

Weekly Update

Weekly communication to keep up-to-date on all things CMSRU

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

If you have news to share or events to promote, please submit the information to Sharon Clark, clarks@rowan.edu.

- Please write "Weekly Update Submission" in the subject line of the email
- Please submit blurbs with full sentences and include all relevant details - the who, what, when, where and why.
- DO NOT submit fliers only - YOU MUST SEND WRITTEN PARAGRAPHS!
- Send a photo or graphic to accompany the text.

A message from the Dean

Dear CMSRU community:

Over the past week, many of you have reached out with questions regarding the **COVID-19** virus outbreak and how it might impact CMSRU.



The health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority. At this time, the immediate health risk to our community remains low, and we urge students, faculty and staff to remain calm, and adhere to common sense hygienic measures to help prevent the spread of this and other viruses.

At CMSRU, we've activated an emergency operations team to assess and develop plans related to this swiftly moving global public health situation, just in case. In addition, we are working closely with the leadership at Rowan University and Cooper University Health Care to ensure a coordinated response, if needed. Both organizations are preparing in an exemplary fashion.

Having access to accurate and current information is extremely important at this time. Please be sure to visit <https://cmsru.rowan.edu/> for the most up-to-date news from the school. There, you will find relevant links to resources at both Rowan University and Cooper University Health Care. Additionally, [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/) is an excellent resource for information on COVID-19, and the CMSRU library has established a [COVID-19 Research Guide](#) which includes resources from vetted government organizations and high-quality information databases to assist with research.

Today at Noon, CMSRU is holding a mandatory infection prevention review session for all CMSRU students to review hand hygiene and donning and doffing personal protective equipment. Please check your Rowan University email for more information. We are also working on plans to preserve the integrity of the

educational program if schools and universities have to close.

We will continue to provide updates to our community as the situation warrants. I encourage all students, faculty and staff to be attentive to communication from the school as we actively address this global health concern.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine

Give thanks to Cooper residents, nurses and fellows

The CMSRU Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society would like to invite students and faculty to a potluck celebration to give thanks to the incredible residents, fellows, and nurses at Cooper.



The celebration will be held on **March 31, 2020, 4-7 p.m. in the Cooper Conference Center 121**. We are asking for contributions to the potluck, including drinks, main dishes, and desserts. If you are able to contribute, please [click here to sign up for the potluck](#).

In addition, we are recognizing residents, fellows and nurses who have displayed excellence in humanistic clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service. Nominations should include a minimum of 1-2 sentences about why they deserve this recognition. If a student would like to nominate a resident, nurse or fellow, please [click here to submit a nomination](#). The deadline for the nomination is **March 13, 2020**.

We encourage students and faculty members to attend the GHHS recognition event to show their support for those being recognized!

Researchers honored by Society of Critical Care Medicine

CMSRU and Cooper University Health Care were recently honored by the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Congress in Orlando with the **2020 Star Award for Research Excellence**.

Society of
Critical Care Medicine
The Intensive Care Professionals



A research team, led by **Elizabeth Cerceo, MD**, associate professor of medicine, was awarded the **2020 Star Award for Research Excellence from the SCCM** for their study entitled, "[Impact of gender and ethnicity on outcomes in patients with sepsis and AKI](#)." In an analysis of over 66 million patient records from the National Inpatient Sample, the team assessed patients with sepsis for clinical outcomes including acute kidney injury, dialysis, and mortality.

"There is increasing recognition that previous research efforts have not always highlighted outcomes in female patients, particularly addressing differences in pre- and postmenopausal women," said Dr. Cerceo. "A female patient under 50 years of age has a much different risk profile than women older than 50 and their male counterparts. Similarly, we found significantly increased risk of adverse renal outcomes among African American patients compared to non-African Americans."

"A large database can identify associations that may not be apparent with smaller samples," says **Jean-Sebastien Rachoin, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine and medical director of hospital-based services and of critical care services.

The research team, led by Dr. Cerceo, included:

- Elizabeth Cerceo, M.D., associate professor and associate program director of internal medicine
- Jean-Sebastien Rachoin, M.D., associate professor of medicine and medical director of hospital-based services and of critical care services
- Lawrence Weisberg, M.D., professor of medicine and division head of nephrology
- John Gaughan, biostatistician, professor of medicine
- Matthew Varner, M.D., resident in internal medicine
- Alexandra Vrancik, M.D., resident in internal medicine

"Trials of interventions to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with acute kidney injury in the setting of sepsis have been largely disappointing, partly because of the extreme heterogeneity of the critically-ill population. The results of this study will aid in creating prediction models for risk stratification, which will be crucial in constructing future intervention trials," adds **Dr. Weisberg**.

Dr. Cerceo says studies investigating differences among specific populations are becoming even more important as the move toward personalized medicine continues. "The hormonal differences between men and women used to be seen as a rationale for excluding women from trials," she added. "Understanding how differences in gender, age, and ethnicity impact outcomes in the critically ill offers the opportunity for exciting advancements in diagnosis and treatment and should be explored in multiple areas of medicine."

CMSRU researchers find income disparities may lead to non-response bias on patient experience surveys for health care systems

In a new study published last month in the [Journal of General Internal Medicine](#), researchers at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and Cooper University Health Care found that national patient experience (satisfaction) surveys might not capture the experiences of patients in lower socio-economic populations.



"While survey data are useful for many purposes, there is concern that these surveys may not accurately reflect a true cross-section of the population served, particularly patients of lower socio-economic status," said **Brian W. Roberts, MD, MSc**, associate professor of emergency medicine and lead researcher on the study.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Support CMSRU students' March PROffunder: Haven @ LUCY Outreach Program



A couple times a year, Rowan University promotes a crowd-funding campaign for student-run initiatives across the university called PROffunder. **For the March 2020 PROffunder campaign, a special CMSRU service learning program dedicated to providing education, support and mentorship for LGBTQ youth in Camden was selected.**

Haven, a program of LUCY Outreach, provides a safe and positive environment for LGBTQ youth to learn more about themselves through peer interaction and educational experiences. It is the only program dedicated to serving LGBTQ youth in Camden. Medical student volunteers plan and facilitate program nights, consisting of social activities, as well as time for discussion and opportunities for CMSRU students to share their own experiences and lend support to youth as they discover their identities. Over the years, Haven has become a place for LGBTQ youth to interact with their peers, connect with older role models, engage in health and wellness activities, develop leadership skills, participate in social opportunities, and find much needed advocacy and support.

CMSRU students who volunteer with Haven@LUCY are seeking \$1,000 for two initiatives: to help create a library with books and other resources that will help youth explore and learn about various topics; and to support the cost of trips, speakers and other creative events where LGBTQ youth can engage and learn from each other in a more social setting. Up to 70 young people are hosted at Haven throughout the year with about 15-20 per night.

[Please CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT HAVEN @ LUCY](#)

Faculty Development CME Event - Tuesday, March 10

A special research workshop is being held **Tuesday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. in CMSRU's Multipurpose Room.**

Judith Swan, PhD, associate director for writing in science and engineering at Princeton University, will be on hand to present ***"The Anatomy of an Abstract: Learning to Read Your Readers Mind!"*** Light supper will be served.



[Click here for the CME flier.](#)

Faculty, student original research published in Journal of Clinical Medicine Research

Congratulations to **Satyajeet Roy, MD**, associate professor

of medicine and co-course director of the Internal Medicine Primary Care course, along with 10 CMSRU students and several other authors, on the publication of an original research study in the **Journal of Clinical Medicine Research (JOCMR)**. Co-authors include: Han Le, Ayobamidele Balogun, Elizabeth Caskey, **Thomas Tessitore (M2)**, **Rasagnya Kota (M2)**, **Janice Hejirika (M3)**, **Siyuan Yu (M3)**, **Long Nguyen (M3)**, **Andrew Louis Lazo (M2)**, **Christopher Yard (M3)**, **Michael Monaghan (M3)**, **Menaka Dhingra (M3)**, **Sneha Modi (M3)**, and Krystal Hunter



The study, "*Risk of Stroke in Patients With Patent Foramen Ovale Who Had Pulmonary Embolism*," looked at the association of ischemic stroke in patients who had the presence of patent foramen ovale (PFO) with pulmonary embolism (PE) and compared with patients who had PFO without PE.

JOCMR is a peer-reviewed journal and is indexed in PubMed and other international indexing repositories. [Click here to read the study abstract.](#)

CMSRU associate dean offers words of wisdom on Rowan podcast

Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams, MD, PhD, CMSRU's associate dean for diversity and community affairs, was a special guest on the Rowan Rising podcast where she talked about her life and career. Check it out the 30 minute podcast at go.rowan.edu/risingwithmitchellwilliams!



CMSRU Cancer Research Showcase- MONDAY!!

Learn about the groundbreaking cancer research being conducted by faculty from CMSRU, other Rowan University colleges, and The Coriell Institute for Medical Research at the **CMSRU**

Cancer Research Showcase on Monday, March 9. The event will be 5-7:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at CMSRU.



Presenters include:

Jaroslav Jelinek (Coriell Institute for Medical Research)

"DNA methylation in myeloid leukemias"

Myeloid leukemias often harbor mutations in epigenetic regulators and display aberrant patterns of DNA methylation.

James Holaska (Cooper Medical School of Rowan University)

"Emerin regulation of nuclear architecture during cancer transformation"

Metastasis is responsible for a large majority of cancer deaths and represents a significant challenge in treating cancer. Major nuclear structural changes must occur during metastatic transformation to allow cancer cells to enter and exit the vasculature, yet how these changes occur is unknown. Our lab studies the nuclear envelope protein emerin to elucidate these mechanisms.

Leonard Kim, Irina Malajovich, and Geoffrey Ibbott (Cooper University Health Care)

"Measuring 3D Radiation Dose Distributions with Novel Materials"

Our goal is to further the tools available to characterize ionizing radiation dose in 3D by developing materials that change when irradiated with high energy photons, electrons and/or protons used to treat cancer. In particular, we are interested in developing bio-compatible materials to measure radiation dose within tissues and improving existing materials whose radiation changes can be read with the new MR-Linac being installed at Cooper.

Mary Alpaugh (Rowan College of Science & Math)

"Breast cancer-derived exosomes: from biogenesis to pathogenesis"

This research focuses on the role breast cancer-derived soluble factors, namely exosomes, play in the metastatic progression of disease.

Manoj Pandey (CMSRU) & Tulin Budak-Alpdogan (Cooper University Health Care)

"Targeting Stem Cells in Multiple Myeloma for Better Outcome"

Almost all patients with Multiple Myeloma (MM) eventually relapse. Although currently available anti-MM strategies have been effective in targeting the bulk of tumor cells, often found ineffective against cancer stem cells. Studies suggest that cancer stem cells (CSCs) are one of the main cause of relapse. Our laboratory is working on to identify novel therapeutic targets to kill cancer stem cells and thus prevent the relapse.

Shoghag Panjarian (Coriell Institute for Medical Research)

"Epigenetically Modified Breast Cancer Driver Genes"

DNA methylation is one of the most important epigenetic events involved in breast cancer initiation and progression. In my research study, I identified genes with DNA methylation changes that drive the malignant transformation and survival of breast epithelium.

Subash Jonnalagadda (Rowan College of Science and Math)

"Development of novel small molecules as anti-cancer agents"

For the past several years, we have been working on the development of novel chemical methods for the synthesis of natural products such as betulinic acid and salinomycin for their development as anti-cancer agents. We have been collaborating with University of Minnesota and CMSRU for the in vitro and in vivo evaluation of these compounds against triple negative breast cancer and pancreatic cancer cell lines. We have identified few analogs, which show in vitro potency against these cell lines at 500-800 nM concentration. We are highly interested in exploring additional collaborations at CMSRU for detailed mechanism of action studies on these derivatives.

Jozef Madzo (Coriell Institute for Medical Research)

"Epigenetic modulation of immune-oncology therapy"

Check point inhibitor therapy is promising new approach in cancer treatment but has high failure due to acquired resistance. Using epigenetic therapy in combination with immune-oncology therapy has potential to reverse this resistance.

Sebastian Vega (College of Engineering)

"Hydrogel-based engineering of cellular microenvironments"

In the Vega Lab we are interested in developing hydrogels with tunable biochemical and biophysical signals to investigate how these cues influence cell behavior. Our engineered biomaterials have numerous applications in mechanobiology, regenerative medicine, and in vitro disease models.

For questions, please contact **Harry Mazurek, PhD**, associate dean for research, at Mazurek-harry@cooperhealth.edu.

Diversity Committee collecting toiletries for Camden's needy during March

As part of CMSRU's ongoing effort to provide opportunities for faculty and staff

to give back to the Camden community, the CMSRU Diversity Committee invites employees to participate in the March collection of toiletries to donate to Camden residents in need. Sign-up sheets are located on the third floor, on a table just outside Gail Stevens' workspace. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. can all be donated.



Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams, MD, PhD,

associate dean for diversity and community affairs, launched the Diversity Committee at CMSRU last year to encourage collaboration amongst all CMSRU departments by creating spaces that allow faculty and staff to express and appreciate a multitude of cultures, lived experiences, and unique perspectives. The Diversity Committee strives to create an inclusive and equitable professional atmosphere where our diversity inspires new angles of inquiry, new kinds of analysis, new discoveries, and new solutions.

One of the Diversity Committee's goals is to assist the needy in the Camden community year round.

Faculty Development Week -- NEXT WEEK!

CMSRU/Cooper's biennial Faculty Development Week, featuring faculty from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., will be held March 9 through March 13. An array of educational programs and workshops will be presented throughout the week. Here are some highlights:



Monday, March 9, 2020, 1-5 p.m., Cooper (CUHC) - CC Room 106

Basics of teaching 101

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7-8 a.m., CMSRU Auditorium

"Optimizing Engagement in the Learning Environment"

Medical Education Grand Rounds (CME Event)

Pamela Williams, MD, FAAFP

Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Family Medicine

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD

[Click for Dr. William's Bio](#)

No RSVP Required

Tuesday, March 10, 1-5 p.m., CMSRU Room 522

Team Dynamics, Top 10 Mistakes Teachers Make

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., CUHC - CC Room 121

Evaluation of Procedural Skills

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Wednesday, March 11, 1-5 p.m., CUHC - E&R Bldg., Room 240

Office of Student Affairs welcomes new team members

Sergio Pagan joins the team as the new financial aid specialist. He joins CMSRU from Rowan University in Glassboro, where he was a program assistant in the Financial Aid Office.



In Sergio's new role at CMSRU he will assist Kyhna Bryant, CMSRU assistant director of financial aid. He will oversee loan processing, be the first point of contact for financial aid questions, and assist with financial aid counseling.

Sergio is from Camden, NJ. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Monmouth University. His office is in the OSA suite on the 4th floor. Sergio can be reached at **856-956-2760** or pagans@rowan.edu.

Welcome Sergio!

Denise Abbott has joined OSA as the new full-time administrative assistant!



Denise is a familiar face in OSA, having worked as a part-time support person for about a year and half. In her new full-time role, Denise will provide administrative support to the registrar, financial aid, and Office of Student Affairs.

Denise resides in Washington Township, NJ. She has many years of experience in customer service and administrative support. She is located at the front desk in the OSA suite on the 4th floor. Denise can be reached at **856-361-2842** or abbottd@rowan.edu.

Congratulations Denise!

Faculty research article among Top 10 Most Read in 2019

Dejan (Dan) Nikolic, MD, PhD, assistant professor of pathology and medical director of microbiology & immunology at Cooper University Health Care, was the leading author in the study "*Detection of Herpes Simplex Virus and Varicella-Zoster Virus by Traditional and Multiplex Molecular Methods*" published in the **American Journal of Clinical Pathology**. This study, completed in collaboration with several pathologists from The Cleveland Clinic, enabled health professionals to make faster and more accurate diagnoses for patients with Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) and Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV).



This article was in the top 10 journal articles read most by pathologists in the U.S. in 2019. [Click here to read the study abstract.](#)

Implementation of the faster and more sensitive Solana PCR assay in the Microbiology & Immunology Section of the Pathology Department at Cooper

markedly increased the positivity rates of HSV1, HSV2, and VZV detected in mucocutaneous lesions, and at the same time, it dramatically reduced the turnaround time of the final results.

Congratulations Dr. Nikolic!

CMSRU in the media

Last week, CMSRU Dean **Annette C. Reboli** spoke with CBS3 reporter Cleve Bryan for a story about COVID-19. Dr. Reboli talked about the importance of readiness in the event of that the virus spreads in the community.

[Click here to see Dr. Reboli's interview.](#)



Office of Diversity delivers donations to local shelter

Last week, **Michael Green**, program coordinator in the Office of Diversity and Student Affairs, delivered several boxes of food and clothing that were donated by members of the CMSRU community, to the Aletha R. Wright Vision of Hope Center at Volunteers of America.

"On behalf of the Office of Diversity and Community Affairs, I would like to thank everyone in the CMSRU community who donated," said Michael. "The items were greatly appreciated."



Located in the City of Camden, The Aletha R. Wright Vision of Hope Center provides transitional housing and emergency shelter for homeless men.

CMSRU to participate in Healthy Minds Study

CMSRU is participating in the Healthy Minds Study (HMS), a national survey of student mental health, administered through the University of Michigan's School of Public Health.

HMS is a web-based survey examining mental health, service utilization, and related issues among undergraduate and graduate students. Since its national launch in 2007, HMS has been fielded at about 300 colleges and universities, with over 300,000 survey respondents. It's one of the only annual surveys of college and university populations that focuses exclusively on

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS.
BE PART OF THE CHANGE.
02.24.20 - 03.20.20

HEALTHY MINDS STUDY

Check your email for the link. Complete the survey and be entered to win 1 of 10 \$100 Amazon gift cards or 1 of 2 \$500 Amazon gift cards. Speak up. Help make a difference.

Survey supported by The Wellness Center
This study is approved by IRB Pro 202000929.

The image is a promotional poster for the Healthy Minds Study. It features a red background with white and black text. At the top, it says "MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS. BE PART OF THE CHANGE. 02.24.20 - 03.20.20". Below that, the words "HEALTHY MINDS STUDY" are written in large, bold, black letters. To the right of the text is an illustration of a brain and a heart. At the bottom, there are icons for an envelope, a double arrow, and a dollar sign. Below the icons, there is a line of text: "Check your email for the link. Complete the survey and be entered to win 1 of 10 \$100 Amazon gift cards or 1 of 2 \$500 Amazon gift cards. Speak up. Help make a difference." At the very bottom, it says "Survey supported by The Wellness Center This study is approved by IRB Pro 202000929."

mental health and related issues, allowing for substantial detail in this area.

Students, please keep an eye out for an email from healthyminds-rowan@umich.edu and consider participating in the study. It will serve as an important tool for CMSRU to assess current programs and to shape future policies. The survey should take about 30 minutes to complete.

[Click here for more information on the Healthy Minds Study.](#)

Match Week Alert: 3rd Annual Mama Global Health Fellowship presentation

Please join us on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 12:30 pm in the MPR for the **Third Annual Taiyeb and Amta Mama Global Health Fellowship Presentation** featuring this year's two Mama Scholars - **Ziyodakhon Abdujabborova and Sarah Gleberman**. Both will share with their M4 classmates and guests their exciting service learning experiences during the month of February. Ziyodakhon traveled to Colombia to study community-oriented primary care with an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention. Sarah traveled to the Dominican Republic to study gynecology & obstetrics, which included work in various subspecialties. We look forward to sharing this special event with you!

The Taiyeb and Amta Mama Global Health Fellowship provides financial support to 4th year medical students at CMSRU who take part in an overseas medical mission to a low-resource area. We are grateful to Drs. Robin and Saifuddin Mama for generously supporting this invaluable opportunity for our students that enlightens and enhances their medical knowledge.

Sharon R. Clark | Marketing & PR | 856-361-2825 | ClarkS@Rowan.edu

STAY CONNECTED:

