

Cardiology Fellowship

2024 Newsletter



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HAIL TO THE CHIEF

We'd like to welcome Dr. Mary Acosta as the new Chief Fellow for the 2024-2025 fellowship year! Mary has hit the ground running and will do an outstanding job. Big thanks to Giancarlo Saldana 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 seven new fellows in our subspecialty programs for the 2024-2025 year! We are also delighted to have old friends in new roles in Imaging and Interventional.

Our incoming class is a very accomplished group! We are so excited to welcome them and know 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 2024-25 year!

A Year for the Books: 2023-2024 Fellowship Year

We have just completed a remarkable 2023-24 fellowship year. Our fellows made us proud with many accomplishments and contributions. They dedicated countless hours to our Section, providing incredible patient care, all while growing 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!



The New Faces of Cardiology Fellowship



Elizabeth Cabrera

I was born and raised in Miami, FL. I attended University of Florida (Go Gators!) for undergrad where I majored in Biology and minored in Anthropology. After graduating, I spent two years at Bethesda, MD at the NIH as a Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award recipient as a part of the Laboratory of Neuroimaging. I decided to keep moving north, completing medical school at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. I completed my internal medicine residency at Northwestern University in June 2023 and stayed on as a Hospitalist over the last year. In my free time, I enjoy walking my dog (Heidi), staying active (tennis, HIIT, peloton), reading, traveling, and exploring new restaurants with my partner, Alex. I'm thrilled to be starting fellowship at the University of Chicago and look forward to meeting everyone.



Ashwin Kelkar

I grew up in Syosset, NY and stayed nearby to finish my undergraduate degree in biochemistry at Stony Brook University. After college, I had my first exposure to the Midwest in Cleveland where I attended medical school at Case Western Reserve University. I came back to NY to complete residency at New York Presbyterian / Weill Cornell, and had the privilege to stay on as chief resident. I am beyond excited to be in Chicago with my partner and to start cardiology training (and adopt a second cat)! Besides medicine, I have a deep interest in music and movies, and have recently developed an itch for long-distance running.



Akash Patel

I was born in Lexington, Kentucky, but I grew up in Schaumburg, Illinois. I went to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (I-L-L) where I majored in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Afterwards, I attended medical school at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine followed by internal medicine residency at the University of Texas at Austin. Outside of medicine, I love to spend time with my Wife and our son, Keshav. I am excited to be moving back to Chicago to be back with them and start cardiology fellowship at University of Chicago!

Rukmini Roy

I was raised in Decatur, Illinois for a majority of my life. I went to Saint Louis University to pursue an undergraduate degree in Psychology and minor in Health Care Ethics. For medical school, I returned to Southern Illinois University School of Medicine spending time in both Carbondale, IL and Springfield, IL. Internal Medicine Residency led me to Chicago, IL at University of Chicago, and I have had such an incredible experience! When I'm not at the hospital, I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time with my parents and my sister, my fiance, and aspire every day to be the best dog aunt to Julius and Leo Roy.



Cory Sejo

I grew up in Texas and spent formative years outside of Dallas/Ft Worth and Austin. I completed my undergraduate training at UT Austin (Hook 'Em!) before attending UT Southwestern for medical school. I then moved to California to complete my internal medicine training at Stanford. After residency, I worked as a hospitalist for a year at Northwestern. Outside of medicine, I enjoy rock climbing, pottery, exploring coffee shops, and rotating through various other hobbies. I am ecstatic to start my cardiology fellowship at the University of Chicago and to meet everyone!



Mikail Siddiki

I grew up in the north suburbs of Chicago. I then went to Vanderbilt University in Nashville for undergrad, where I studied biomedical engineering and played soccer. From there, I attended the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine where I initially pursued a career in cardiac surgery but ultimately chose a future in cardiology. Wanting to return to Chicago, I was thrilled to join the residency at University of Chicago and very excited to continue on here as a cardiology fellow! Outside of medicine, I still enjoy being active playing soccer and golf during my free time and am always excited to find new restaurants and spend time with friends around the city



New Advanced Fellows of 2024-2025



Angel De La Cruz Tejada - Cardiac Imaging

Hello everyone! I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic! I attended Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic, for medical school. I was fortunate to serve as Laboratory Instructor in the Physiological Sciences Department of my medical school, where I nurtured my passion for teaching. I completed residency training at BronxCare Health Center, in New York. After that, I completed my Cardiology Fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (Mount Sinai Morningside-BronxCare Program), in NYC, where I was honored to serve as a Chief Fellow during the last year of training. I enjoy traveling, as well as spending valuable time with family and friends! I am thrilled to start my Cardiac Imaging Fellowship at the University of Chicago and I look forward to meet and work with everyone!



Alex Choy - Cardiac Electrophysiology

I grew up in Westchester, NY before moving to Boston to study biomedical engineering at Tufts University. I returned to NY to attend medical school at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine then subsequently completed my internal medicine and general cardiology fellowship at the Mount Sinai Hospital. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, live music, and trying new food. I'm pumped to start electrophysiology fellowship and look forward to meeting everyone and exploring everything Chicago has to offer!



Corbin Rayfield - Cardiac Electrophysiology

Corbin was raised in St. Charles, IL. He completed medical school at University of Illinois-Chicago after which he moved to Arizona where he completed Internal Medicine Residency and Cardiovascular Diseases fellowship at Mayo Clinic-Arizona. He and his wife, Taylor, have two kids: Kingsley and Cole along with two dogs: Jax and Miles.



Orly Leiva - Advanced Heart Failure

I was born in New Jersey but grew up in Guatemala until I was 10 years old. I lived in Ohio, attended undergraduate at Wright State University and moved to Boston for medical school at Boston University. Completed internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital/ Harvard Medical School and cardiology fellowship at New York University Grossman School of Medicine in NYC. I am interested in interventional heart failure and cardio-oncology, with a particular research interest in invasive cardiovascular procedure outcomes in patients with cancer. I enjoy spending time with my fiancé and our dog Charlie.



Dimitar Saveski - Advanced Heart Failure

Hi all, my name is Dimitar Saveski. I am one of the incoming HF fellows - I am a Canadian trainee that just wrapped up Cardiology (and IM prior) in London, the one without Big Ben. Looking forward to working with and learning from you everyone!



Hatem Hassaballa- Cardiac Amyloidosis

I'm originally from Egypt, yet my birthplace is Kuwait. Over the years, I've resided in several countries before ultimately making the US my home. My journey has taken me from Kuwait to Egypt and then to Qatar. My pursuit of medical education mirrored this pattern, starting with medical school in Egypt. There, I also began my medical training, which continued until I joined Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar for three years. My advanced medical training took place in Chicago, US, where I completed my internal medicine residency at Louis Weiss Memorial Hospital and a fellowship at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Here, I also earned my MPH degree. When not immersed in medicine, I relish running by the lakeshore, indulging in cooking, spending time with friends and their dogs, and cheering on Arsenal as they clinch victories in the Premier League! I'm excited to embark on my Cardiac Amyloidosis fellowship at UC, marking the beginning of my career in cardiology.

Charishma S. Nallapati - Interventional

I was born in Guntur, India and raised in Troy, MI. I attended the University of Michigan for undergrad majoring in Neuroscience. I went to medical school at the University of Toledo for medical school and then went to University of Florida for residency. I then moved back to the Midwest for cardiology fellowship at Beaumont Hospital in Dearborn, MI. Outside of work, I enjoy travelling, trying new restaurants, and spending time with my family and friends. I'm very excited to join the University of Chicago for interventional fellowship and meet everyone!



Old Friends in new advanced fellowship roles....

We didn't ask them to submit new bios, but we are thrilled that 2 of our 2024 general fellowship graduates are staying on as advanced fellows in Imaging and Interventional!! See more about our graduates below...

Martin Gruca
Imaging



Jonathan Lattell
Interventional



Let's Get Personal!!

Fellowship Class of 2048 – New Recruits

- Mike and Ashley welcomed Cora Holland on May 21, 2024.
- Martin and Kristen welcomed Henryk on February 3, 2024.

Cora Holland Randazzo



Henryk Gruca



Congratulations to the 2024 Graduates!

DID YOU KNOW?

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



Dr. Jiho Han will be an Advanced Fellow in Interventional at Columbia University.

Dr. Joseph Weber will be an General Cardiologist at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital.

Dr. Jonathan Lattell will be an Advanced Fellow in Interventional at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Shirlene Obuobi will be an Assistant Professor at Brown LifeSpan Cardiovascular Institute.

Dr. Martin Gruca will be an Advanced Fellow in Imaging at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Maxine Tang will be an Advanced Fellow in Imaging at Northwestern University.

Congratulations to our Graduating Advanced Fellows too!

Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology

- **Dr. Anthony Kanelidis** will be an Assistant Professor at The University of Chicago.
- **Dr. Leo Gozdecki** will be an Assistant Professor at The University of Chicago.

Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology

- **Dr. Amulya Gampa** will be a Electrophysiologist at Midwest Cardiovascular Institute.
- **Dr. Dipayon Roy** will be a Electrophysiologist at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco.

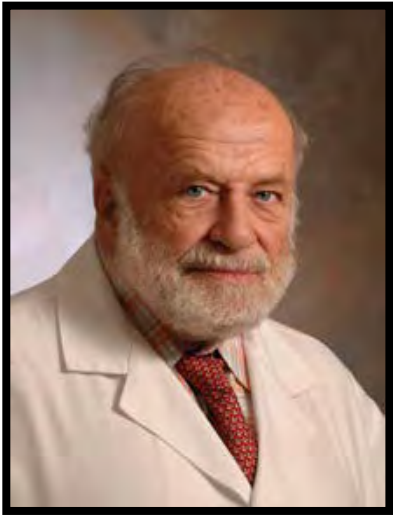
Interventional Cardiology

- **Dr. Brian Conway** will be a Interventional Cardiologist at Texas Cardiovascular Specialists in Dallas.
- **Dr. Adham Karim** will be a Interventional Cardiologist at Advocate Christ Hospital.

Cardiac Imaging

- **Dr. Maria Latz** will be an Clinical Cardiologist at UChicago Advent Health Hinsdale Hospital.
- **Dr. Iva Minga** will be a General Cardiologist/Advanced Cardiac Imaging Cardiologist at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital.

2023-2024 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. Sandeep Nathan

**Congratulations,
Dr. Nathan!**

Morton Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day April 25-26, 2024



Morton Arnsdorf, MD
1940 -2010

The 12TH Annual Cardiovascular Research Day (CRD) Symposium was held April 25-26, 2024. The symposium highlighted 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.

This year, we had high quality abstract submissions in basic research and clinical studies and representing all cardiovascular disciplines.

Many of the studies were performed as collaborations between 2 or more laboratories or groups. This made our Section exceptionally proud. For more details, see <https://tinyurl.com/UChicago-Arnsdorf>

The Keynote lecture, “*Rejection and Antibody Surveillance Strategies for Heart Transplantation*” was given by our guest of honor Jon Kobashigawa, MD DSL/Thomas D. Gordon Professor of Medicine, Director of the Advanced Heart Disease Division and Director of the Heart Transplant Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California on April 26th.

Cardiovascular Research Day wouldn't have been possible without the participation of our committee!

Francis Alenghat, MD, PhD

Jonathan Grinstein, MD

Amber Johnson, MD

Victor Mor-Avi, PhD

Cevher Ozcan, MD

Melissa Meskers

Char Hopkins



Research Day: Featured Presentations and Award Winners!

Endovascular Aortic Repair Management: A Geometric Comparison between Stable Sac Patients and Endoleak Patients - **Junsung Kim**

Myocardial Performance Score: Prognostic Impact of an Advanced Hemodynamic Parameter in Heart Failure - **Michael Randazzo**

Endothelial restoration of CAD GWAS gene PLPP3 by nanomedicine suppresses mechano-sensitive YAP/TAZ activity and reduces atherosclerosis in vivo - **Jiayu Zhu**



Fellows Welcome Party!



Graduate Grand Rounds



Fellows Graduation Pictures



Other Activities, Achievements and Honors!

- Alejandro Plana was selected for the JAMA Network Open Health Equity Editorial Fellowship for this year. Additionally, Alex's after-school non-profit South Side Science Scholars was just awarded a \$20,000 grant from the UChicago Women's Board for expansion into a second school and into 6th grade.
- Michael Randazzo was a Featured Abstract Presentation, 12th Annual Morton F. Arnsdorf Cardiovascular Research Day!
- Dr. Sarswat and Dr. Slivnick received a grant from Pfizer to fund a Cardiac Amyloidosis fellow for this year!
- Shirlene Obuobi's second novel, *Between Friends and Lovers* will be released July, 2024.

Illinois ACC Fellows Poster Session!



Dr. Tang presenting at the Illinois ACC!



Wow!!

Our fellows have had a very impressive academic production this year.....

2023-2024 Publications, Abstracts and Presentations

- Slivnick JA, Gessert NT, **Cotella JI**, Oliveira L, Pezzotti N, Eslami P, Sadeghi A, Wehle S, Prabhu D, Waechter-Stehle I, Chaudhari AM, Szasz T, Lee L, **Altenburg M**, **Saldana G**, **Randazzo M**, DeCara JM, Addetia K, Mor-Avi V, Lang RM. Echocardiographic Detection of Regional Wall Motion Abnormalities using Artificial Intelligence Compared to Human Readers. *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography*. 2024; 37:655-63; DOI: 10.1016/j.echo.2024.03.017
- **Han J**, Di Santo P, Mathew R, Hibbert B, Grinstein J, Belkin MN. Pulse pressure response to inotrope therapy in cardiogenic shock: a subanalysis of the doremi trial. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2024;12(6):1126-1127
- **Han J**, Luchetti H, Nathan S, Shah AP et al. Incidence and predictors of clinically significant adverse events after percutaneous intervention for pulmonary embolism. Oral presentation at TCT 2024, San Francisco, CA
- **Han J**, Rushakoff J, Moayed Y, et al. HLA sensitization is associated with an increased risk of primary graft dysfunction after heart transplantation. *J Heart Lung Transplant*. 2024;43(3):387-393. PMID: 37802261
- Roy R, **Han J**, Mathew R, et al. Sex-based differences in hemodynamic response to inotropes: a subanalysis of the DOREMI trial. *JACC Heart Fail*. 2023;11(9):1275-1277. PMID: 37480883
- Kransdorf EP, Rushakoff JA, **Han J**, et al. Donor hyperoxia is a novel risk factor for severe cardiac primary graft dysfunction. *J Heart Lung Transplant*. 2023;42(5):617-626. PMID: 36682894
- **Guo J**, **Randazzo MJ**, **Saldana GR**, **Gozdecki LT**, Radosavljevic T, Ota T, Grinstein JS, Lang RM, Belkin MN, Addetia K. One echocardiogram is worth a thousand words. *American Society of Echocardiography 2024*, Portland OR. 2024.
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- Guile B, Miller P, **Randazzo M**, Salerno C, Lang RM, Addetia K. Incremental value of transesophageal echocardiography in the diagnosis of LVAD OC Malposition. *American Society of Echocardiography*, National Harbor, MD. 2023.
- Elias P, **Randazzo MJ**, Poterucha TJ, Einstein AJ. Chapter 2: Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Electrocardiography. In: *Invasive and non-invasive cardiovascular imaging: Role of machine learning and artificial intelligence*. Edizioni Minerva Medica; 2023.
- **Randazzo M**, Maffessanti F, Kotta A, Grapsa J, Lang RM, Addetia K. Added value of 3D echocardiography in the diagnosis and prognostication of patients with right ventricular dysfunction. *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine*, 10, 2024. DOI: 10.3389/fcvm.2023.1263864

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