

DIVISION OF

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE + SLEEP MEDICINE

FRANK JACONO, MD | DIVISION CHIEF

“Breathe Better, Sleeping Well”. We strive to be a diverse and inclusive division with research, teaching, and clinical activities aligned to provide innovative, value-based, and patient-centered care throughout the communities we serve.

The Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine has worked to sustain quality, implement new programs and expand our clinical footprint over recent years. Under the leadership of Frank J. Jacono, MD, the division continues to strengthen our role as a national leader in the delivery of quality care through our integrated clinical practice, disease-focused centers of excellence, innovative research, and professional education.

We continually seek to enhance the care we provide throughout Northeast Ohio. Our clinical expertise includes asthma, COPD, cystic fibrosis, lung nodule, lung cancer, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary vascular disease, allergic lung disease, interstitial lung disease, lung transplantation, sleep disorders, interventional pulmonology, pulmonary rehabilitation, and advanced pulmonary function testing.

The MICU team led by Rana Hejal, MD, is integrating multidisciplinary critical care teams across our healthcare system, with outcomes and quality metrics exceeding expectations. Silpa Kilaru, MD, Medical Director of Lung Transplantation, is helping to expand this service and advance state-of-the-art treatment of patients with end-stage lung disease. Our system-wide AASM-accredited Sleep Medicine program provides multi-disciplinary care under the leadership of Susheel Patil, MD. Our adult Cystic Fibrosis program, accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Center

Committee and led by Alex Gifford, MD, continues to provide nationally recognized care for adults with CF for over 60 years. Ken Remy, MD, was named the Inaugural Director of the Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals of Cleveland Blood, Heart, Lung, and Immunology Research Center.

The Division maintains three ACGME clinical fellowship programs: Pulmonary/Critical Care, Sleep Medicine, and Allergy/Immunology. Our goal is to produce excellent clinicians trained in the art and science of medicine, with a strong research component, ready to succeed as leaders in academic and clinical settings. This is exemplified by the fact that several projects led by our fellows were awarded GME Medical Innovation Award pilot funding.

The Division boasts a broad-based research enterprise with numerous active investigations in clinical, translational, and basic research at UHCMC, the VA Medical Center, and Case Western Reserve University, resulting in multiple publications and grant support. Major areas of research emphasis include sleep apnea, infection prevention, sepsis, acute lung injury, neural control of breathing, pulmonary immunology and inflammation, immune monitoring, brain-organ interactions and developing bio-surrogates of disease progression and patient trajectory, as well as numerous clinical trials focused on investigational therapies to treat a range of diseases including COPD, pulmonary hypertension, sepsis, ARDS, and COVID-19.