ACCELERATING EXCELLENCE
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**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE > ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2017 - 2018**

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**DIVISIONS**

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- Clinical & Molecular Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology & Liver Disease
- General Internal Medicine
- Geriatrics & Palliative Care
- Hematology & Oncology
- Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine
- Nephrology & Hypertension
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## 2017 - 2018
### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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<td>&gt; Fifty-two Department of Medicine full-time faculty members were recognized as “Top Doctors” by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. and Cleveland Magazine.</td>
<td>&gt; Awarded funds to departmental faculty, including University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University and Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, exceeded $85 million.</td>
<td>&gt; The Medical Services at University Hospitals and the Cleveland VA Medical Center are the most popular sites for third and fourth year CWRU medical students completing Clerkships and Acting Internships in Internal Medicine. Ninety-six CWRU students completed the core IM Clerkship at UH/VA and one hundred CWRU students completed Acting Internships in 2017-2018.</td>
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<td>&gt; The Department once again achieved successful representation in seven specialties reported in the 2017-2018 U.S. News &amp; World Report annual ranking.</td>
<td>&gt; Research awards again favored the highly competitive and prestigious national venues with nearly 60 percent coming from federal sources.</td>
<td>&gt; The Internal Medicine residency had a highly successful intern recruitment, matching forty-two students who were highly ranked.</td>
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<td>&gt; The annual Medicine Quality Summit built upon past successes and brought together a broad cross-section of providers with a focus on new and continued challenges facing high-quality care.</td>
<td>&gt; Continuing into its 6th year, the Harrington Physician-Scientist Pathway recruited 2 new residents. This pathway develops a new generation of leaders in medicine by offering training in basic, clinical and translational research.</td>
<td>&gt; Education leaders in the Department of Medicine had multiple regional and national presentations of scholarly work and conducted several workshops at national meetings.</td>
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<td>&gt; Physician gross patient charges surpassed year-over-year gross patient charges by 5% while the department placed a heightened focus on improving patient experience through increased ease of access to their providers of choice and location.</td>
<td>&gt; Participation in the Department of Medicine’s intramural research-related activities such as Research Day, the Team Science Challenge and mentorship programs remained strong.</td>
<td>&gt; Our residents who chose subspecialty training had a spectacular subspecialty match in 2017, with residents matching to Columbia Presbyterian, University of Virginia, Mt. Sinai/Icahn, Washington University, Duke University, University of Washington, Stanford University and University of Michigan.</td>
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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE
ROBERT SALATA, MD, FACP, FIDSA
> CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Department of Medicine for the Academic Period 2017–2018. Our faculty, staff and trainees had an outstanding year in advancing our clinical, research and teaching missions. Research support within the Department of Medicine remains strong with overall grant awards for the department at $85.5 million for academic year 2017–2018 with 60% of awards related to the National Institutes of Health and other federal sources. This represents a broad portfolio of research across the divisions, centers and institutes ranging from molecular mechanisms of disease, discovery and innovation, and national and international clinical trials as well as an increased emphasis on health service research and population health. Divisions highly invested in our research mission include Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine, Gastroenterology & Liver Disease and Hematology & Oncology. Mukesh Jain, MD, through his appointment as Chief Academic Officer for University Hospitals, will focus on the infrastructure supporting translational and clinical research as well as population health. New recruitments of senior level faculty in Rheumatology, Nephrology, Hematology-Oncology, Geriatrics and Diabetes & Obesity will enhance our research profile and funding in the Department.

In 2017–2018, the department again sponsored strong intramural research-related initiatives. Three additional Team Science Challenge grants were awarded to departmental faculty (Clark Distelhorst, MD and Eli Bar, MD; Folashade Otegbeye, MD, MPH and Andrew E. Sloan, MD, FACS; and Aman Rajpal, MD and Mohammad Q. Ansari, MD) to stimulate interdisciplinary translational research between divisions and departments. Over 150 faculty and trainees attended the ninth annual Department of Medicine Research Day and our residents, fellows, graduate students and postdoctoral investigators presented over 115 posters.

The Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio – part of The Harrington Project for Discovery & Development – continued to expand by supporting 90 physician-scientist research programs across the nation and in the UK, including investigators at Case Western Reserve University. The Institute solidified high-impact relationships with the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation and the Foundation Fighting Blindness, while further strengthening ties with the University of Oxford. In partnership with the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the fifth annual Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine was awarded in 2018, garnering national attention as a mark of innovation and creativity.

Senior level recruitment, increasing our research portfolio and enhancing our robust educational programs will be major points of emphasis in the next academic year.
The department's clinical programs continue to grow in both volume and quality. Our faculty members admitted over 32,000 patients and provided nearly 200,000 physician service visits between University Hospitals Health System and the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. Gross patient charges rose by 6% compared to 2017 and in 2018, the Department was ahead of budget by $2.3 million. There is more emphasis on clinical program development, recruitment and alignment of faculty in University Hospitals Medical Group (faculty) and University Hospitals Medical Practices (community physicians). Patient services volume per physician, as measured by Medicare's relative value unit system, increased on average by 6 percent to 74 percent. Increasing focus on patient experience, high-reliability medicine and value-based reimbursement will be one of the major points of emphasis in the next academic year.

Fifty-two of our full-time faculty members were awarded “Top Doctor” status by Cleveland Magazine in 2018. The eighth annual Medicine Quality Summit was held in September 2018 and built upon the successes of previous summits with a focus on quality metrics and contemporary health care reform. Our clinical activities are led by Rajesh Chandra, MD, in his role as Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs & Transformation. In 2019, a new Vice Chair of Clinical System Activities will be created with the System seeing 1.3 million patients at 18 institutions. The department, along with our Quality Institute, is highly involved in major quality initiatives at the programmatic, physician and trainee levels.

Our educational programs led by Keith Armitage, MD remain enormously robust and are strongly supported by our faculty. The 2018 match was again highly successful with a substantial increase in total applications. This academic year marked the third wave of residents admitted to our enhanced and successful Harrington pathway to fast-track into the ACGME-endorsed program for physician-scientists. This year also marked the strongest subspecialty match ever. University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center remained by a wide margin the top choice for our medical students completing internal medicine acting internships. Our full-time faculty members continue to provide nearly 30 percent of the total teaching time at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Three additional medicine faculty members were selected as Master Clinician Educators in the spring of 2018 (Teresa Carman, MD, Barbara Gripshover, MD and Cliff Packer, MD). This list of 24 total faculty, developed over 8 years, truly represents our department's clinical and educational Hall of Fame. This year, 5 Departmental faculty (Keith Armitage, MD, MACP, Barry Effron, MD, Jeffry Katz, MD, Anthony Post, MD and Paula Silverman, MD) were named to the inaugural class of 36 Distinguished UH Physicians and Surgeons.

In the next academic year, we have plans to enhance the mentoring programs for young faculty and residents (with a coaching program involving 36 faculty) as well as increase our activities in the recruitment of women and minorities among our faculty and trainees. To enhance our programs in diversity and faculty development, Usha Stiefel, MD, will continue to lead department-wide initiatives as Vice Chair for Diversity & Faculty Development. In addition, we plan to establish new high-level priorities in the clinical and research realms of diabetes, obesity, bone disease, hypertension, adult asthma, cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disease, end-stage renal disease and respiratory health as well as focus on our strengths in cancer, cardiovascular medicine, infectious diseases, and gastroenterology and liver diseases.

I invite you to become more familiar with our department by examining this report and by visiting our website at: medicine.case.edu.

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to lead our outstanding faculty, staff and trainees.

Respectfully,

Robert Salata, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Professor and Chairman
Department of Medicine
STERIS Chair of Excellence in Medicine
Physician-in-Chief
Master Clinician in Infectious Diseases
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
Case Western Reserve University
Clinical programs in interventional cardiology, imaging, electrophysiology, advanced heart failure, vascular medicine and critical care have seen record growth and continue to see some of the sickest patients in Northeast Ohio.
The primary mission of the Division of Endocrinology is to continue to achieve excellence in providing outstanding patient care, advancing the field through basic and translational research and also educating the next generation of leaders in our specialty. The Division’s internationally renowned investigators have made important scientific contributions in basic science and clinical research projects covering several disease-specific disciplines within our specialty such as diabetes mellitus, thyroid illnesses as well as diseases of the pituitary and adrenal glands. Some of our faculty members have had a leading role in the planning and execution of several recent, NIH-sponsored nationwide clinical trials addressing diabetes management and its complications. These landmark studies have had a major impact on clinical practice as they have introduced a new paradigm in the management of some endocrine disorders such as diabetes mellitus.

Faculty members offer clinical expertise in all disciplines of the specialty and many are internationally recognized in their respective fields. A unique and important feature of our faculty is that some have secondary appointments in basic science departments such as Biochemistry and Pharmacology. This unique interaction has helped promote collaboration on furthering translational research within the Division. It is quite remarkable to be among a group of highly dedicated physicians who are compassionate about delivering the best medical care to their patients and at the same time passing that trait to the next generation of endocrinologists. In advocating a patient-centered approach in the management of endocrine diseases, our faculty have been recognized nationally for their efforts in promoting the need for integrating the social setting of our patients as well as their educational, economical and personal choices in designing therapeutic interventions.

The educational and training program emphasizes the importance of understanding basic physiological mechanisms along with deep and thorough appreciation of a patient’s individuality. The training program also emphasizes independent learning, inquiry, debate and critical appraisal of the literature. Our trainees have had successful careers in academic institutions as well as in clinical practice.
We continue to pursue excellence in all areas of the departmental mission and strive to provide state-of-the-art care for patients with digestive diseases, while at the same time remaining inquisitive researchers and educational innovators.
IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18, THE DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE CONTINUED TO MAKE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO PATIENT CARE, QUALITY AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AND MEDICAL EDUCATION.

At University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, our Hospitalist faculty who manage nearly a third of the Department of Medicine’s inpatients, had a Length of Stay index of 1.01 and Mortality index of 0.39 (observed/expected values), ranking their outcomes in the Top 25% of the Vizient hospital database when compared to their peers. In addition, they co-led several process improvement initiatives that included a system-wide Blood Management Program which uses evidence-based restrictive transfusion policies to encourage cost-effective and safe blood transfusion practices and a Telemetry Optimization Initiative that looks to decrease unnecessary telemetry utilization by using a locally developed electronic telemetry ordering algorithm based on American College of Cardiology guidelines.

As occurs every year, several of our Primary Care faculty were honored as Cleveland Magazine’s “Top Doctors” and had outstanding patient satisfaction scores at the 98th percentile.

At the Louis Stokes Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Section of Acute Medicine saw tremendous success with inter-facility expansion of the GERI-VET program which attempts to avoid admissions by providing point of care social, mental health and homecare services to geriatric veterans presenting to the Emergency Department. Additional successes included a first of its kind Veterans care program that provides Suboxone Detoxification services directly from the emergency department.

The Section of Primary Care continued to enhance healthcare delivery in a patient-centered medical home framework using an indigenous and innovative scheduling prediction model that improves access and a Panel Retention IT tool that helps patients remain actively engaged with their primary care provider.

The Section of Women’s Health was recently awarded two million dollars to develop a Mobile Mammography Program that will provide mammography services throughout northeast Ohio, to over a thousand women veterans close to their homes.

Finally, this past year, in keeping with our faculty’s well-recognized traditional excellence as teachers, our clinician-educators were honored with both the Inpatient and Outpatient Teacher of the Year awards and one of our senior faculty members also received the Department’s most prestigious Master Clinician Educator Award.

Our faculty are proud of their service to our patients and the medical community and remain committed to providing high-quality healthcare and superior medical training.
The rich array of clinical programs allows the basis for unique educational, leadership and research opportunities.

THE DIVISION OF GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE CARE AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS CLEVELAND MEDICAL CENTER ENGAGES IN CLINICAL SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AIMED AT IMPROVING CARE FOR OUR PATIENTS. We continue to offer exceptionally diverse clinical services that include: inpatient care on the ACE (Acute Care for the Elderly) Service, outpatient geriatric assessment at Foley ElderHealth Center, home visits to homebound patients through the UH HouseCalls program, coordinated care through McGregor PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), skilled nursing care at Hanna House and Judson Park, long term care at McGregor Gardens/Overlook, Geriatric Co-Management Service and Palliative Care Consult Services.

New divisional highlights include:

- Successful collaboration of the Geriatric Co-Management Service with the Trauma and Cardiology teams
- Expansion of the House Calls program to areas west of Cleveland
- Addition of a UH fellowship trained geriatrician to McGregor PACE
- Clinical research activities with UH’s Quality Institute

With the recruitment of Dr. Kenneth Rosenfeld, a nationally recognized leader in Palliative Medicine to UH, the section of Palliative Care is engaged in the following strategic initiatives:

- Completion of a $1.6 million Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation-funded demonstration project that provided comprehensive outpatient palliative care intervention for patients with newly-diagnosed, advanced solid tumors
- Consolidation of the UH-CMC and Seidman Cancer Center palliative care teams into a single service
- New inpatient palliative care/hospice unit
- Development of a palliative care fellowship program
- Early proactive palliative care consultation for high-risk ICU admissions

The rich array of clinical programs allows the basis for unique educational, leadership and research opportunities. Research endeavors focus on geriatric education, patient outcomes, infection control, vaccine efficacy, delirium prevention and geriatrics collaborative care. Besides publications and presentations at specialty meetings, these clinical and research interests have enabled faculty to lead educational committees and spearhead clinical program initiatives at national conferences.
THE DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE MOST INNOVATIVE CARE LEVERAGING OUR BASIC SCIENCE EFFORTS PAIRED WITH NOVEL THERAPEUTIC TRIALS, TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHYSICIAN LEADERS AND DELIVERING TRULY INTEGRATED ONCOLOGY CARE ACROSS THE SEIDMAN CANCER CENTER NETWORK. The Seidman Cancer Center is part of the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center which is a National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center.

Although the main hub is the Seidman Cancer Center located at University Hospital’s main campus, the Division sees patients at 18 locations across Ohio. This enormous geographical footprint provides thousands of patients access to the latest clinical trials. In addition, Division faculty provide care and teaching at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

Our faculty’s ambitions are diverse with efforts focused on basic science, clinical research, integrative oncology, health disparities research and implementing technology in cancer care delivery. Highlights include our GI Spore; Multi-disciplinary sickle cell service; Phase I research program; leading national trial for immunotherapy in bladder cancer; and leading ground breaking research, clinical trials and treatments in Bone Marrow Transplant and malignant hematology.

Education and training programs include:

- ACGME-accredited Hematology & Oncology Fellowship program
- Training residents, medical students, basic science graduate students, postgraduates
- Divisional faculty also oversee an NCI-funded K12 training program for clinical investigators
- NCI-sponsored T32 cancer biology training program.

The Division of Hematology and Oncology continues to build on a strong tradition of clinical excellence with the addition of two new malignant hematologist in late 2017, a new Genitourinary (GU) Oncologist who also treats Melanoma Cancer, a benign hematologist and a head and neck oncologist.

The Hematology and Oncology Faculty work in an integrated care model at the University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center. We partner with our colleagues in Surgery, our Nurse Practitioners, Oncology RNs, pharmacists and countless others across all of our Seidman Cancer Center’s sites to deliver compassionate care to our patients.
RESEARCH IN ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE, HIV/AIDS AND TUBERCULOSIS REMAIN THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE DIVISION. Faculty lead and are involved with major University-wide infectious disease programs including the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (ACTU), Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), Center for Global Health and Diseases, CWRU-Cleveland VAMC Center for Antimicrobial Resistance and Epidemiology Studies (Case VA CARES), Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Tuberculosis Research Unit (TBRU) and Visual Sciences Research Center (VSRC). Research funding for 2017-2018 was $17.7 million ($12.1 CWRU, $3.5 UH and $2.1 VA & VA Foundation) with National Institutes of Health as the major source but is becoming increasingly diverse with funding from CDC, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Fogarty International Center, industry, foundations and philanthropy. Uganda remains a major focus for our international research with extensions to South Africa. A national search for research faculty in HIV and TB is ongoing and is coordinated with Case VA CARES, which is recruiting in the area of antimicrobial resistance. The STERIS Foundation, CFAR and Roe Green gift provide pilot funding for new collaborative research. The Division, with the Center for Global Health and Disease, launched a new and successful weekly Global Health and Infectious Diseases research conference supported by our NIH and Fogarty training grants.

Clinical services continue to expand in the inpatient and outpatient arenas at the VA and in the UH system. In addition to HIV/AIDS care in the Special Immunology Unit supported by Ryan White funding, travel medicine and general ID, ID services are expanding for solid organ and bone marrow transplants with recruitment of two new full-time ID physicians, increasing our expertise in infections of the immune compromised. Demand for antimicrobial stewardship and infection control provide support and research opportunities for divisional faculty. The Roe Green Center for Travel Medicine and Vicki Tifft funding support international clinical activities.

Faculty remain active in 2nd year medical school teaching in the Block 5 microbiology and infectious diseases section, graduate courses, supervising PhD and MD-PhD students in their labs, serving on thesis committees and through clinical teaching to medical students, residents and fellows with continued high levels of positive feedback.
THE DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY AND HYPERTENSION EXCELS IN PROVIDING ALL ASPECTS OF CARE TO PATIENTS WITH KIDNEY DISEASE THROUGHOUT NORTHEASTERN OHIO. In 2018, the Division achieved the highest ranking in its history in the US News and World Report national rankings, reflecting outstanding clinical care and reputation at a national level. The Division has a longstanding relationship with the Centers for Dialysis Care (CDC), bolstered by two Master Clinician Awards funded by that organization and awarded to Dr. Donald Hricik and Dr. Thomas Hostetter. Members of the Division play key roles in the kidney and pancreas transplant programs at UH Transplant Institute, including active participation in outreach clinics that provide services for the evaluation of potential transplant recipients in Akron and Westlake. A new program that focuses on care of patients who have cancer and kidney disease is being launched this year. Clinical collaboration between UH Cleveland Medical Center and the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center continues to be strong with Dr. Niraj Desai serving as section chief. New faculty recruits for 2018 include Dr. Priya Kalahasti who, in addition to general clinical nephrology, has an interest in alternative medicine and innovative new models for health care delivery.

The division has provided major leadership for key NIH-sponsored multicenter research trials including the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial and the Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort Study. Other areas of research include measurement of uremic toxins and other factors that influence the progression of chronic kidney disease and studying the association between kidney and cardiovascular disease. UH Cleveland Medical Center is a leading participant in a multicenter consortium enrolling patients into the NIH’s Clinical Trial in Organ Transplant initiative. The division’s members also hold prominent roles in scientific journals with Dr. Mahboob Rahman serving as Associate Editor of the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and Dr. Thomas Hostetter serving as the Perspectives Editor of the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

The division has a successful training program for clinical nephrology fellows and an NIH training grant for the training of physician scientists. We are also accredited by the American Society of Transplantation to train fellows in transplant nephrology. Our trainees benefit from both bench and translational opportunities in a multidisciplinary environment encompassing the departments of medicine, pathology, physiology and biophysics. The ultimate goal of the division is to prepare tomorrow’s academic physicians, scientists and clinician-educators to continue our legacy.

In 2018, the Division achieved the highest ranking in its history in the US News and World Report national rankings, reflecting outstanding clinical care and reputation at a national level.
“BREATHING BETTER, SLEEPING WELL”. We strive to be a national leader in the delivery of exceptional-quality respiratory care to residents and visitors of Northeast Ohio through an integrated clinical practice, disease-focused centers of excellence, innovative research and professional education.

Under the leadership of Rodney Folz, MD, PhD, we have continued to develop and expand our respiratory care services offered at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center as well as throughout UH Hospitals community locations. It is our mission to improve both lung and sleep health throughout the communities we serve.

We have successfully transitioned UH-CMC MICU into a brand new, state-of-the-art, 20 bed ICU. Our multidisciplinary programs remain the cornerstone of success for our division and provide a full range of services from the diagnosis and management of common conditions to state-of-the-art distinguishing technologies to treat the most complex cases. Our clinical expertise includes lung nodules/cancer, cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, pulmonary hypertension, lung transplantation, sleep studies, pulmonary vascular disease, allergic lung disease, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary rehabilitation, bronchoscopy and advanced pulmonary function testing. We have initiated a high reliability medicine program focused on reducing COPD acute exacerbations and readmissions.

Our Division boasts a science-based research enterprise with numerous active investigations in clinical, translational and basic research at UH-CMC, the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center and Case Western Reserve University. Many of our faculty are internationally recognized and accomplished physician-scientist investigators. The impact of the division’s research programs can be seen in publications and grant support. Major areas of research emphasis are in “Control of Breathing”, “Pulmonary Immunology and Inflammation”, “Neurotherapeutic Therapy for Sleep Disordered Breathing”, “Pulmonary Artery Hypertension and Acute Lung Injury and Hypoxemia”, “Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Sepsis”, “Asthma in Older Adults: Identifying Phenotypes and Factors Impacting Outcomes”, “Spinal Cord Injury and Respiratory Function” and “Brainstem Inflammation and Sepsis”.

The Division maintains 3 clinical fellowship programs: (1) Pulmonary/Critical Care, (2) Sleep Medicine and (3) Allergy/Immunology. Our T32 training grant in Sleep Medicine Epidemiology and Neurobiology has been consistently funded for over 18 years. We have expanded the number of ACGME approved training slots in Pulmonary/Critical Care from 12 to 15. The philosophy of our training programs is to produce excellent clinicians trained in the art and science of medicine outfitted with a strong research component and equipped with all the tools necessary for them to succeed as leaders in academic and clinical settings.
THE DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY STRIVES TO FULFILL THE MISSION OF UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS IN ITS PATIENT CARE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. The Division collectively did 50,000 – 60,000 RVU’s. Dr. David Blumenthal joined the division and Dr. Richard Stein returned from Florida to practice part-time for UHMP. Dr. Marie Kuchynski became the point person to facilitate the Rheumatology EMR. The infusion center at Chagrin Highlands continued to do about 10 biologic infusions per week in 2017-2018 and there were 1,865 bone densities completed and interpreted by faculty and reported to our community physicians.

Education continued to provide training to 7 Rheumatology fellows, which included 1 Med-Peds fellow. Four of the fellows graduated and returned to their own hometown to practice. There were 138 fellowship applicants in 2017 and 187 applicants for 2018. We matched 4 fellows for the 2017-18 academic year and plan to fill and match 2 fellows in 2018-19. The Division of Rheumatology also provided education to 10 rotating residents and 8 senior medical students who participated in Case Western Reserve’s musculoskeletal lectures for both small groups and large class lectures. The Division of Rheumatology hired an experienced Academic Program Coordinator, Leslie Estremera, who brought years of experience as a coordinator to medical students, residents and fellows.

The Division faculty, (Dr. Askari as Chair), arranged the 27th Annual Cleveland Rheumatology Review on May 4-5, 2018 with 110 participants from all over the country. The Division of Rheumatology also sponsored the Lupus Foundation and arranged the University Hospital’s supported Annual Lupus Summit, which is usually held at Ahuja Medical Center.

Academic research and publications continued with scholarly activity of the fellows and the faculty. Accordingly, we had 31 papers published in referred journals from the year 2017 to present by faculty members in the Division. Research centered around diseases such as Lupus (Tregs in Lupus by Dr. Edward Medof et al), Rheumatoid T & B cells (by Dr. Donald Anthony et al), Osteoarthritis (by Dr. Charles Malemud et al) and Cryoglobulinemia (by Dr. Maya Mattar et al) as well as other autoimmune and rheumatic diseases such as Dermatomyositis and Joint Hypermobility and POTS coined HYPOTS (by Dr. Ali Askari et al).

Finally, the Division of Rheumatology’s future plans include the selection of a new Division Chief (in progress) and a Fellowship Program Director who will be starting in early 2019.
Overall, the Cleveland VA is nationally ranked among the best in quality care and innovation.
NOW IN ITS SIXTH YEAR, THE HARRINGTON DISCOVERY INSTITUTE CELEBRATES MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ITS MISSION TO TRANSLATE PROMISING DISCOVERIES INTO MEDICINES THAT BENEFIT SOCIETY. Harrington Discovery Institute—part of The Harrington Project for Discovery & Development—is taking bold steps to improve the standard of care by adding new programs, partnerships, people and products. With nearly 2,000 applications from 210 institutions received to date, Harrington Discovery Institute has built a strong national reputation. Since its founding in 2012, The Harrington Project is responsible for supporting 96 scholars, the launch of 20 companies, the licensing of five programs to major pharmaceutical companies and movement of five drugs into clinical trials.

The first class of Harrington Rare Disease Scholars was launched this year; a result of the institute’s first industry partnership with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company. This collaboration builds on a model whereby new programs focus on areas of unmet therapeutic need. At the same time, the flagship Scholar-Innovator program remains open to all therapeutic indications and is dedicated to supporting the research of physician-scientists.

Delivering on a vision to create centers of excellence in key disease areas, two nationally-renowned investigators in the fields of neuro-psychiatric disorders and energy homeostasis and metabolic disease were recruited. Last year, a new Harrington Fellows program was launched to support promising, early- to mid-career physician-scientists in Cleveland. The inaugural cohort consisted of three outstanding investigators, who are finishing their second year in the program. We are also growing our team at Harrington Discovery Institute and adding new expertise and experience across all operational areas.

To further our commitment to improving patient lives, we are preparing to launch two exciting, new financial products. One is a mission-related investment product that sustainably finances the translation of discoveries. The other is a new biotech asset class that offers unprecedented potential for scale and thus makes cures more likely.

We can proudly say we are a new model for the world of philanthropy and are a nationally significant organization and a force for improving global human health.
THE INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND THE CLEVELAND VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL IS BASED ON TWO PRIMARY THEMES: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PATIENT CARE. While engaging in their professional development our residents continue to provide outstanding care to patients at UH and the Cleveland VA. Below are select accomplishments from AY 17-18.

> The IM residency graduated its second class in a new pathway for residents interested in medical education. The Leadership in Medical Education (LME) pathway was started by Dr. Charles LoPresti, one of our Associate Program Directors. Among other activities, residents in the LME completed a scholarly project in medical education and lead the ‘capstone’ rotation for CWRU students entering IM residencies.

> The IM residency added a fifth Chief Resident to provide additional education and supervision for evening and night hours. We now have five Chief Residents and have added a fifth rotation called UH Night Chief. The other rotations are VA Chief, Ambulatory Chief, UH Chief and Patient Safety and Quality Chief.

> Dr. Salata reprised a tradition of ‘midnight rounds,’ organizing a monthly Chairman teaching rounds for students, interns and residents on call in the hospital in the evening.

> Fourteen 2018 residency graduates will be staying at UH/VA for fellowship or faculty positions. Eight graduating fellows are joining the University Hospital Health System or VA staff.

> The Department of Medicine sponsored fellowships in thirteen subspecialties. All subspecialty programs received full accreditation from the ACGME in 2016.

The continuing education component of the educational program remains strong. As examples, weekly Grand Rounds and Morbidity and Mortality Conferences provide outstanding education for students, residents and faculty while also providing type one CME for faculty. Grand Rounds presentations are also available on the Department of Medicine web site.

The Department of Medicine is prepared to meet new health care challenges through the strength and balance provided by the excellence and expertise of our faculty in fulfilling our mission of exemplary medical care, development and application of new knowledge as well as superior training of health care professionals.
The Department of Medicine's commitment to scholarship, along with their consistent excellence in patient care and research, forms an outstanding platform for teaching future health care professionals.
THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE’S RESEARCH EFFORT REMAINS EXCELLENT, CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF EXTERNAL GRANT SUPPORT AND THAT SUPPORT INDEED CONTINUED TO CLIMB THIS YEAR. Awards to Case Western Reserve University, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and University Hospitals Clinical Research Center totaled over $85 million for 2017-2018. This represents an increase of about ten percent over the prior year.

Our 9th annual Research Day was held in May. Again, a large number of posters (117) were displayed with particularly good representation from house staff and fellows. Introductions from Dr. Salata and Dr. Hostetter were followed by three excellent plenary talks. This year’s speakers were Andrew Blum, MD, PhD, from the Digestive Health Research Institute; Sanjay Rajagopalan, MD, FACC, FAHA, Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine; and Puja Van Epps, MD, from the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine.

Three intramural Team Science initiatives received seed funds from the Department for the purpose of developing data for large grant submissions across disciplines. This year’s awardees are:

> Clark Distelhorst, MD from the Departments of Medicine and Pharmacology and Eli Bar, MD from the Department of Neurological Surgery on “Targeting the PKM2-InsP3R interaction as a novel therapeutic approach for glioblastoma”.

> Folashade Otegbeye, MD, MPH of the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology & Oncology and Andrew E. Sloan, MD, FACS of the Department of Neurological Surgery on “Developing a Phase I clinical trial of cytokine activated, allogeneic natural killer cells stereotactically injected into the tumor resection cavity of patients with recurrent Glioblastoma”.

> Aman Rajpal, MD of the Department of Medicine/Endocrinology and Mohammad Q. Ansari, MD of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine on the “Effect of Dexamethasone (DEX) on Glucose Homeostasis in Obese and Non-Obese Individuals with No Diabetes”.

The Harrington Physician-Scientist Pathway recruited two new residents. This track provides residents aspiring to research careers direct admission to research training in the subspecialty of their choice after two years of training in general internal medicine. Aaron Proweller, MD, PhD and Keith Armitage, MD, MACP have continued to successfully implement this program, now in its sixth year.

The department continues to sustain research at a high level. Efforts at fostering collaborative projects have been an important aspect of the Department of Medicine’s focus. This collaborative atmosphere puts our faculty members at the forefront of discovery and our dedication to training research leaders helps shape the intellectual discourse of tomorrow.
DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

USHA STIEFEL, MD
> VICE CHAIR, DIVERSITY & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE REMAINS COMMITTED TO ASSISTING EACH FACULTY AND TRAINEE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL CAREER ASPIRATIONS. Communication, facilitating access to professional development programming and extending mentorship activities remain a priority. In the past year:

> Nearly 50 department-wide newsletters, with a pre-screened compilation of upcoming development programs, awards, opportunities and RFAs specifically targeted to Department of Medicine faculty and trainees, have been disseminated electronically. With increased awareness and longer lead times, faculty and trainees have been able to apply or register for pertinent professional development opportunities in a streamlined manner.

> Departmental participation has expanded in more intensive professional curricula, including the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women’s “What’s Next?” workshop series for mid-career faculty, the Women Faculty School of Medicine (WFSOM)’s award opportunities (enabling participation in national professional development courses), the “To Tenure and Beyond,” series conducted through the Office of the Provost and the School of Medicine’s year-long FLEX Professional Development Program. The Department has also supported tuition, including for faculty participating in the “To Tenure and Beyond,” series.

> Based on an assessment of faculty needs, two Department-wide Grand Rounds programs, featuring experienced faculty panelists from the Committees on Appointments, Promotions and Tenure (CAPTs) at the School of Medicine, University Hospitals and the LSCVAMC were conducted. The events were also recorded and can be viewed online by faculty based at any hospital site.

> A Career Mentoring Program, partnering 25 interested junior faculty with a career mentor outside their home division, was implemented. The intent of the program is to encourage early development of a long-term career vision, plan the necessary steps to attain this and facilitate academic advancement.

Initiatives for next year include assessing the performance of mentoring programs and encouraging broader participation; continuing our analysis of needs; improving participation in minority faculty development opportunities; and developing electronic toolkits related to career development topics that can easily be accessed remotely.

With these and other initiatives, the Department will continue to strive to foster the individual career goals of each and every member of our diverse and vibrant healthcare community.
THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE IS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING OUTSTANDING CARE TO ITS PATIENTS WHILE CONTINUING TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE EVER CHANGING HEALTHCARE POLITICAL SCENE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE DELIVERY OF CARE TO OUR PATIENT POPULATION. We will continue to enhance the quality of care to our patients, improve interdisciplinary coordination and collaboration and improve utilization of our resources. Focusing on these concepts will contribute to the goal of improved patient satisfaction and clinical outcomes for our patient population. The principle goals of the department administration are to assure that our faculty are successful in our tripartite mission of the organization encompassing clinical expertise, research and education.

Academic year 2017–2018 included several notable achievements for the department and divisions. 2017 physician gross patient charges surpassed 2016 gross patient charges by 5%. For 2018 physician gross patient charges are trending to surpass 2017 charges by 6%. This growth along with efficient and thoughtful expense management positioned the department for an improvement of 20% to the net operating margin. Ambulatory visits for Academic year 2017-2018 increased by 12,782 (10%) visits and acute visits increased by 2,097 (1.5%) visits.

The Department of Medicine fully implemented the Electronic Charge Capture process in 2017, which significantly reduced the days lag for submission of charges. Along with the Central Billing Office the Department will continue to enhance this ongoing process through continued coding and billing education to all providers. The Department of Medicine migrated to the Soarian system in September 2018 (scheduling only) as part of the PCARM solution. This will provide the practice and patient one application for scheduling patient visits. In October 2018 the department was fully transitioned to Soarian to include registration and charge capture. This initiative will further increase the patient satisfaction through seamless scheduling, registration and billing processes.

In the 2017-2018 academic year the Department of Medicine was successful in the recruitment of 26 full time faculty and 6 PRN faculty members. With this added compliment of faculty the department will continue to exceed in clinical and academic excellence further strengthening our mission; ‘to heal, to teach, to discover’.

As the department moves into the next academic year our strategic objectives for 2019 will continue to be focused on increasing patient access, patient experience and physician engagement. We will work to become a top 10 nationally ranked Department of Medicine with respect to federal funding while significantly enhancing support from foundations, societies and industry in collaboration with the Chief Scientific Officer and the Center for Clinical Research and Technology.
ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018 SAW GROWTH IN EXISTING INITIATIVES FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS DIVISIONS AND CONTAINED A NUMBER OF NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS. Several notable awards include:

> Keith B. Armitage, MD, MACP, was awarded The James S. Tan, MD, MACP Laureate Award by the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Physicians

> Robert A. Salata, MD, FACP, FIDSA, was appointed the inaugural STERIS Chair of Excellence in Medicine

> Sanjay Rajagopalan, MD, FACC, FAHA, professor, received a $2 million National Institutes of Health grant to study if face masks protect against air pollution

> Robert Bonomo, MD, professor, was awarded The William S. Middleton Award, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

> Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD, professor, was selected for the 2017 Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Medal for Excellence in Health Science Innovation, the School of Medicine’s highest honor

> Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, professor, was awarded the Outstanding Investigator Award, National Institutes of Health

In Dr. Salata’s second year as Chair of the Department of Medicine, faculty recruitment has been a top priority. Dr. Salata continues to focus on searching for quality physicians to join the Department’s ranks. Additionally, with Dr. Salata’s renewed emphasis on our academic activities, extramural research has seen increases in funding from public and private sources for our basic, translational and clinical research activities. These activities are facilitated by University Hospital’s Clinical Research Center and by our affiliations with the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and the Case Western Reserve University’s School of Medicine.

Internally, the Department of Medicine continues to enhance collaborative research efforts through the Department of Medicine Team Science Challenge. The Annual Department of Medicine Research Day continues to showcase the talents of our residents, fellows and post-doctoral trainees.

The primary goal of department administration is to facilitate the success of our faculty. In pursuit of this objective, departmental academic administration is focused on increasing our extramural research footprint, continuing our intramural and team-based support, assisting in recruiting exemplary faculty and leadership and continuing to support the Department’s exemplary educational programs.
BY THE NUMBERS

329
NUMBER OF ACTIVE UH-BASED CLINICAL TRIALS

124
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS

105
TOTAL NUMBER OF CLINICAL FELLOWS

$324 M
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

125,609
UHMG-BASED AMBULATORY PHYSICIAN SERVICE ENCOUNTERS

375
DEPARTMENT-BASED IRB REVIEWS

3 to 1
RATIO OF CLINICIAN-EDUCATORS TO PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS

$36.8 M
NET PATIENT SERVICES REVENUE

255
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

742,177
TOTAL WORK RELATIVE VALUE UNITS

105
TOTAL NUMBER OF CLINICAL TRIALS

76
PRINCIPAL AND CO-PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATORS
LEADERSHIP
OUR PHYSICIANS ARE ALL PROUD FACULTY MEMBERS OF CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

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