

DIVISION OF

INFECTIOUS DISEASES + HIV MEDICINE

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2023 has seen a continued return to a more normal year for the Division with fading of the COVID-19 pandemic and recognition that RSV and Influenza are also major respiratory pathogens. Research and service remain strong components of the Division in addition to its robust clinical programs and graduate medical education.

While antimicrobial resistance, HIV/AIDS and its complications, toxoplasmosis, and tuberculosis remain major research foci of the Division, 2023 saw continued expansion in the areas of human vaccinology of viral respiratory infections including influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. This newer expanding focus bridges CWRU, VA, and UH with studies on immune responses in the elderly to respiratory infections and vaccines, initially flu and expanded to COVID-19 in 2021. It was further expanded with a 5-year CDC contract based at UH for the “Cleveland Ohio Respiratory Viruses Vaccines Effectiveness across Traditional Risk Factors and Social Determinants of Health (CORVETS)”. Faculty continue to lead or are involved with major University-wide ID programs including ACTU, Case-VA CARES, Center for AIDS Research, Center for Global Health and Diseases (CGHD), GRECC and TBRU.

The weekly Global Health and Infectious Diseases (GHID) Research Seminar, jointly sponsored by the Division of ID and CGHD has become one of the best attended seminar series on the UH-CWRU campus bringing together students, postdoc trainees, and faculty from the wider ID community. The global focus of the Division remains on Uganda where Divisional faculty (Boom, Johnson, Salata) have led major clinical research programs in HIV and TB since the beginning

of the Uganda-CWRU Research Collaboration (UCRC) in 1988. The generous gift from Ms. Roe Green to UH and CWRU in 2023 will allow construction of a research and education building in Kampala to house our research and training programs there in 2024. Research funding in the ID division for 2023 continues to be robust at \$24.2M million (\$13.9M CWRU, \$5.5M UH and \$4.8M VA (\$3.1M VA Merit/CDA & \$1.7M Foundation)).

Clinical service demands continue to increase at the VA, UHCMC, and the UH system. Major clinical programs include traditional infectious diseases consultation, transplant ID, HIV/AIDS care, and travel medicine. ID faculty also staff the Carpenter Service, an infectious diseases-focused internal medicine team at UHCMC. We also provide ID support remotely to Samaritan Hospital in Mansfield, Ohio. Other major UHCMC and UH system ID activities led by our faculty include antimicrobial stewardship (Leila Hojat), infection control (Elie Saade) and internal medicine residency training (Keith Armitage). In 2023 we were able to initiate recruitment of clinical track faculty for the increased service demands, and we plan to recruit 3-4 new faculty in 2024 for transplant ID, increased infection control, and stewardship needs, as well as an Assistant Program Director for our ID fellowship.

Faculty remain active in 2nd year medical school teaching in microbiology and infectious diseases (Block 5), graduate courses, supervising PhD and MD-PhD students in their labs, serving on thesis committees, and through clinical teaching of our medical students, residents, and ID fellows.

