEE**

Bana Jabri, Marisa Alegre, Anne Sperling, and Marion Hofmann—Bowman (James Liao—Chair)

**PULMONARY/CC CHIEF SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Jeanne De Cara, Susan Glick, Bana Jabri, Sonali Smith, Eve Van Cauter, Beth McNally (David Rubin—Chair)

**RESEARCH DAY 2013**

Dana Edelson (Co—Chair), Marion Hofmann—Bowman



## honors & awards

**NEW NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS**

**Holly Humphrey, MD**—Ralph W Gerard Professor

**Elizabeth McNally, MD, PhD**—AJ Carlson Professor

**DOM 2012 AWARD WINNERS**

**Jeanne Farnan, MD**—2012 Department of Medicine Preclinical Teacher of the Year

**Teresita Hogan, MD**—Emergency Medicine Outstanding Faculty Mentorship Award



**Vineet Arora, MD**—Department of Medicine Resident Teaching Award,

**Funmi Olopade, MD**—2012 Arthur Rubenstein Mentorship Award

#### PSOM AWARDS

**Keme Carter, MD**—Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators

**Vineet Arora, MD, Jeanne Farnan, MD, Shalini Reddy, MD, Mindy Schwartz, MD, Monica Vela, MD**—Favorite Faculty Award Winners

#### BSD AWARDS

**Karen Kim, MD**—Distinguished Community Service Award

#### BUCKSBAUM INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Senior Faculty Scholar—**Lisa Vinci, MD**

Junior Faculty Scholar—**Monica Peek, MD**

Associate Faculty Scholars—**Gina Dudley, MD, Olwen Hahn, MD, Neda Laiteerapong, MD, Amber Pincavage, MD**

#### NATIONAL/ REGIONAL HONORS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Marisa Alegre, MD, PhD**—Appointed as a Member of the NIH Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation Research Committee and was named associate editor (Basic Science) for the American Journal of Transplantation

**Vineet Arora, MD**—Named one of the "20 People Who Make Healthcare Better 2011," in recognition for her research on sleep schedules for residents to improve quality and safety;

**Arshiya Baig, MD**—Recipient of the Breaking Barriers Award of the Chicago Foundation for Women's Asian American Leadership Council in recognition of her research and service in the community

**Deborah Burnet, MD, MA**—Elected president for National Association of Chiefs and Leaders in General Internal Medicine

**Holly Humphrey, MD**—Recipient of the YWCA Outstanding Leaders Professions Award

**Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, MD, MSc**—Appointed vice-chairman for the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, Pulmonary Hypertension Council

**Michelle Josephson, MD**—Appointed to the Nephrology Subspecialty Board for the American Board of Internal Medicine, and named chair, American Society of Transplant Advisory Group

**Amber Pincavage, MD**—Successfully led a team from the internal medicine residency program and Primary Care Group to win one of the 3 American Association Medical College's (AAMC) Readiness for Reform Healthcare Innovation Challenge Awards. The project entitled "Engineering Patient-Oriented Clinic Handoffs in an Urban Residency Ambulatory Practice" addressed concerns relating to the transition that patients experience when residents graduate from training. This study, co-authored by Drs. Vineet Arora, Wei Wei Lee, Julie Oyler, Lisa Vinci, Marcus Dahlstrom, Kimberly Beiting, Megan Prochaska and Shana Ratner, highlighted the increased harm patients face after resident clinic handoffs. Dr. Pincavage accepted the prestigious award at the Council of Teaching Hospitals luncheon at the AAMC Annual Meeting

**Vesna Petronic Rosic, MD**—Served on the Board of Directors for the International Academy of Dermatology

**Valerie Press, MD**—Milton W. Hamolsky Junior Faculty Award by the Society of General Internal Medicine

**Janet Rowley MD**—Awarded the 2012 iCON Innovator Award by the iBio Institute at their in recognition of her "leadership in the contemporary teaching of and scholarship in biotechnology and its related sciences". The award also recognizes scientists who demonstrate leadership at the "frontier of knowledge in the life sciences and conduct research that is anticipated to enhance economic development in the State of Illinois".

**Tammy Utset, MD**—Elected chair, subcommittee on lupus curricula for the Eliminating Health Disparities in Lupus Initiative

**Eve Van Cauter, PhD**—Recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Award by Sleep Research Society Board

**Lisa Vinci, MD**—Selected to serve as Mentoring Chair for the Society of General Internal Medicine 2013 national meeting in Denver



#### new grants

**Suzanne Conzen, MD**—Renewal of RO1 entitled "Glucocorticoid Receptor-Mediated Survival Signaling in Breast Cancer"

**Kristen Knutsen, PhD**—New RO1 entitled "Home Sleep and Circadian Phase Mediators of Racial Disparities in Diabetes Risk"

**Manami Hara, PhD**—New RO3 entitled "Quantitative Analysis of Aging in the Human Pancreas"

**Karen Kim, MD**—New P20 entitled "Chicago South Side Cancer Disparities Initiative"

**Elizabeth McNally, MD**—New R13 entitled "New Directions in Biology and Disease of Skeletal Muscle"

**Marion Hofman-Bowman, MD, PhD**—New R01 entitled "Pro Inflammatory S100 Protein as Disease Modifier in Calcific Aortic Valve Disease"

**Neda Laiteerapong, MD**—New K23 award entitled "Linking the Legacy Effect in Type 2 Diabetes to Clinical Decision Making"

**Elizabeth McNally, MD, PhD**—Renewal of R01 entitled "Myoferlin in Muscle Membrane Fusion and Repair"

**Funmi Olopade, MD**—New D43 entitled "International Partnership for Interdisciplinary Research Training" and new U01 entitled "Using Genomics to Reduce Breast Cancer Disparities in the African Diaspora"

**Dorothy Sipkins, MD, PhD**—New grant from Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research entitled "Regulation of Leukemia Cell Dormancy by the Bone Marrow Microenvironment"



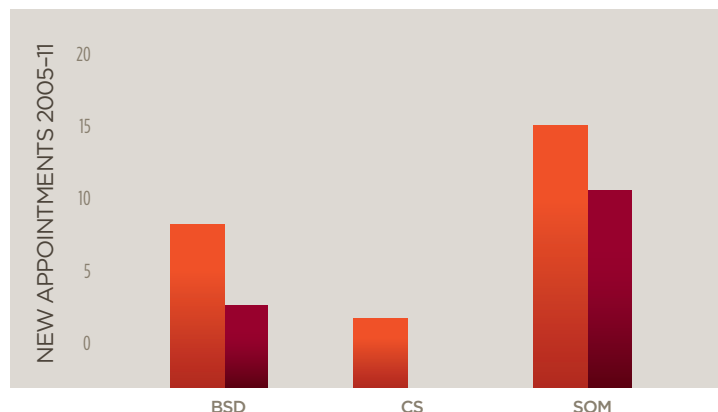
## gender matters still

### PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION – WHY AND HOW

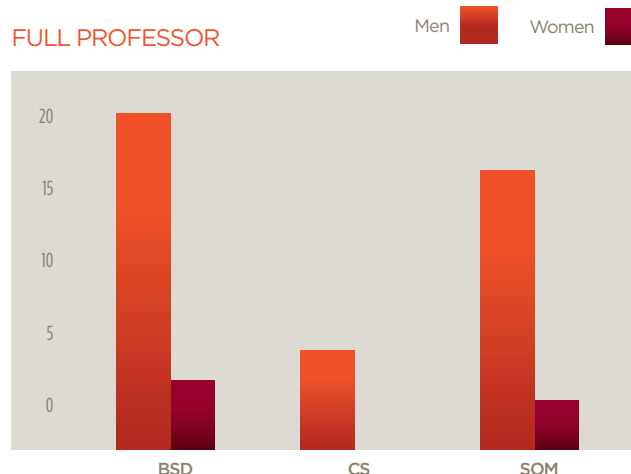
Department of Medicine  
University of Chicago Medicine

Can we reduce the disparity in the recruitment of senior women faculty into the BSD? With two active searches for section chiefs of hematology/oncology and pulmonary/critical care, we have an opportunity to increase the diversity of the leadership within the Department of Medicine. Our recently created presentation and resource guide entitled: Promoting diversity and inclusion-How and why- is a tool to enhance the recruitment of women and minority faculty. We are hopeful that the targeted recruitment strategies will improve our ability and interest in recruiting the most talented and diverse faculty to our department.

#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



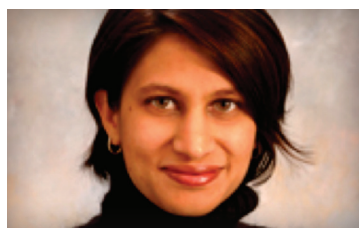
#### FULL PROFESSOR



IN BOTH THE BSD AND SOM TRACKS MEN OUTNUMBER WOMEN IN NEW ASSOCIATE AND FULL PROFESSOR APPOINTMENTS, DRAMATICALLY SO AT THE RANK OF FULL PROFESSOR.



## the balancing act: how do women balance academic success with work-life balance? what advice would you give other women?



### Minoli Perera, PharmD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Genetic Medicine

**THE BALANCING ACT: RESEARCH SCIENTIST, TEACHER, MOTHER, WIFE, AND ASPIRING HAPPY PERSON.**

#### PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Perera is a Pharm. D./Ph.D. who completed her fellowship in clinical pharmacology and pharmacogenomics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Perera's research focus involves extending our current understanding of the genetic variation affecting steady-state warfarin levels in African Americans, a major patient population at the University of Chicago that has been poorly studied to date for genes implicated in warfarin dosing. She plans to

use these studies on warfarin to expand the knowledge of genetic variation that affect drug metabolism in African Americans through further multidisciplinary research. Ultimately she would like to establish an economically sustainable program in clinical pharmacogenetics, including a consult service. Dr. Perera's research is supported by a K23 and R21 from NHLB and a Career Grant from the American Heart Association. Dr. Perera is an enthusiastic teacher. She is currently the course director for the Pharmacology course at PSOM, and offers courses to fellows/faculty interested in incorporating genomic methods into clinical research. She involved with collaboration locally, nationally and internationally, as is exemplified in her involvement in the International Warfarin Pharmacogenomics Consortia and the Pharmacogenomics Research Network.







MINOLI PERERA, CONTINUED

**WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

Work Life Balance-Balancing, for me, comes down to prioritizing those things that make me the happiest and most fulfilled. All of us want to succeed professionally, but doing so to the exclusion of our own personal development and well-being does not seem like success. I love my research and work hard to succeed in all aspect of academic life, but I also love my family, free time, and hobbies. There are days that work takes a back seat to these essential things. Key in this prioritization is that making these things important does not mean I love my work less. Without these additional pieces of my life I would be a very bad scientist, mother, wife and definitely not a happy person.

**ADVICE TO WOMEN FACULTY AND TRAINEES**

Find a mentor for everything, not just for professional/academic advice. I have learned that talking to people with a business background can really improve my grantmanship, management skills and my collaboration opportunities. Getting advice on exercise/health and joining exercise groups keeps me motivated and help me prioritize time for things outside of work. I even have a few people I think of as cooking mentors, just for the fun of it. This type of mentorship has helped at work, home and at just being happy.

**Linda Druelinger, MD**

Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine

**BALANCING ACT: CHIEF OF ED, MOTHER, WIFE****PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Dr. Druelinger, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Section of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Druelinger is widely lauded for her outstanding mentorship and teaching skills. She was the 2010 recipient of the PSOM Leonard Tow Gold Humanism Award and Emergency Medicine Outstanding Clinical Teacher Award. She is a member of the Masters of the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators at the University of Chicago. On a national level, Dr. Druelinger is an active member in Clerkship Directors in Emergency Medicine where she has served on the 3rd year Curriculum Development Committee, the Emergency Medicine National Test Development Taskforce and the Direct Observation Task force Committee. She is also a member of the Academy of Women in Academic Emergency Medicine serving as chair of the Regional Mentoring Committee and a member of the Executive Committee for the past two years.

**WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

Work-life balance really changes throughout one's career, particularly influenced, by the needs of your family and by age. Sometimes the needs at work will be greater, sometimes at home – so be flexible. I have been blessed my entire career to have a wonderfully supportive spouse, amazingly helpful parents, and for the past fifteen years a very tolerant son! Whenever possible, make family time really count - a spur of the moment meal out to 'catch up', or my personal favorite, a laid back weekend at the lake (even with the computer!).

**ADVICE TO WOMEN FACULTY AND TRAINEES**

Don't be too hard on yourself. Balancing life at work and home, can be quite challenging, but it can be done. Don't feel guilty for missing the small things, be there for the big things. Reach out to women colleagues facing the same challenges as you; it helps to know you are not alone. Learn when to say no, and if possible, find a bit of time for yourself!

**Olatoyosi Odenike, MD**

Associate Professor, Hematology/Oncology

**BALANCING ACT: CLINICAN, RESEARCHER, WIFE, MOTHER****PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Dr. Odenike is a nationally recognized expert in the management of acute and chronic myeloid neoplasms. Her research focuses on the development of novel treatment options and strategies for patients with these disorders. She is a past recipient of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Career Development award, currently serves on various ASCO committees, and has also served as a reviewer for NIH study sections. Her clinical expertise has been recognized by nomination to the "Best Doctors list" annually since 2009.

**WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

Having the opportunity to be a wife and a mother are my most gratifying personal achievements to date. It is a constant juggling act to be able to maintain the necessary balance, but the dividends are limitless with regard to the joy that I derive from having a life outside of work. Having a very supportive spouse has been indispensable towards making this work. I have learned to make every moment count, and to enjoy the small pleasures of life.

**ADVICE TO WOMEN FACULTY**

Never let go of your dreams—personally and professionally. Remember as you strive to attain your goals, to enjoy the present moment to the fullest.





## past and future events



- **Alice Shaw, MD, PhD (Dana Farber) DOM Grand Rounds 4/2/2013 (Women's Committee sponsored)**

Alice T. Shaw, M.D., Ph.D. is an attending physician in the Center for Thoracic Cancers at Massachusetts General Hospital, and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Shaw's major research interests include studying

anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) translocations in non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC); developing targeted strategies to treat NSCLCs harboring activating KRAS mutations; discovering new targets in NSCLC using both genetic and phosphoproteomic strategies; and developing novel nanoparticle-based siRNA delivery systems to target genetically defined subsets of lung cancer

- **Celebrated the groundbreaking of the first University of Chicago childcare center, with a scheduled completion date of Spring 2013.**
- **Women Faculty Professional Development Series**  
**April 16, 2013: Having Difficult/Crucial Conversations**  
**May 22, 2013: Negotiations Workshop**
- **Opening: Center for Care and Discovery:**  
**February 23, 2013**



### **Report on the Status of Women at the University of Chicago**

<http://provost.uchicago.edu/initiatives/academicwomensreport.shtml>

### **For Women at the University**

<http://women.uchicago.edu/wlcmain/>

### **Office of Academic Affairs**

<http://oaa.bsd.uchicago.edu/>