# The University of Chicago

# Cardiology Fellowship



2021 Newsletter

#### INSIDETHISISSUE:

Welcome!

Fellowship Highlights

Hail to the Chief

New General Fellows

**New Subspecialty Fellows** 

Fellowship Year inReview

- Let's get personal
- Our new graduates
- Honors & Achievements
- Morton Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day

Impressive Academic Production (in 2020-21)

- Publications
- Abstracts
- Cardiology Research Day

#### HAIL TO THE CHIEF

We'd like to welcome Dr. Anthony Kanelidis as the new Chief Fellow for the 2021 – 2022 fellowship class! Anthony has hit the ground running and will do an outstanding job. Big thanks to Ian Hackett for his incredible work as Chief Fellow for the past year!!

# Welcome to Our New Fellows

As a new year begins, we are excited to welcome six new Cardiovascular Disease fellows and two new fellows in our subspecialty programs for the 2021-2022 year! In addition, 5 old friends are assuming new roles in our advanced fellowship programs!

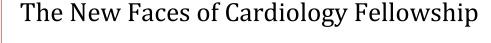
Our incoming class is an accomplished group and we are confident they will all be great additions to our Section. To get to know each of our new fellows, please see their photos and read their bios on subsequent pages. Here's to a great year!

## A Year for the Books: 2020-2021 Fellowship Year

We have just completed a remarkable 2020-21 fellowship year. COVID-19 couldn't stop us! Our fellows made us proud with many accomplishments, honors, and more. They dedicated countless hours to our Section, providing incredible patient care, all while developing as leaders, teachers and scientists. On behalf of all Cardiology faculty and staff, we thank you all for your hard work and offer big congratulations to our graduates.







# Martin Gruca

I was born and raised in Utica, a small suburb in the Detroit metropolitan area. My parents had immigrated to the United States from Poland shortly before I was born. While I was born in the United States, I was fortunate enough to grow up in a robust Polish community, which allowed me to still interact with our cultural roots. I went to the University of Michigan for my undergraduate studies and for medical school. It was during my time in medical school that I wanted to obtain further training in research, so I took an additional year for a Master's Degree in Clinical Research. By this point, Ann Arbor has become my new hometown. When it came time to start residency, I was eager to explore a new setting by moving to Chicago to train at Northwestern McGaw Medical Center. I had a fantastic experience thus far in Chicago, and I am very excited to explore it further over the next few years! I am here with my fiancee, Kristen, and our greyhound, Basil. In our free time, Kristen and I love to ballroom dance, take long walks, and explore Chicago's artexhibits.



#### Jiho Han

I grew up in Seoul, Korea and moved to Toronto, Canada for high school and attended college at Columbia University in New York where I majored in applied mathematics. I stayed at Columbia for medical school and decided to explore the west coast for internal medicine residency where I am completing my residency at Stanford. I am excited to move to Chicago and explore the Midwest for cardiology fellowship. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking and going to restaurants weekly.



#### Jonathan Lattell

I was born and raised in Longmeadow, Massachusetts before moving to attend college at Boston College. I left Massachusetts for the first time to attend medical school at Loyola University Chicago. After graduating from Loyola, I was lucky enough to stay in Chicago and completed my IM residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center. I decided to stay on for an extra year as an IM chief resident before starting my cardiology fellowship. I love travelling, trying new restaurants (of which there are plenty in Chicago!), and playing sports. My go to's are basketball and softball. I look forward to working with everyone and can't wait.

#### Shirlene Obuobi

I was born in Accra, Ghana, and moved to Chicago when I was six, then went on to live in Malvern, Arkansas, The Woodlands, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri, where I completed my undergrad (at Washington University in St. Louis.) I attended medical school at University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and have stayed here for the rest of my medical training. I am also a cartoonist, and draw for my medical comics platform, "ShirlyWhirl, M.D.," and a writer (my debut novel, "On Rotation," will be coming out in Summer 2022 under William Morrow/ Harper Collins!) I live in Hyde Park with my husband and our three cats.



### **Maxine Tang**

I am originally from San Francisco, CA, and have spent most of my life in California. I went to Stanford for college, where I met my husband, Alex, and stayed an extra year to complete a Master's in Bioengineering. After graduating, I moved to Los Angeles for medical school at UCLA. I spent a year in Boston at BIDMC as a Sarnoff research fellow before completing my last year of medical school, and was fortunate to stay in LA for residency at UCLA Olive-View Medical Center, where I am currently completing a chief year. In my free time I enjoy hiking, playing board games, and baking. I am thrilled to be moving to Chicago with my husband to start Cardiology fellowship at the University of Chicago. I look forward to meeting everyone and exploring the city!



## Joseph Weber

I grew up in Litchfield, IL, a small town in southern Illinois. I went to undergrad at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Campaign where I majored in molecular and cellular biology. I took a year off after college to continue my microbiology research in Stockholm, Sweden, supported by a Fulbright grant. I made it back to Illinois to pursue a medical degree at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. I was fortunate enough to match into Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago and quickly became attached to the incredible people and patients here. Outside of work, you'll find my wife and me pushing our two kids in a double-wide jogging stroller on our way to the nearest park. When we can find a babysitter, we love making it out to the many amazing restaurants in the city, otherwise, I am content perfecting my charcoal grilling game in our backyard. I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to continue training at the University of Chicago and look forward to getting to knoweveryone!



## New Advanced Fellows of 2021-2022



## Jeremy Slivnick - Cardiac Imaging

I will be one of the new advanced cardiovascular imaging fellows this year. Both my wife and I are originally from the Chicagoland area and grew up on the northside (Cubs fans, sorry in advance!). Prior to coming here, I completed my internal medicine training at the University of Michigan and my general cardiology fellowship at The Ohio State University. We are thrilled to be moving back home to our favorite city, Chicago. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my wife Sarah, son Jack, and daughter Molly. I also enjoy running, biking, and cooking. I am excited to work with you all and cannot wait to meet you!



## Ali Alsaad – Interventional Cardiology

I completed medical school at Nahrain University in Iraq, internal medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic and cardiovascular disease fellowship at the University of Chicago Northshore Program. Along with my interest in interventional and structural cardiology, I'm interested in quality improvement in health care. Outside of work, I enjoy running and spending time with my family.

## Old Friends in new advanced fellowship roles....

We didn't ask them submit new bios/pictures, but we are thrilled that all 5 of our 2021 general fellowship graduates are staying on as advanced fellows in Advanced Heart Failure, Cardiac Imaging, and Electrophysiology!! See more about our graduates below....

#### Let's Get Personal!!

## Fellowship Class of 2045 - New Recruits

- Caroline and Steve Mazzone welcomed Summer on 2/18/21.
- Miriam and Abdul Dia welcomed Yusef on 11/3/2020.

# New Recruits to the U of C Cardiology Fellowship Class of 2045







**Summer Mazzone** 

## **Engaged!**

- Elisha Wali and Nimit Desai wereengaged on June 26th, 2020!!
- Ryan Sanderson and Kristin Powers were engaged in April 2021!!
- Linda Lee and Andrea Ragsdale were engaged in July of 2020!!

### Married!

Abdul Abutaleb and Reem Al-Bakkour were married on 5/21/21!!

# Congratulations to the 2021 Graduates!

#### DIDYOUKNOW?

The Section of Cardiology was founded in 1950 at the University of Chicago



**Dr. Mark Belkin** will be an Advanced Fellow in Heart Failure at the University of Chicago.

**Dr. Abdul Dia** will be an Advanced Fellow in Intervention at the University of Chicago.

**Dr. Swati Rao** will be an Advanced Fellow in Electrophysiology at the University of Chicago.

**Dr. Mark Dela Cruz**will be an Advanced Fellow in Heart Failure at the University Of Chicago.

**Dr. Mike Henry** will be an Advanced Imaging Fellow at the University of Chicago.

## Congratulations to our Graduating Advanced Fellows too!

#### **Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology**

- Indra Bole will be joining the Heart Failure team as Assistant Professor at Ohio State University Medical Center.
- Haider Nazeer will be joining the Heart Failure team as an attending at NYU Long Island Hospital.

#### **Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology**

• Andrew Chen will be joining a private practice in Southern California Heart Center.

#### **Interventional Cardiology**

- Rajeev Anchan will be a Interventional Cardiologist at Bryan Heart in Lincoln Nebraska.
- Ryan Burkhart will be a Interventional Cardiologist at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, TX.

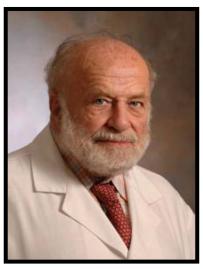
#### **Cardiac Imaging**

- Ilya Karagodin will be a General/Imaging Cardiologist at Northshore University Health System.
- Nazia Alvi will be a Cardiac Imaging Cardiologist at AMITA Health Group in Hinsdale IL.
- Hena Patel will be a Assistant Professor at The University of Chicago.

#### **Preventive Cardiology**

 Vishnu Palpati will be a Endocrinologist and Lipidologist at Warren Clinic Endocrinology in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

# 2020-2021 Rory R. Childers Cardiology Faculty Teaching Award



**Rory Childers, M.D.** 1931 –2014

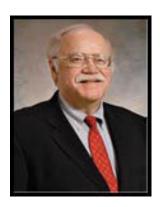
Dr. Childers came to the University of Chicago in 1963 as a Cardiology fellow and remained here for 50 years. He became a renowned authority on the movement of electrical impulses within the beating heart and the use and interpretation of electrocardiograms. He lectured widely and received many honors. He was awarded the teaching award by the fellows so many times that the award was named after him.

Each year the fellows have the difficult task of choosing a faculty member to give the prestigious Rory Childers Teaching Award. It goes to a faculty member who the graduating class feels has inspired them and provided and outstanding mentorship and teaching.



This year, The Rory R.
Childers Cardiology
Teaching Award was
presented to
Dr. John Blair
Congratulations,
Dr. Blair!

# Morton Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day



The symposium highlights the research within the Sections of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Cardiac Anesthesiology and Interventional Radiology. This day is named in honor of our esteemed friend, mentor and colleague who we continue to miss greatly.

Unfortunately, 2021 Arnsdorf Research Day was a COVID-19 causality, but it will come back even stronger in 2022!



# Despite COVID-19, Our fellows have had a very impressive academic production this year.....

## **Publications and Abstracts**

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- Dela Cruz M, Besser S, Sarswat N, Smith B, Grinstein J, Nguyen A, Chung B, Kalantari S, Kim G. Immune Function Testing and Long-Term Immune-Related Outcomes among Heart Transplant Recipients. International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation 41st Annual Meeting (Virtual 2021)
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- Kanelidis A, Miller T, Belkin M, Siddiqi U, Rogers D, Uriel N, Song T, Ota T, Kalantari S, Sarswat N, Nguyen A, Chung B, Kim G, Smith B, Jeevanandam V, Pinney S, Grinstein J. Low Left Ventricular Stroke Work Index is Associated with a Poor Prognosis in LVAD Patients. International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT). 2021 Apr.
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# Awards, Leadership, Involvement...

#### Mark Dela Cruz

2021 American Transplant Congress Thoracic Critical Care Community of Practice Grant

#### Ilya Karagodin

Top Investigator Travel Grant at ASE 2021 President's Circle at ASE 2021 NIH T32 Cardiovascular Sciences Training Grant for 2020-2021