

Clinical Research Report

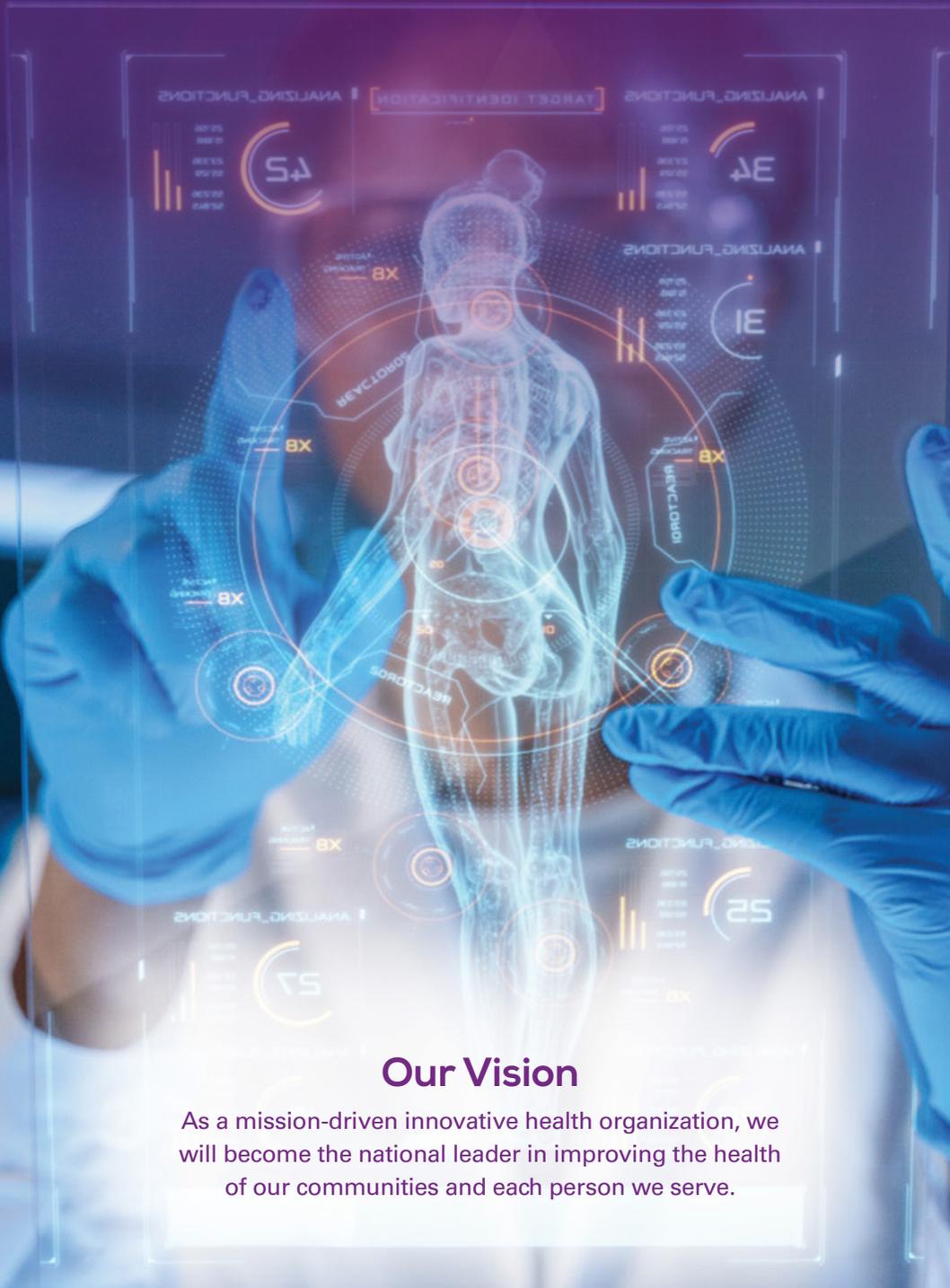
TRINITY HEALTH MICHIGAN AND FLORIDA REGIONS

2024-2025



Our Mission

We, Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.



Our Vision

As a mission-driven innovative health organization, we will become the national leader in improving the health of our communities and each person we serve.

CLINICAL RESEARCH LEADS TO BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE

GREETINGS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN RESEARCH AT TRINITY HEALTH MICHIGAN AND HOLY CROSS HEALTH IN FLORIDA.



Rob Casalou,
*President & CEO,
Trinity Health
Michigan &
Southeast Regions*

Medical research plays a vital role in the advancement of medicine and in providing new therapeutic options and hope to people we serve.

Some of these treatment modalities are only found locally within our health care system — they represent an important access point for our patients. We are proud to support the many clinical research programs throughout our region, and we are dedicated to forming an integrated research program that will optimize access to clinical studies and leverage both our size and diverse patient population.

The articles contained within this report speak to the dedication of our many Physician Investigators, Research Administrators, Clinical Research Nurses, Clinical Research Coordinators, and a host of other colleagues who make medical research possible within Trinity Health.

A STRONG COMMITMENT TO CLINICAL RESEARCH



David Svinarich, PhD,
*Trinity Health
Vice President of
Research, Michigan,
Georgia and Florida*

I am happy to share with you this collection of clinically important research studies from across the Michigan and Florida regions of Trinity Health. In addition, we have forged a strategic relationship with academic partners, such as the University of Michigan, to further enhance and expand our clinical investigations.

Clinical research brings significant value to our organization in many ways. Studies have shown that hospitals with active clinical research programs are safer, provide better care to all patients and, as a result, lead to better clinical outcomes. Medical research supports our various centers of excellence, program certification, and graduate medical education. Clinical research helps attract forward-thinking pioneering clinicians and opens up leading-edge treatment options for patients. Most importantly, clinical research provides an avenue of hope beyond the limits of conventional medical treatment.

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RESEARCH OPERATIONS

REGIONAL CLINICAL RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

The whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. This is especially true in clinical research, where the synergy among our research sites helps to further drive research activity and innovation, foster best practices, and enable the sharing of resources. This last year has been focused on identifying each research site's strengths and weaknesses, and formulating a strategic plan to optimize, unify, and expand research.

Nationally, we are actively identifying and implementing a single clinical trials management software platform. This software will standardize how we conduct our trials, enable easy oversight of our entire research enterprise, and make it easier to conduct similar studies at different sites. Our legal team has implemented a new software platform that will facilitate the review and approval of study contracts and agreements. We strengthened our relationship with the University of Michigan by enabling them to bring studies into our hospitals. We are also organizing research finance to enhance study cost analysis, negotiation, billing, and revenue. Lastly, we are organizing research at the national level to better share studies and best practices throughout Trinity Health.

Clinical research within our region is among the largest in all of Trinity Health, with more than \$5 million each year in community benefits. Collectively, we have 2,588 patients enrolled in 300 active clinical trials. This amounts to an annual revenue of \$5.8 million. Research touches many medical specialties including Oncology, Cardiology, Orthopedics, Neurology, Sleep Medicine, Obstetrics, Infectious Disease, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Urology, Emergency Medicine, and both Graduate Medical and Nursing Research.

ABOUT TRINITY HEALTH MICHIGAN

Trinity Health Michigan is a leading health care provider and one of the state's largest employers. With more than 26,000 full-time employees serving 29 counties, Trinity Health Michigan is composed of nine hospitals located in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Howell, Livonia, Muskegon, Oakland, and Shelby, along with two medical groups. The health system has 2,314 beds and 5,729 physicians and advanced practice providers. With operating revenues of \$4.74 billion, Trinity Health Michigan returns \$232.2 million back to its local communities each year. Together with numerous ambulatory care locations, home health and hospice agencies, and 17 senior living communities owned and/or operated by Trinity Health, Trinity Health Michigan provides the full continuum of care for Michigan residents.

To learn more about Trinity Health Michigan, visit TrinityHealthMichigan.org.

ABOUT HOLY CROSS HEALTH

A member of Trinity Health, Fort Lauderdale-based Holy Cross Hospital, dba Holy Cross Health, is a full-service not-for-profit Catholic teaching hospital operating in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy. Holy Cross has been recognized for six Types of Care in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2024-25 Best Hospital rankings and was named among the 2024 America's Best-In-State Hospitals by *Newsweek*. Through strategic collaborations and a commitment to being a person-centered, transforming, healing presence, the 557-bed hospital offers progressive inpatient, outpatient, and community outreach services and clinical research trials to serve as our community's trusted health partner for life. Holy Cross Health also encompasses Holy Cross HealthPlex outpatient facility, an urgent care center and more than 40 Holy Cross Medical Group physician practices.

To learn more about Holy Cross Health, visit holy-cross.com.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP



DAVID SVINARICH, PHD

Vice President of Research David Svinarich, PhD, leads research operations for the Michigan, Georgia, and Florida Regions of Trinity Health. He works closely with GME directors and chief medical officers in the management and growth of research operations and documentation.

Dr. Svinarich joined Trinity Health in 2023. Formerly a research executive with Ascension Health, he has more than 20 years' experience in medical research, graduate medical education, and clinical research administration. He has worked at local, state, and national levels to organize clinical research programs to support physicians, advanced practice professionals, residents, and nurses. He was also instrumental in founding the Ascension Clinical Research Institute.

Dr. Svinarich received his PhD in Immunology and Microbiology from the Wayne State University School of Medicine. He remained at Wayne State as an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology before moving into Research Administration.



KELLY INSIGNARES, PHD, MBA, CIP

Kelly Insignares, PhD, MBA, CIP, is regional director for Research Compliance and the Research Integrity Officer for Trinity Health's Michigan, Georgia, and Florida Regions. In a career spanning 20 years, she has held leadership roles in research compliance and human subjects protection at academic medical centers, health systems, and consulting organizations. Dr. Insignares has provided consulting services in the areas of research compliance, regulatory affairs, human subjects protections, research administration, clinical research operations, educational initiatives, financial conflict of interest, responsible conduct of research and safety committees.

Dr. Insignares oversees the Research Compliance and Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) at Trinity Health Michigan and Florida. HRPP protects the rights and welfare of research participants, by providing collaboration, support, guidance, and education to facilitate research that is ethical and scientifically sound. The overall Research Compliance Program ensures that the research activities performed at Trinity Health follow federal regulations and state laws, institutional policies and procedures, and Ethical and Religious Directives. It also provides the mechanisms required to maintain research integrity, responsible conduct of research, and the highest quality standards.

Dr. Insignares works closely with the IRB (Institutional Review Board) team: Kelly Smidd, IRB Administrator, Trinity Health Michigan Regional IRB #1 and IRB #2; Cindy Johnston, IRB Administrator, Trinity Health Michigan Regional IRB #3; Melody Dallo, IRB Administrator, Trinity Health Michigan Regional IRB #4; Brenda Hoffman, Quality Assurance/Clinical Research Billing Auditor, Trinity Health and Pamela Ryan, Administrative Assistant, Business Operations, Trinity Health.

Our IRB Team goal is to provide our ministries with the guidance and expertise necessary to ensure both clinical and non-clinical research is performed in a compliant manner. We remain committed to our stakeholders and to our patients to promote research opportunities and access to innovative clinical therapies at Trinity Health ministries.

Dr. Insignares holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Barry University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Miami.

For more information, contact Kelly Insignares at: Kelly.Insignares@trinity-health.org or 734-712-3283



TRINITY HEALTH ANN ARBOR AND CANCER RESEARCH

TRINITY HEALTH SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ONCOLOGY RESEARCH LEADERSHIP



Left to Right:

Tareq Al Baghdadi, MD, Medical Director
Oncology Research, Principal Investigator (PI) –
MCRC-NCORP

Elie Dib, MD, MS, FACP, Deputy PI MCRC-NCORP,
National Cancer Institute Clinical Scientist

Rose Juhasz, PhD, Dir. Oncology Research, Non-
Physician Investigator, & Institutional Business
Official-NIH Research

MICHIGAN CANCER RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Trinity Health Ann Arbor (THAA) Hospital is the National Institutes of Health-National Cancer Institute grant recipient (\$3.4M yearly) and leading site for operations, administration, and regulatory processes for the Michigan Cancer Research Consortium-National Community Oncology Research Program (MCRC-NCORP). MCRC is a top five funded and performing NCORP among 42 national programs that are held to the highest standards for oncology research. MCRC encompasses the NCI research work of Trinity Health's Cancer Center sites in southeast Michigan. These sites account for nearly 65% of MCRC enrollments. In addition to Trinity Health's cancer care centers in Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Livonia, Livingston, and Oakland, MCRC also has external members:

- University of Michigan Health-Sparrow
- MyMichigan Health
- Henry Ford Health Detroit community sites
- Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Holy Cross Hospital in the Trinity Health Florida region
- Saint Alphonsus Health System in Trinity Health West Region

For more information visit mcrconline.org.

NCI CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD GRANTED TO ELIE DIB, MD, MS, FACP



In 2024, **Elie Dib, MD, MS, FACP**, received a five-year NCI Clinician Scientist award grant of \$566,000. This award recognizes his dedication to the continued improvement and growth of MCRC research, in collaboration with MCRC leadership. Dr. Dib's most notable accomplishments include serving as community co-chair for 10 national clinical trials and a strong publication record.

Nationally, Dr. Dib holds an elected seat on NCI's Genitourinary Cancers Steering Committee, which addresses the design, prioritization, and evaluation of clinical trials for treatment of cancers in the urinary and reproductive systems. He is Associate Program Director of the THAA Hospital Hematology-Oncology Fellowship Training program and serves as an Adjunct Faculty Lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches Cancer Genomics.

A panel of NCI grant reviewers — representing academic medical centers nationwide — gave the highest rating of “Outstanding” to Dr. Dib's credentials, MCRC's leadership and environment, and the potential impact of the funding. Dr. Dib is the only community-based oncologist in the nation to obtain the award, which is given to a select few clinicians each year. Since joining MCRC in 2016, Dr. Dib has enrolled and managed more than 200 patients in trials, in partnership with the Oncology Research Nurse team.

Read full media coverage of Dr. Dib's award here thesuntimesnews.com/chelsea-hospital-oncologist-receives-566000-grant/

TRINITY HEALTH SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ONCOLOGY RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH CORE SERVICES

Industry-Sponsored Pharmaceutical Research

In 2024, THAA was first in the nation to administer Amgen's Tarlatamab — an innovative immunotherapy — through an international Phase III trial on advanced-stage Small Cell Lung Cancer. Tarlatamab has since received FDA accelerated approval based on trial results. Our sites are currently recruiting to test subcutaneous delivery of the drug, which is expected to have fewer side effects than standard treatment. Dr. Tareq Al Baghdadi is the Principal Investigator of both trials and oversees all Oncology Pharmaceutical research as Medical Director of Oncology Research for Trinity Health Southeast Michigan. Nearly 75 other industry-sponsored trials are offered to patients that span a full breadth of cancer diagnoses and stages.



(L-R): *IDS Pharmacy Tech Michelle Dettling and Pharmacy Coordinator Rana Craft, PharmD*

Investigational Drug Services (IDS) – Research Pharmacy

IDS is an institutional research core service maintained by the oncology research program. It serves all research protocols, originating through THAA, involving experimental drugs, regardless of specialty condition. In 2024, IDS research productivity included:

Nearly 1,300 dispenses for Oncology trials spread across 400 unique patients

- **99** total dispenses for Gastroenterology trials for 82 unique patients
- **95** total dispenses for Cardiology trials for 83 unique patients
- Site initiation visits for **26** new commercially sponsored trials

BIOBANKING INITIATIVES

National Cancer Institute Cancer Moonshot Biobank

A \$100,000 competitive research award, from NCI and Theradex Oncology, was given to co-Principal Investigators, Drs. Juhasz and Al Baghdadi, for Cancer Moonshot Biobank (CMB) operations and engagement initiatives aimed at cancer providers and patients. The project's engagement goals are to build awareness and trust for cancer specimen biobanking and to reinforce the scientific usefulness of tissue banking in cancer research. CMB primarily collects tumor tissue of advanced cancers to assess responses to oncologic drugs. More than 30 Trinity Health Southeast Michigan patients have elected to have their specimens shipped to the bank.



Scan to see more about the Moonshot Biobank.

BIOREPOSITORY & RESEARCH LAB SERVICES AT TRINITY HEALTH ANN ARBOR

The THAA Biorepository, or Tissue Bank, was designed and implemented as a research support resource, aligned with NCI best practices for biobanking in Spring 2011. On an ongoing basis, many specimen types — from both cancer and non-cancer pathologies and histology — circulate through the system. The tissue donations support research efforts that may be organized at the federal level or by commercial sponsors. Since its inception, nearly 2,500 specimen donations have been made.

The Biorepository is run by the Oncology Research Lab team. This team also serves as a high-volume institutional research core service that collects and processes specimens for a variety of oncology and non-oncology clinical studies running at the Trinity Health Southeast Michigan locations. In 2024, their research productivity led to:

Nearly \$75K in research revenue FY23-FY25

- **572** Oncology research samples
- **177** samples for Cardiac studies
- **515** samples for Gastroenterology research
- **29** enrollments to Tissue Bank for specimen submissions
- **21** enrollments to other Biobanking studies



(L-R): Four members of the Research Lab team: Ruchi Patel, Rachel Ploskodniak (Lab Project Manager), Dannie Jones, and Megan Millis

HIGH-IMPACT STUDIES CO-LED BY MCRC-NCORP

Innovative Treatment Trials

MCRC Principal Investigator Tareq Al Baghdadi, MD, is the national community co-chair to nearly 10 NCI protocols, for which he has helped design, lead recruitment, and published results. Several of the active studies, with MCRC as a high enroller nationally, include:

- **The Janus Rectal Cancer Trial:** a randomized phase II/III trial testing the efficacy of triplet versus doublet chemotherapy regarding clinical complete response and disease-free survival in patients with locally-advanced rectal cancer.
- **Randomized Phase II Study** of the Addition of Targeted Therapeutic Agents to Tafasitamab-Based Therapy in Non-Transplant-Eligible Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphoma.

In 2022, Dr. Al Baghdadi was elected for a three-year term to the NCI Lymphoma Steering Committee to help shape the national research agenda for this disease. He provides lymphoma study updates at multiple meetings each year.

MICHIGAN
**CANCER
RESEARCH**
CONSORTIUM

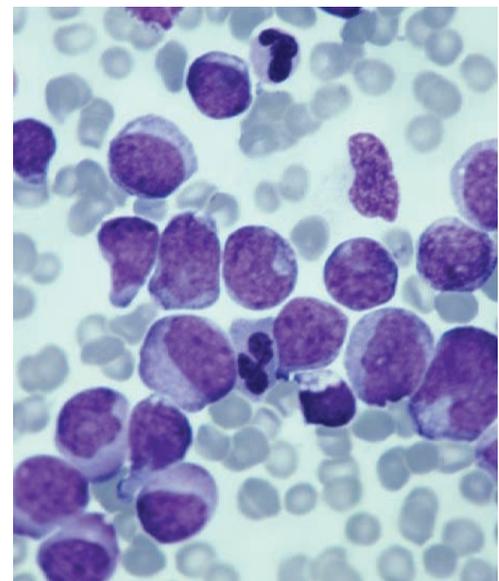
NCI COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY
RESEARCH PROGRAM

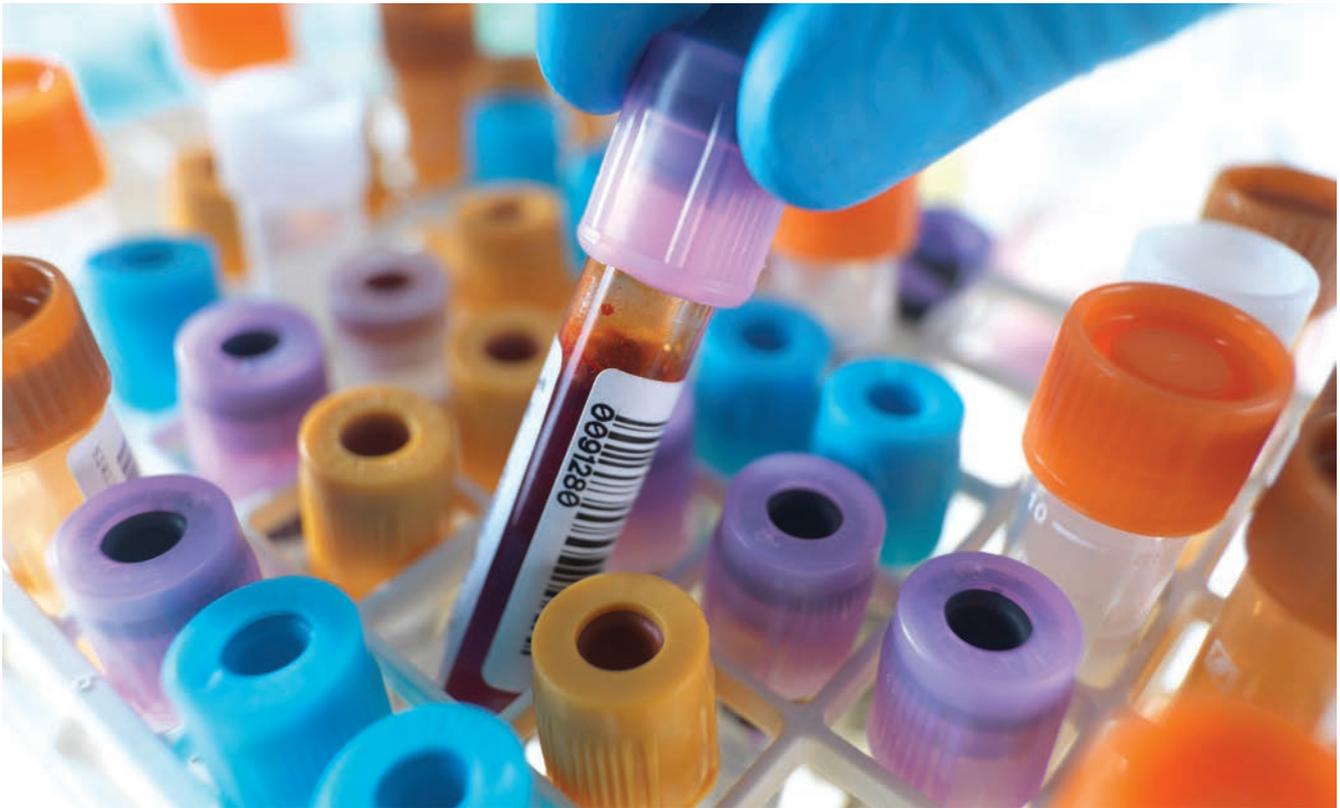
LONGITUDINAL COHORT STUDIES

Since 2015, Dr. Al Baghdadi has served on the National MDS (Myelodysplastic Syndromes) Leadership Committee, which designed, launched, and implemented the national MDS Natural History Study about the rare bone marrow cancer. The National MDS Study will enable scientists to conduct research that will improve the way MDS is diagnosed and how it is treated. The study will also enable scientists, patients, and their families to better understand what to expect when a patient is diagnosed with MDS. MCRC enrolled 75 patients of the 2,115 total, in this trial.

Dr. Al Baghdadi's recent publications on the data set include examinations of:

- Targeted gene sequencing to differentiate myeloid malignancies from other cytopenic conditions
- Health-related quality of life and vulnerability among people with MDS
- Difficulty in diagnosing the disease and implications on treatment and national surveillance of the condition when misdiagnosis occurs





SOCIAL GENOMIC MECHANISMS OF HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT SURVIVORS OF HODGKIN AND NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

In collaboration with University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center researchers and the NCI, THAA serves as one of the study's national enrollment hubs. THAA was selected for this work along with just three other NCORPs, in 2024. The study will enroll 2,000 participants and collect blood samples and patient surveys at numerous time points for two years. The study is a meaningful and mutual opportunity for researchers and patients to explore the unique relationships of environmental influences, social factors, and general wellbeing with lymphoma outcomes and survival. MCRC already has nearly 30 patients from across the nation enrolled in the study.

To learn more about the study, visit aftercancergenomics.org.

INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHT



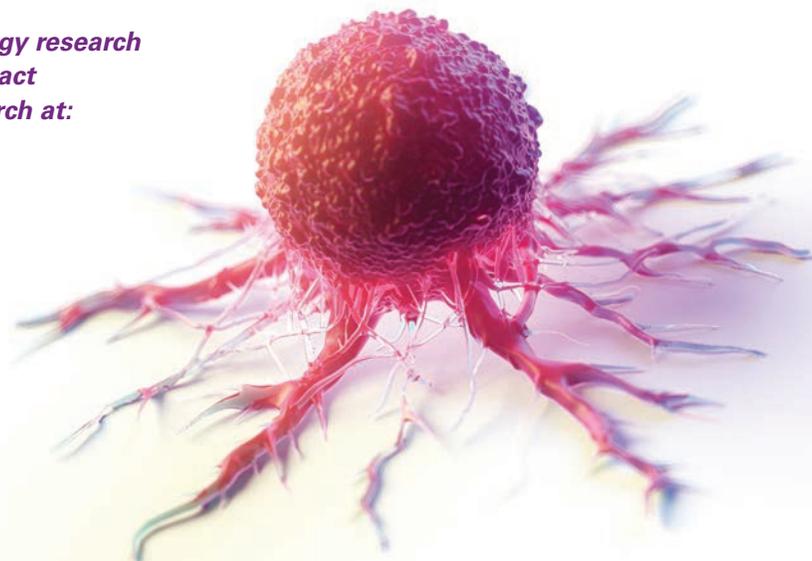
Ibrahim Azar, MD, Site Principal Investigator, Trinity Health Oakland Hospital, Pontiac, Michigan, was recognized at the 2024 annual NCORP meeting held in Bethesda, Maryland, for outstanding performance in the Cancer Care Delivery Research study "A Cluster Randomized Trial Comparing an Educationally Enhanced Genomic Tumor Board (eGTB) Intervention to Usual Practice to Increase Evidence-Based Genome Informed Therapy." In total, 94 Trinity Health Southeast Michigan patients had their cases discussed at the national tumor board to assess next directions for treatment and to determine what additional clinical trial offerings might be possible to target genomic mutations.

2024 HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

- Alvarez, J. A., Shi, Q., Dasari, A., Garcia-Aguilar, J., Sanoff, H., George, T. J., Hong, T., Yothers, G., Philip, P., Nelson, G., Al Baghdadi, T., Alese, O. B., Zambare, W., Omer, D., Verheij, F. S., Bercz, A., Kim, M. J., Buckley, J., Williams, H., & George, M. (2024). Alliance A022104/NRG-GI010: *The Janus Rectal Cancer Trial: A randomized phase II/III trial testing the efficacy of triplet versus doublet chemotherapy regarding clinical complete response and disease-free survival in patients with locally advanced rectal cancer.* BMC Cancer, 24(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-024-12529-7>
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- Dib, E. G., Bekkerman, M., Abbas, J., Shanmugasundaram, M., Banerjee, D., He, G., Slaby, O., Elsherif, M., & Ge, M. (2024). *Genomic Profiling of the Hallmarks of Cancer.* Precision Oncogenomics, 1(1), 2264176. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2835431.1.2023.2264176>
- Rodon, J., Rodriguez, E., Maitland, M. L., Tsai, F. Y.-C., M.A. Socinski, Berlin, J. D., Thomas, J. S., Al Baghdadi, T, Wang, I.-M., Guo, C., M. Golmakani, Clark, L. N., M. Gazdoui, Li, M., & A.W. Tolcher. (2024). *A phase I study to evaluate the safety, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of PF-06939999 (PRMT5 inhibitor) in patients with selected advanced or metastatic tumors with high incidence of splicing factor gene mutations.* ESMO Open, 9(4), 102961–102961. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2024.102961>
- Sahai, V., Rothe, M., Mangat, P. K., Garrett-Mayer, E., Suhag, V., Dib, E. G., Mehmi, I., Kadakia, K. C., Pisick, E., Duvivier, H. L., Le, P., Li, R., Michelin, D. P., Wilcox, R. E., Grantham, G. N., Hinshaw, D. C., Gregory, A., Halabi, S., & Schilsky, R. L. (2024). *Regorafenib in Patients With Solid Tumors With BRAF Alterations: Results From the Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study.* JCO Precision Oncology, 8, e2300527. <https://doi.org/10.1200/PO.23.00527>
- Shah, N., Dib, E. G., Joseph, N., & Fontana, R. J. (2024). *Granulomatous hepatitis: Is it bugs, drugs, or other untoward culprits?* Clinical Liver Disease, 23(1), e0125. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CLD.0000000000000125>
- Smith, M. R., Jegede, O. A., Martin, P., Till, B. G., Parekh, S. S., Yang, D. T., Hsi, E. D., Witzig, T., Dave, S., Scott, D., Hanson, C., Kostakoglu Shields, L., Abdel-Samad, N., Casulo, C., Bartlett, N. L., Caimi, P. F., Al Baghdadi, T., Blum, K. A., Romer, M. D., & Inwards, D. J. (2024). *Randomized study of induction with bendamustine-rituximab ± bortezomib and maintenance with rituximab ± lenalidomide for MCL.* Blood, 144(10), 1083–1092. <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2024023962>

For information or approvals regarding Oncology research across Trinity Health Southeast Michigan, contact Rose Juhasz, PhD, Director of Oncology Research at:
Rose.Juhasz@trinity-health.org.

For Investigational Drug Services support or questions at Trinity Health Ann Arbor, contact Rana Craft, PharmD at:
Rana.Craft@trinity-health.org



SOS MATERNITY PROGRAM: IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR MICHIGAN MOMS AND BABIES

Advocating for Maternal Health



Pooja Mittal Green, MD, is a passionate advocate for maternal health in Michigan. She currently serves as Core Clinical Faculty in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, a resident research mentor, and an Institutional Review Board (IRB) member at THAA. Dr. Green completed her Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Perinatology Research Branch at Wayne State University, where she later served as the Labor and Delivery Section Head, coordinating and conducting obstetrical research.

Over her two-decade career, Dr. Green has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, establishing herself as a prolific researcher in the fields of maternal and infant health. Her work spans diverse areas, including preeclampsia, preterm birth, and the social determinants of health affecting maternal outcomes. Dr. Green's deep expertise in patient education, clinical research ethics, and community health outreach has made her a trusted voice in her field.

Dr. Green's leadership in the SOS Maternity Program reflects her commitment to reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting access to evidence-based medical interventions. She has been instrumental in securing state funding for innovative maternal health programs and has collaborated extensively with academic and health care leaders to drive impactful change. In addition to her clinical and research roles, Dr. Green is known for her dedication to mentoring the next generation of maternal-fetal medicine specialists, empowering young researchers, and advancing health care equity for mothers and infants across Michigan.

About the SOS Maternity Program

The SOS Maternity Program, sponsored by the State of Michigan and led by Wayne State University's Office of Women's Health, is a statewide initiative focused on reducing preeclampsia and preterm birth rates through two straightforward medical interventions: low-dose aspirin starting at 12 weeks' gestation and cervical length screening around 20 weeks' gestation. In addition to these evidence-based interventions, the program provides SOS Moms with pregnancy care packages, free aspirin, financial incentives, and free Lyft rides to prenatal appointments, reducing transportation barriers to care. The program began enrolling patients in July 2024 and has already seen significant success, with more than 200 patients enrolled at the Trinity Health Arbor Park OBGYN site, making it the highest-enrollment site within the SOS Maternity Network.

Trinity Health's Role in the SOS Maternity Program

The program's success at Trinity Health is the result of strong collaboration. Dr. Green has garnered significant support from her OBGYN colleagues, who are deeply invested in the program's goals. The Trinity Health research department also plays a critical role, supporting the program's operations and data collection.



Program Launch and Early Success

The SOS Maternity Program began enrolling patients in July 2024 at the Trinity Health Arbor Park OBGYN. To date, the Arbor Park site has enrolled more than 200 patients, making it the highest-enrollment site within the SOS Maternity Network. This achievement is largely due to the efforts of dedicated staff like SOS Navigator Basra Keynan and Reserach Coordinator Kristy Wippler, RN.

Expansion to Cherry Hill OBGYN

Following the success at Arbor Park, the program is now expanding to the Cherry Hill OBGYN site in Canton. This site will begin enrolling patients at the end of May under the guidance of SOS Navigator Mackenzie Mermiges. Special thanks to Medical Director Christine Pipitone, MD, for supporting the launch of this site.

Mother's Day Celebration

On May 2, 2025, the SOS Maternity community gathered for a Mother's Day Community Baby Shower at The Farm on the THAA campus. The event, held in collaboration with Wayne State's Office of Women's Health, drew more than 100 attendees and featured free gifts, raffle prizes, and a speech by Dr. Green. We extend our gratitude to The Farm for generously donating the space for this celebration.



Mother's Day Community Baby Shower Celebration at The Farm on the Trinity Health Ann Arbor campus.



(L-R) Basra Keynan, Mackenzie Mermiges, Pooja Green, MD and Kristy Wippler, RN

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our partners at Wayne State University's Office of Women's Health, including Dr. Sonia Hassan, for their ongoing support. Additionally, special thanks go to the dedicated staff at Trinity Health Arbor Park OBGYN, including **Caitilin Parker, MD**, and **Jessica Baker**, for their commitment to making this program a success.



Caitilin Parker, MD



Jessica Baker

MICHIGAN HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE

PIONEERING CARDIOVASCULAR AND MULTISPECIALTY RESEARCH

At Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute, our commitment to clinical research is a cornerstone of our mission to provide cutting-edge cardiovascular care. Our team is dedicated to advancing the understanding and treatment of cardiovascular disease through innovative clinical trials. With approximately 37 active studies, including 24 currently open for enrollment and 13 in follow-up, we remain at the forefront of cardiovascular research, offering our patients early access to promising therapies and groundbreaking treatments.



EXPANDING BEYOND CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

While our foundation is in cardiovascular medicine, our research efforts extend across multiple specialties, reflecting our broader commitment to advancing patient care in all fields. We collaborate with leading academic institutions, global pharmaceutical companies, and medical device manufacturers to test new drugs, devices, and treatment protocols. Our work not only contributes to the scientific community but also enhances our clinical practice, attracts high-quality physicians and staff, and supports our mission to improve patient outcomes.

CURRENT ACTIVE STUDIES

- **Cardiothoracic Surgery:** LEAAPS (AtriCure, Inc.), A2CPS (NIH & the University of Michigan)
- **Coronary Artery Disease:** COMPLETE TAVR (UBC), CREDIBLE (Pritikin ICD, LLC), ARTEMIS (Novo Nordisk Inc.) FRACTURE (Bolt Medical)
- **Heart Failure:** DAPA ACT HF-TIMI 68 (Brigham and Women's Hospital), HERMES (Novo Nordisk Inc.), BalanceD-HF (AstraZeneca AB), EASi-HF (Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.)
- **Devices for Heart Failure:** CardiAMP (BioCardia), AIM HIGHER (Impulse Dynamics), Optimizer Smart PAS (Impulse Dynamics)
- **Electrophysiology Disorders:** SIMPLAAFY (Boston Scientific Corporation), REACT-AF (NHLI), BACKBEAT (Orchestra BioMed)
- **Hyperlipidemia:** CORALreef (Merck Sharp & Dohme, LLC), ACCLAIM-Lp(a) (Eli Lilly and Company)
- **Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Disorders:** PE-TRACT (NYU Grossman School of Medicine)
- **Obstetrics and Gynecology:** SOS MATERNITY (State of Michigan)
- **Follow-up Studies:** BIO-LIBRA (Biotronik, Inc.), TARGET-IV (Shanghai MicroPort Medical), VICTORION - 1 and 2 PREVENT (Novartis Pharmaceuticals), PREVAIL (NewAmsterdam Pharma B.V.) and more.



OUR RESEARCH TEAM

The Michigan Heart research team includes seven registered nurse research coordinators, part-time administrative support, a part-time regulatory specialist, and a billing specialist. Together, they bring decades of clinical and research experience, ensuring the highest standards of patient care and data integrity. This skilled team is essential to our mission, providing the backbone for our research efforts and enabling us to deliver innovative care to our patients.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we continue to expand our research portfolio, we remain focused on advancing medical and health research, improving patient outcomes, and contributing to the global body of medical knowledge across a range of specialties.

TRINITY HEALTH ANN ARBOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) RESEARCH

Trinity Health Ann Arbor Academic Research Department

The Trinity Health Academic Research Department at THAA is dedicated to supporting high-quality clinical research that enhances patient care across our health care system. We provide comprehensive, end-to-end support for investigator-initiated studies, ensuring scientific rigor, operational feasibility, and alignment with clinical priorities. Our team assists investigators from the early stages of study development, conducting preparatory reviews, feasibility assessments, protocol refinement, resource and patient inclusion evaluations, and sample size determination.

In addition to faculty-led research, we actively support resident research projects, leading to scholarly outputs such as abstracts, posters, and peer-reviewed publications. We also help residents pursuing competitive fellowship placements by guiding them through impactful research experiences that strengthen their academic portfolios.

Our dedicated project managers — Nivya Kolli PharmD, PhD; Shubha Kulkarni MS; and Jane Wang, MPH — offer hands-on coordination, managing timelines, IRB submissions, regulatory documentation, and cross-functional communication. We develop secure, customized data collection platforms using REDCap for efficient and accurate data management. Our collaboration with the Center for Statistical Training and Consulting (CSTAT) at Michigan State University provides expert biostatistical support, ensuring sound study design, thorough analysis, and accurate interpretation of results.

Our team remains engaged through the final stages of manuscript development and publication, helping researchers disseminate their findings to contribute to evidence-based clinical care. From concept to publication, the Academic Research Department is a committed partner in elevating research that improves patient outcomes and fosters academic growth across THAA.

INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHT



Robert K. Cleary, MD, FACS, FASCRS – Advancing Excellence in Colon & Rectal Surgery
Dr. Robert K. Cleary is a leading colon and rectal surgeon at THAA, where he serves as Program Director of the Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship. A Michigan native, he completed his medical training at Wayne State University and his surgical residency at Trinity Health, followed by a fellowship at Parkland/Presbyterian Hospitals. Nationally, he is Past President of the Association of Program Directors in Colon and Rectal Surgery and current Vice Chair of the ACGME Colon and Rectal Surgery Residency Review Committee, reflecting his strong commitment to surgical education and mentorship.

Dr. Cleary is a pioneer in robotic surgery and helped build Trinity Health's multidisciplinary robotic surgery program. He co-developed the first national robotic training curriculum for colorectal surgery fellows, now used across the country. With over 95 peer-reviewed publications, his research focuses on minimally invasive surgery, rectal cancer outcomes, and enhanced recovery. He also serves on Michigan Surgical Quality Collaborative committees and contributes to national surgical standards through the American College of Surgeons.

Known for his compassionate care, Dr. Cleary is valued by patients and colleagues for his expertise and clear communication. He practices at Trinity Health IHA Medical Group in Ann Arbor and is affiliated with Trinity Health Ann Arbor, Chelsea, and Livingston Hospitals. His dedication to innovation and education continues to strengthen Trinity Health's commitment to excellence in care.

RESEARCH WINNERS 2025: THAA GME RESEARCH PROGRAM

- **First Place: Max Guarda, MD – Internal Medicine**

Guarda, M., Hanson, A., Langenfeld, H., Crowson, C., Rakholiya, J., Labarca, C., Weyand, C., Warrington, K., Koster, M. *Concordance of Relapse Symptoms in Patients with Giant Cell Arteritis*

- **Second Place: Misha Khan, MD – Internal Medicine**

Khan, M., Shellenberger, R., Patel, Y., Bellino, A., El Nayir, M., Nwaezeapu, K., Daniel, E., Zamarripa, P., Ross, I., Moon, W. *Diagnostic Accuracy of Ejection Fraction Assessment using Point-of-Care Ultrasound versus Echocardiography*

- **Third Place: Vanessa Haizel, MD – Obstetrics & Gynecology**

Haizel, V., Schon, S., Jean, D., Jiang, C., Marsh, E. *Factors Associated with Participants Willingness to Take Part in Biomedical Research*

- **Fourth Place (tie): Stephanie Mackenzie, DO – Internal Medicine**

Mackenzie, S., Nasir, A., Malik, D., Tobin, C., Dhillon, R., Lanka, M., Burman, I., Suneja, A. *Follow-up of Abnormal CT Scan Results in the Academic Clinic at a Community Hospital: Comparison of Teaching and Non-Teaching Primary Care Offices*

- **Fourth Place (tie): Hannah Wang, PharmD – Pharmacy**

Wang, H., Sudekum, D., Wang, S., Heubner, M., Cheriyan, B. *Evaluating the Timing of Initiation of Adjunctive Measures in Septic Shock*

CELEBRATING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

We are thrilled to highlight the latest achievements in GME Research. Our institution continues to drive advancements in health care through impactful publications and presentations.

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

- Sheehan E, Brockhaus KK, Huebner M, Ma W, Kolli N, Cleary RK. *Risk factors for ileus after enhanced recovery robotic colectomy mediated by postoperative opioids: a single institution analysis*. Surg Endosc. 2025 May 2. doi: 10.1007/s00464-025-11752-y. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40316749.
- Kamara, M., Baur, K., Langmeyer, J., Huebner, M., Ramm, C., Cleary, R. K., *Early discharge after enhanced recovery rectal resection does not increase emergency department visits and readmissions: a single institution analysis*. Surg Endosc. 2024 Aug;38(8):4251-4259. doi: 10.1007/s00464-024-10967-9. Epub 2024 Jun 11. PMID: 38862825.
- Baur, K., Sood, E. M., Huebner, M., Ramm, C., Kolli, N., Cleary, R. K. *Early Discharge after Enhanced Recovery Colectomy Does Not Increase Emergency Department Visits and Readmissions: A Single Institution Analysis*. Am Surg. 2024 Jun;90(6):1439-1446. doi: 10.1177/00031348241241653. Epub 2024 Mar 23. PMID: 38520237.
- Brewer, J., Kamara, M., Huebner, M., Taxakis, E., Grajewski, K., Ramm, C., Cleary, R. K. *Operative trends following the adoption of nonoperative management of rectal cancer*. J Surg Oncol. 2024 May;129(6):1139-1149. doi: 10.1002/jso.27605. Epub 2024 Feb 26. PMID: 38406980.
- Diaz, S., Brockhaus, K. K., Bobel, M. C., Colom, S. M., Ramm, C., Cleary, R. K. *Pain and opioid use after colorectal resection for benign versus malignant disease: A single institution analysis*. Am J Surg. 2024 Jun;232:131-137. doi: 10.1016/j.amjsurg.2024.01.034. Epub 2024 Feb 8. PMID: 38365550.
- Westfall, K. M., Rivard, S. J., Suwanabol, P. A., Albright, J. J., Ramm, C. A., Cleary, R.K. *Postoperative Oral Rehydration and Regimented Follow-up Decrease Readmissions After Colorectal Surgery That Includes Ileostomies*. Dis Colon Rectum. 2024 Feb 1;67(2):313-321. doi: 10.1097/DCR.0000000000002935. Epub 2023 Sep 12. PMID: 37703205.
- Antonios, K., Aintabi, D., McNally, P., Berinstein, E., Dutta, P., Sampson, N., Wang, S., Carrillo, C. V., Singh, B., Haider, M., Shellenberger, R. A. *Risk Factors for the Development of Barrett's Esophagus and Esophageal Adenocarcinoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*. Cancer Rep (Hoboken). 2025 Mar;8(3):e70168. doi: 10.1002/cnr2.70168. PMID: 40040340; PMCID: PMC11880629.
- Zhao, Q., Palani, P., Kassab, N. S., Terzic, M., Olejnik, M., Wang, S., Tomassini-Lopez, Y., Dean, C., Shellenberger, R. A. *Evidence-based approach to the shoulder examination for subacromial bursitis and rotator cuff tears: a systematic review and meta-analysis*. BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2024 Dec 19;25(1):1028. doi: 10.1186/s12891-024-08144-z. PMID: 39702033; PMCID: PMC11660602.
- Baur, K., Brockhaus K. K., Huebner, M., Kolli, N., Robert K Cleary R. K., *Pain and opioid use after colectomy with natural orifice vs abdominal wall extraction: A single institution analysis*. Surgical Endoscopy May 2025
- Bellino, A., Suneja, A., Patel, Y., Kumar, A., Huebner, M., Smith, F. *Mortality and Readmission Outcomes for Intensive and Conventional Cardiac Rehabilitation*. Michigan Medical Education and Health Bulletin. 2024 Jun 30;1(2):A117.
- Chao, S.K., Clark, R., Susalla, M., Landis Lewis, D. *Resident Experiences at a Community Hospital Caring for Patients Who Are Incarcerated*. Journal of Correctional Health Care. 2025 Jan 27.
- Daniel, EO., Patel, YB., Bellino, A., Alsammarrhaie, N., Wong, J., Cheng, Cl., Suneja, A. *Impact Of Racial Disparity On Failure To Rescue In Patients Undergoing Cabg*. Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2025 Apr 1;85(12_Supplement):1895.
- Wang, H., Sudekum, D., & Cheriyan, B. (2025). 1565: *Shockingly Vague: Comparing Adjunctive Measures In Septic Shock*. Critical Care Medicine, 53(1).

Published Abstracts and Presentations

- *Comparing adjunctive measures in septic shock*. Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy
- **Poster Presentation:** *Evaluating alcohol withdrawal management and its impact on escalation of care*. American College of Clinical Pharmacy 2024 Conference

These accomplishments reflect our commitment to academic excellence and innovation, showcasing the collaborative efforts of our residents and faculty.

**To learn more about research at THAA, contact Sarah Whitsett, RN, MSN, CCRN, CCRC,
Director of Research at:** Sarah.Whitsett@trinity-health.org.



TRINITY HEALTH OAKLAND

TRINITY HEALTH OAKLAND HOSPITAL SITE OVERVIEW

Our clinical research department employs clinical research nurses who assist in conducting a variety of clinical studies. Currently, we have active trials in Cardiovascular and Neurology providing emergent treatment opportunities to our patients.

CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY HIGHLIGHT

The SPYRAL AFFIRM Global Clinical Study of Renal Denervation With the Symplicity Spyril Renal Denervation System in Subjects With Uncontrolled Hypertension (SPYRAL AFFIRM)

Principal Investigator: Kiritkumar Patel, MD

Trinity Health Oakland (THOA) is actively enrolling patients to join a High Blood Pressure Clinical Study, which is seeking to investigate the safety, effectiveness, and long-term impact of the FDA-approved Medtronic Symplicity™ blood pressure procedure in patients with uncontrolled hypertension.

The purpose of this single-arm interventional study is to evaluate the long-term safety, efficacy, and durability of the Symplicity Spyril system in subjects treated with renal denervation.

Additionally, long-term follow-up data will also be collected from eligible subjects previously treated in the SPYRAL PIVOTAL-SPYRAL HTN-OFF MED and SPYRAL HTN-ON MED studies.

The study team at THOA has enrolled 14 subjects, eight of whom have received treatment with the renal denervation procedure. The study is approximately halfway through enrollment.

INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHT



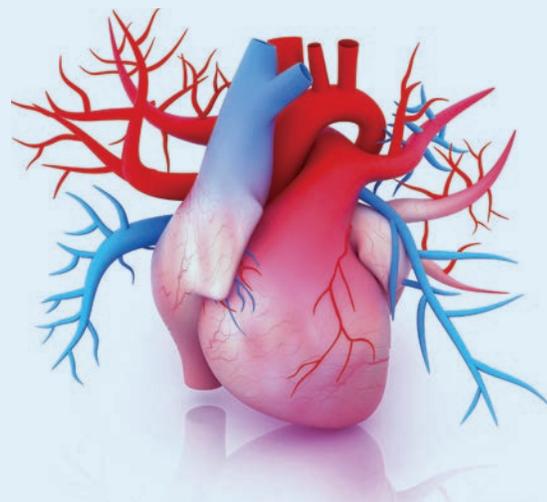
Kirit Patel, MD, is a true pioneer in cardiology. As Chair, division of Cardiology, his contributions are on the forefront at THOA by developing our catheterization laboratory, coordinating cutting-edge research, and actively contributing to all areas of cardiology for patient care. Dr. Patel was chairman for the Department of Medicine at THOA from 2017 to 2023. In 2019, he received the prestigious Excellence in Care Award for leading the medical team that responded to an extraordinary case involving a patient experiencing cardiogenic shock following a heart attack. Dr. Patel is an interventional cardiologist and has been actively involved in both clinical practice and medical education.

He holds leadership roles at THOA as a board member and is the current Program Director of the Cardiology Fellowship program. Dr. Patel is also Associate Professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine and is a physician and board member at Cardiology and Vascular Associates in Bloomfield Hills.

Dr. Patel is skilled in performing complex cardiovascular procedures, including Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), Mitral Valve Repair, Left Atrial Appendage Closure, Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair, and Peripheral Vascular Interventions. He has also contributed to multiple clinical trials and is dedicated to advancing cardiovascular care through both research and education. Dr. Patel has been tireless in his participation in more than 60 industry-sponsored trials involving pharmaceuticals and devices; he has also been published in over 60 peer-reviewed articles. The following is a list of his publications over the past few years:

- Varma Y, Jena NK, Arsene C, Patel K, Sule AA, Krishnamoorthy G. *Disparities in the management of non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction in the United States*. Int J Cardiol. 2023 Jul 15; 383:132-139. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2023.04.038. Epub 2023 May 1. PMID: 37137356.
- Jehangir Q, Lee O, Kakouros N, Ahluwalia G, Mir T, Bhardwaj S, Maqbool M, Qureshi M, Halabi A, DeGregorio M, Patel K, Qureshi W. *Impact of Preexisting Mental Illness On Procedural Outcomes In Patients Undergoing Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement*. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2023 Mar, 81 (8_Supplement) 973.
- Li P, Lee Y, Jehangir Q, Lin CH, Krishnamoorthy G, Sule AA, Halabi AR, Patel K, Poisson L, Nair GB. *SARS-COV-ATE risk assessment model for arterial thromboembolism in COVID-19*. Sci Rep. 2022 Sep 28;12(1):16176. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-18510-3. PMID: 36171201; PMCID: PMC9516525.
- Lee Y, Jehangir Q, Lin CH, Li P, Sule AA, Poisson L, Balijepally V, Halabi AR, Patel K, Krishnamoorthy G, Nair GB. *3D-PAST: Risk Assessment Model for Predicting Venous Thromboembolism in COVID-19*. J Clin Med. 2022 Jul 7;11(14):3949. doi: 10.3390/jcm11143949. PMID: 35887713; PMCID: PMC9325096.
- Jehangir Q, Lee Y, Latack K, Poisson L, Wang DD, Song S, Apala DR, Patel K, Halabi AR, Krishnamoorthy G, Sule AA. *Data of atrial arrhythmias in hospitalized COVID-19 and influenza patients*. Data Brief. 2022 Jun; 42:108177. doi: 10.1016/j.dib.2022.108177. Epub 2022 Apr 14. PMID: 35449710; PMCID: PMC9008092

He is passionate about his philanthropic work in Sevak Project, which provides access to meeting the needs and care of people in rural India. Dr. Patel has contributed greatly to the Rotary Eye Institute of Nasvari, which assists low-income families in India, as well.



TRINITY HEALTH OAKLAND GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) RESEARCH

To assist with all research processes and projects, Trinity Health Oakland has an active Institutional Review Board and Research compliance, GME Research Specialist Melody Dallo, plus medical staff and a research statistician. Regular classes in IRB submission, critical thinking, and manuscript preparation are available for residents, students, and faculty at THOA.

Currently, we have a high volume of GME-related studies in different specialties and categories. Our residents routinely publish in peer-reviewed medical journals and present award-winning projects at local, regional, and national conferences.

Trinity Health Oakland helps lead the annual GME Regional Resident Research Day Forum. This event includes scientific presentations by residents on research topics including clinical case reports, quality improvement studies/educational innovation studies, and original research. New this year: The event will include a Medical Student section, providing medical students the opportunity to submit and present their research.



RESIDENT CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT

ACP Michigan Chapter - Doctors Dilemma competition winning team:

(L-R) Kshitij Mahajan, MD; Nikhil Vojjala, MD; Sharanya Ezhilarasan, MD; and Rishab Prabhu, MD

2024 TRINITY HEALTH OAKLAND NOTABLE GME PUBLICATIONS

- Aldecoa KAT, Arsene C, Krishnamoorthy G, Chng T, Cherry G, Chowdhury N, Clark R, Deeb D, Deptula L, Dietz G, Eto E, Golston V, Lawson L, Mbionwu C, Okponyia O, Orejuela J, Qipo T, Raut S, Goodman J. *Risk and Protective Factors for COVID-19 Infection among Pregnant Women with Sick Cell Trait*. Adv Hematol. 2024 Jun 12;2024:1595091. doi: 10.1155/2024/1595091. PMID: 38899005; PMCID: PMC11186680 Journal of Surgical Oncology
- Aldecoa KAT, Pidikiti R, Brar J, Krishnamoorthy G, Kalyan S, Cosma C, Chitagi P. *Challenges in Diagnosing Post-Splenectomy Cytomegalovirus Mononucleosis*. Eur J Case Rep Intern Med. 2024 Jan 8;11(2):004263. doi: 10.12890/2024_004263. PMID: 38352817; PMCID: PMC10860906
- Al-Sharrak L, Satei AM, Pannu RS, Pappas GM. *Spectrum of cryptococcal manifestations in a young male with human immunodeficiency virus*. Radiol Case Rep . 2024 Sep 25;19(12):6380-6384. doi: 10.1016/j.radcr.2024.09.008 . PMID: 39387017; PMCID: PMC11462035
- Desai R, Vasavada A, Patel BA, Raval M, Mondal A, Mahajan K, Katukuri N, Varma Y, Jain A, Krishnamoorthy G. *Association of Prediabetes and Recurrent Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation Patients: A Population-Based Analysis of Hospitalizations and Outcomes*. J Clin Med. 2024 Jan 19;13(2):573. doi: 10.3390/jcm13020573. PMID: 38276079; PMCID: PMC10816177
- Kpughur-Tule MP, Hubers CM, Renzu M, Conway K, Satei AM, Taha W. *Parathyroid Hormone-Mediated Hypercalcemia With Remarkable Bone Mineral Density Recovery After Multiple Zoledronic Acid Infusions*. Cureus. 16(11):e73435. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.73435>. PMID: 39669861; PMCID: PMC11634556
- Shah YR, Ali H, Tiwari A, Guevara-Lazo D, Nombera-Aznaran N, Pinnam BSM, Gangwani MK, Gopakumar H, Sohail AH, Kanumilli S, Calderon-Martinez E, Krishnamoorthy G, Thakral N, Dahiya DS. *Role of fecal microbiota transplant in management of hepatic encephalopathy: Current trends and future directions*. World J Hepatol. 2024 Jan 27;16(1):17-32. doi: 10.4254/wjh.v16.i1.17. PMID: 38313244; PMCID: PMC10835490

To learn more about research at THOA, contact Lynn Boomer, MSN, RN, CCRP (Lynn.Boomer@trinity-health.org); Jenny Romlein, BSN, RN (Jenny.Romlein@trinity-health.org); or Karen Milana, MSN, RN (Karen.Milana@trinity-health.org).

RESIDENT RESEARCH AWARD



Kim Abbegail Tan Aldecoa, MD

This academic year, the award was presented to Kim Abbegail Tan Aldecoa, MD, who met all of the award criteria. Dr. Aldecoa was recognized for her excellent work in research, years of dedication as an IRB committee member at THOA, and her contributions to scholarly activity. Dr. Aldecoa will be graduating from her Internal Medicine Residency at THOA in June 2025, after which she will be starting a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at the University of California, Irvine.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT



Yash Shah, MD, Internal Medicine Resident at THOA has won multiple research awards at various conferences, listed below, in 2024 alone. He is involved in several research studies and has contributed greatly to research and scholarly activity at THOA. Dr. Shah will be graduating from his Internal Medicine Residency in June 2025 and will be starting a Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas.

- **Outstanding Poster Presenter Award: Poster Presentation:** Shah, Yash R. MD; Rao, Adishwar MD; Dahiya, Dushyant S. MD; Ali, Hassam MD; Gangwani, Manesh Kumar MD; Chandan, Saurabh MD; Tiwari, Angad MBBS; Sule, Anupam MD; Markle, Brian MD; Krishnamoorthy, Geetha MD; Batke, Mihaela MD. *Idiopathic Pancreatitis: Is the Glass Half Full?:* American College of Gastroenterology National Conference, October 2024
- **First Prize with Travel Award: Poster Presentation:** Yash R. Shah MD, Ernesto Calderon-Martinez, Dushyant Singh Dahiya MD, Saurabh Chandan MD, Manesh Kumar Gangwani MD, Hassam Ali MD, Amir H. Sohail, Sumant Inamdar MD, Rashmi Advani MD. *Endoscopic Clipping versus Suturing for Mucosotomy Closure in E-POEM and G-POEM: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis:* MI GI Society Annual Conference, June 2024
- **Featured in Gastroenterology and Endoscopy News: August 20, 2024 Poster Presentation:** Dushyant Singh Dahiya MD, Sanket Basida MD, Saurabh Chandan MD, Bhanu Siva Mohan Pinnam MD, Hassam Ali MD, Manesh Kumar Gangwani MD, Sahib Singh MD, Yash Roshan Shah MD, Daryl Ramai MD, Andrew Canakis MD, Erik Aron Holzwanger MD, Mohammad Al-Haddad MD, Neil Sharma MD, Amit Rastogi MD. *Gastric Per-Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (G-POEM) for Gastroparesis: A United States National Perspective:* Digestive Diseases Week, May 2024
- **Second Prize: Oral Presentation:** Yash Shah MD, Dushyant Singh Dahiya MD, Manesh Kumar Gangwani MD, Hassam Ali MD, Saurabh Chandan MD, Kelly Parker MD, Jennifer deLongpre MD, Anupam Sule MD, Mones Takriti MD, FACG, Sumant Inamdar MD, Loren G. Rabinowitz MD, Geetha Krishnamoorthy MD. *The Impact of Glycemic Control, GLP-1 Agonists, and Socio-Demographics on Bowel Prep: A Multicenter Retrospective Study:* SEMCME, May 2024
- **Second Prize: Oral Presentation:** Yash Shah MD, Dushyant Singh Dahiya MD, Manesh Kumar Gangwani MD, Hassam Ali MD, Saurabh Chandan MD, Kelly Parker MD, Jennifer deLongpre MD, Anupam Sule MD, Mones Takriti MD, FACG, Sumant Inamdar MD, Loren G. Rabinowitz MD, Geetha Krishnamoorthy MD. *The Impact of Glycemic Control, GLP-1 Agonists, and Socio-Demographics on Bowel Prep: A Multicenter Retrospective Study:* ACP MI Chapter, May 2024



TRINITY HEALTH LIVONIA

HIGHLIGHT OF EM – EMRAP PROGRAM

The Emergency Medicine Research Associate Program (EMRAP) began in 2013 and is an opportunity for undergraduate students to work directly with physicians to support ongoing research activities in the clinical setting of the Emergency Department.

A typical schedule consists of shifts (four to five hours) in the ED as well as classes (two hours) where those pursuing medicine learn about research studies, protocol, consents, and medical themes of interest.

The Benefit: Students are exposed to clinical research, and patient and physician interaction in the ED.

TRINITY HEALTH LIVONIA GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) RESEARCH

Trinity Health Livonia (THLA) program's overall focus is not only graduating outstanding competent and knowledgeable physicians, but also meeting scholarly activity (ACGME requirements) per program, as well as supporting physician-research and quality improvement activities. Our programs consist of:

- Internal Medicine
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Psychiatry
 - Transitional Year
 - Family Medicine
 - Podiatry
-

GME ACTIVE STUDIES

Research

- 1 Active Expedited
- 17 Active Exempt
- 1 External – collaborative
- 3 Active HCUP-NIS studies
- 3 Pending studies
- 1 grant in EM

Quality

- 15 Active projects

Case Reports

- Numerous per program



TRINITY HEALTH LIVONIA HOSPITAL GME RESEARCH

Emergency Medicine	One award for Excellence in Collaboration & Teamwork from the THLA Livonia MEDIC QI Team
Internal Medicine	2 Awards: ACP-MI & ACC International Scholarship

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

Emergency Medicine

- Keyes DC, Arroyo DL, Abdulshafi GW, Dabajeh B, Polgar J, Sakr R, Hasan S. *Seizing the Teachable Moment: A Pilot Study of Preventive Lifestyle Education in the Emergency Department*. *Cureus*. 2024 Nov 30;16(11):e74825. doi: 10.7759/cureus.74825. PMID: 39737259; PMCID: PMC11684556

Manuscripts

- Chatterjee B, Modi N, Desai K, Murugan Y, Trivedi A. *Alterations in hematologic, coagulation, and inflammatory markers based on fever status in hospitalized COVID-19 patients: A retrospective study*. *J Family Med Prim Care*. 2024 Aug;13(8):3220-3224. doi: 10.4103/jfmpc.jfmpc_226_24. Epub 2024 Jul 26. PMID: 39228600; PMCID: PMC11368334
- Freese J, Abuzaid F, Sayles H, Abdellatif M, Fadul N. *Perceptions of the COVID-19 Vaccination Within a Convenience Sample of Sudanese Americans*. *J Prim Care Community Health*. 2024 Jan-Dec;15:21501319241234868. doi:10.1177/21501319241234868. PMID: 38414263; PMCID: PMC10900865

NIS Study Abstracts

- Ayoobkhan, F, Mittal, V, Johal, P. et al. 100.14 *Understanding the Role of Chronic Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction in the In-Hospital Outcomes of Percutaneous Coronary Interventions of Chronic Total Occlusion Cases*. *J Am Coll Cardiol Intv*. 2025 Feb, 18 (4_Supplement) S9–S10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcin.2025.01.040>
- Kumar, N, Johal, P, Mittal, V. et al. 100.58 *Predictors of Non-Infectious Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome With Organ Dysfunction in Adults Undergoing Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery in Urban Teaching Centers in the United States*. *J Am Coll Cardiol Intv*. 2025 Feb, 18 (4_Supplement) S8–S9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcin.2025.01.035>

To learn more about research at THLA, contact Laurie McHugh, Project Manager, GME Research at:

Laurie.Mchugh@trinity-health.org.



WEST MICHIGAN UPDATE

TRINITY HEALTH WEST MICHIGAN OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Office of Research and Innovation at Trinity Health West Michigan is a regional service dedicated to advancing medical knowledge through a diverse array of clinical trials and research studies. The department is a key contributor to multiple therapeutic areas, offering a broad range of studies, including more than 100 oncology trials through the Cancer Research Consortium of West Michigan, and research initiatives in Neuroscience, Cardiology, Nephrology, and more. This department is committed to improving patient care and outcomes by providing opportunities for innovative treatments and therapies. The Office of Research and Innovation supports research at Trinity Health Ministries in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Shelby, and Grand Haven.

Trinity Health Grand Rapids (THGR) and Trinity Health Muskegon (THMU) have partnered with Michigan Medicine to form the Cancer Network of West Michigan and the Cardiovascular Network of West Michigan, a joint operating agreement between THMU, THGR, and Michigan Medicine. By integrating these networks into its clinical research strategy, Trinity Health West Michigan is positioning itself as a leader in offering state-of-the-art clinical trial options to local patients, many of whom will have access to treatments and therapies not yet available in standard clinical practice.



CANCER
NETWORK



CARDIOVASCULAR
NETWORK

ACTIVE STUDIES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

- **Cancer Research Consortium of West Michigan:** With more than 100 available oncology trials, this collaborative effort provides patients with access to the latest cancer treatments. For more detailed information on current studies, visit CRCWM's website.
 - **Federally Funded Studies:** The department is currently involved in 3 federally funded studies, offering support for research in high-priority health issues.
 - **Industry-Sponsored Studies:** The department manages 12 industry-sponsored studies, aimed at testing and developing new medical treatments and devices in collaboration with industry partners.
 - **Investigator-Initiated Studies:** Researchers within the department are leading 6 investigator-initiated studies, fostering original research designed to explore new frontiers in patient care and medical treatments.
 - **Nurse Research:** The department also supports 7 nursing-led studies, underscoring the vital role nurses play in advancing patient care and health care practices.
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THERAPEUTIC AREAS

- **Cardiology:** The department is running 2 cardiology studies, exploring innovations in heart disease prevention and treatment.
- **HIV:** There are 3 HIV-related studies underway, aiming to advance the treatment and care of those affected by the virus.
- **Nephrology:** The department is currently conducting 3 nephrology studies, aiming to improve kidney care and treatment for patients with kidney disease.
- **Neuroscience:** The department is conducting 9 studies in the neuroscience field, focusing on disorders of the brain and nervous system.
- **Pancreatic:** There are 2 studies focused on pancreatic conditions, including pancreatic cancer, looking for new treatment approaches.
- **Nursing:** In addition to the 7 nurse-led studies, the department is committed to supporting nursing research to enhance health care delivery and patient outcomes across various disciplines.
- **Oncology:** The Cancer Research Consortium of West Michigan facilitates over 100 oncology trials, providing patients with access to the latest advancements in cancer research and treatments. For additional information on open studies, visit CRCWM's website crcwm.org.
- **Orthopedic Device:** One ongoing study in the department is centered around orthopedic devices, with a focus on improving musculoskeletal health.
- **Urology:** The department is running 1 study in urology, addressing disorders related to the urinary system.

The Office of Research and Innovation contributes to the advancement of medical knowledge through diverse research initiatives by offering patients access to cutting-edge trials across a variety of therapeutic areas.

NURSING SCHOLARLY PRACTICE COUNCIL – GRAND RAPIDS & MUSKEGON

The Nursing Scholarly Practice Council (NSPC) has the authority and accountability to evaluate, measure, and promote nurse-led scholarly activities. Nurse-led scholarly projects include quality improvement (QI), evidence-based practice (EBP), and nursing research (NR) projects of both staff nurses and nursing students. The NSPC works in partnership with THGR's Institutional Review Board to ensure the integrity and protection of human subjects of nurse-led scholarly projects. The NSPC:

- Supports nurses who are leading or participating in scholarly projects
- Reviews submissions of new and ongoing scholarly projects
- Provides mentorship for THGR nurse investigators



TRINITY HEALTH GRAND RAPIDS

Trinity Health Grand Rapids (THGR) is a leader of clinical research within the health system, specifically focusing on studies within Neurology, Oncology, and HIV. In addition to trials and research in these spaces, THGR works closely with the Cancer Network of West Michigan and the Cardiovascular Network of West Michigan, a joint operating agreement between THGR, THMU, and Michigan Medicine, to expand access to critical clinical trials. THGR also has joint collaborations with the Van Andel Research Institute, BAMF Health, Inc., and Michigan State University. Serving as a collaborative research partner across the Grand Rapids community and the state of Michigan, Trinity Health Grand Rapids is dedicated to advancing medical knowledge, improving patient care, and addressing health disparities through rigorous and compassionate clinical research.



INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHTS

The Impact of HIV and Stress on Health Literacy



Trinity Health Grand Rapids (THGR) and Michigan State University's Department of Family Medicine have teamed up on innovative research exploring the relationship between stress, inflammation, and health literacy in patients newly diagnosed with HIV. Led by **Andrew Jameson, MD**, chief of infectious disease at THGR, the study aims to understand how psychological and biological factors influence a patient's ability to manage their health, particularly in adhering to antiretroviral therapy.

The research followed 12 patients over six months, collecting blood samples to measure viral load, CD4 count, and inflammation markers, along with questionnaires to assess stress, depression, and health literacy. The findings were striking: While overall health literacy scores remained steady, reductions in stress and C-reactive protein — a marker of inflammation — predicted improvements in health literacy at the study's conclusion.

Patients reported a significant decrease in stress, from an average of 7.33 to 3.56 on a 0-10 scale. This decrease in stress, combined with a reduction in inflammation, appears to positively impact a patient's ability to understand and engage with their HIV treatment. These results suggest that addressing psychological stress and inflammation could be key to improving patient outcomes and enhancing treatment adherence.

This study is part of THGR's broader mission to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care. By examining the interplay between mental health, inflammation, and treatment adherence, THGR continues to advance research that integrates clinical care with holistic approaches, ensuring that both physical and psychological factors are addressed in HIV treatment. This collaborative effort underscores THGR's commitment to improving the long-term health of vulnerable patient populations through innovative research.

Arnetz BB, Arnetz JE, Kaminski N, Tomlin R, Cole A, Bartlett P, Crawford R, Jameson A. *Relationship between Stress and Neuroimmunological Responses and Health Literacy in Newly Diagnosed HIV-Infected Patients: An Exploratory Study*. *AIDS Res Treat*. 2024 Sep 20;2024:3432569. doi: 10.1155/2024/3432569. PMID: 39345356; PMCID: PMC11436276.



Danette Taylor, DO, is the medical director of the Movement Disorder Clinic at THGR and has dedicated the past 25 years to advancing clinical research in movement disorders. A passionate advocate for research, Dr. Taylor has contributed to studies across a spectrum of conditions, from migraines to Parkinson's disease. Her research journey began as a sub-investigator and examiner, where she quickly recognized the vast potential for inquiry, exploring intriguing topics such as the effects of implanted genes in the brains of Parkinson's patients and the possibility of addressing foot dystonia in individuals with PD.

One particular study on foot dystonia has gained notable attention, being referenced in articles from *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, underscoring its relevance to broader health discussions.

Currently, Dr. Taylor serves as the primary investigator for two active trials: the Non-Invasive Brainstem Modulation for the Treatment of Non-Motor Symptoms in Parkinson's Disease: A Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) and Open Label Extension Study (NeuroStim), and the Multicenter, Phase 2, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Randomized, Parallel-Group Study, evaluating the efficacy, safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of UCB0022 in participants with advanced Parkinson's disease (Atlantis). These trials continue to push the boundaries of what is possible in the treatment of Parkinson's disease, driven by Dr. Taylor's unwavering dedication to improving patient outcomes.

NOTABLE PUBLISHED WORKS

- LeWitt PA, Rezaei A, et al, *AAV2-GAD gene therapy for advanced Parkinson's disease: a double-blind, sham-surgery controlled, randomised trial*. *Lancet Neurol* 2011; 10: 309–19 Published Online March 17, 2011 DOI:10.1016/S1474-4422(11)70039-4
 - **Poster Presentation**
Taylor DC. *Effect of novel toe stretcher device on foot dystonia in patients with Parkinson's disease.*, International Congress of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Society, June, 2012
-

TRINITY HEALTH GRAND RAPIDS GME UPDATE

Trinity Health Grand Rapids Scholarly Activity Symposium 2024 Winners

- **Case Report First Place Winner: Poster Presentation:** McDowell, A. C., Anderson, T. R., Turner, L. N., Haveman-Gould, B. J., Richardson, C. S., Ghuneim, A. J., & Farooq, M. U. (2024). *Basset hound ears – A highly mobile bi-atrial thrombus caught in transit through an atrial septal defect: A case report* (2024) Trinity Health Grand Rapids Scholarly Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI
 - **Clinical Research First Place Winner: Poster Presentation:** Flinn, R., Schick, J., Anderson, T., Farooq, M., & Gorelick, P. (2024). *Safety and timing of VTE prophylaxis in aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage*. Trinity Health Grand Rapids Scholarly Activity Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI
 - **Quality Initiative First Place Winner: Poster Presentation:** Olanisa, O., Merwar, G., Rai, N. S., Spoolstra, M., & Hull, B. (2024). *Does your patient need telemetry? An inpatient quality initiative to increase appropriate use of continuous cardiac monitoring*. Trinity Health Grand Rapids Scholarly Practice Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI
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OTHER NOTABLE ACTIVITY

Congratulations to the Internal Medicine program and their team who won the State competition and then represented the State of Michigan at the National ACP meeting in Boston in April 2024. The “Doctor’s Dilemma” team advanced in the competition to the top 20. They were recognized by state and national leaders at the event for their professionalism.

Adam Anderson, MD, THMU’s associate program director for Emergency Medicine and site director for THGR, was named the Michigan State College of Human Medicine's Volunteer Faculty of the Year. This award was presented by the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine class of 2024 at their annual Match Day celebration.

Cara Poland, MD, Addiction Medicine Fellowship program director, was asked to participate in a Congressional Roundtable with the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force. The task force met with addiction education experts to raise awareness about the gaps in addiction training in medical schools.

SELECTED GME PUBLICATIONS

Addiction Medicine

- Chen, L., Sethi, S., Poland, C., Frank, C., Tengelitsch, E., Goldstick, J., Sussman, J. B., Bohnert, A. S. B., & Lin, L. A. (2023). *Prescriptions for Buprenorphine in Michigan Following an Education Intervention*. *JAMA network open*, 6(12), e2349103. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.49103>
- Malinowski, R., Poland, C., Alan, J. K., & Walsh, M. O. (2023). *A Novel Approach to Addiction Medicine Education for Undergraduate Medical Students*. *Medical science educator*, 33(6), 1319–1322. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40670-023-01907-8>
- Poland, C., Stoltman, J. J. K., & Felton, J. W. (2024). *Medication for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy Is Essential*. *JAMA internal medicine*, 184(3), 254–255. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.6977>

Family Medicine

- Becker S. R. (2024). *Admitting My Attending*. *Family medicine*, 56(5), 330–331. <https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2024.944797>

Geriatrics

- Falk, C. L., Dumkow, L. E., Geyer, A. C., Schmidt, K. J., Egwuatu, N. E., Langholz, J. M., & Jameson, A. P. (2023). *Evaluation of appropriate transmission-based precautions for non-SARS-CoV-2 respiratory viruses*. *Antimicrobial stewardship & healthcare epidemiology: ASHE*, 3(1), e193. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ash.2023.472>
- Ross, K., Lynn, L., Foley, K. T., Barcsi, S. R., Widera, E., Parks, S., Luz, C., Colburn, J. L., & Leff, B. (2024). *Fellowship-trained physicians who let their geriatric medicine certification lapse: A national survey*. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 72(4), 1177–1182. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18781>

Internal Medicine

- Boerckel, H. N., Worden, L. J., Salvati, L. A., Jameson, A. P., & Dumkow, L. E. (2024). *Impact of altered mental status on antibiotic prescribing and outcomes in hospitalized patients presenting with pyuria*. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association : JAPhA*, 64(3), 102043. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2024.102043>
- Falk, C. L., Dumkow, L. E., Geyer, A. C., Schmidt, K. J., Egwuatu, N. E., Langholz, J. M., & Jameson, A. P. (2023). *Evaluation of appropriate transmission-based precautions for non-SARS-CoV-2 respiratory viruses*. *Antimicrobial stewardship & healthcare epidemiology: ASHE*, 3(1), e193. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ash.2023.472>
- Geyer, A. C., VanLangen, K. M., Jameson, A. P., & Dumkow, L. E. (2023). *Outcomes of high-dose oral beta-lactam definitive therapy compared to fluoroquinolone or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole oral therapy for bacteremia secondary to a urinary tract infection*. *Antimicrobial stewardship & healthcare epidemiology: ASHE*, 3(1), e148. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ash.2023.435>

Neurology & Vascular Neurology

- Gilbert, C., Schick, J., Goshgarian, C., & Farooq, M. U. (2024). *Teaching NeuroImage: Extramedullary Hematopoiesis Leading to Spinal Cord Compression*. *Neurology*, 102(8), e209276. <https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000209276>
- Lai, K. E., Antonio, A. A., Ko, M. W., Epling, J. P., Nguyen, A. X., & Carey, A. R. (2023). *Social Media in Neuro-Ophthalmology: Paradigms, Opportunities, and Strategies*. *Journal of neuro-ophthalmology: the official journal of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society*, 43(3), 295–302. <https://doi.org/10.1097/WNO.0000000000001896>
- Park, S. K., & Antonio, A. A. (2023). *Bartonella Neuroretinitis*. *Journal of neuro-ophthalmology: the official journal of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society*, 43(4), e355. <https://doi.org/10.1097/WNO.0000000000002000>





TRINITY HEALTH MUSKEGON

Trinity Health Muskegon (THMU) is committed to building a strong foundation for clinical research infrastructure, with a focus on advancing Oncology and Cardiovascular research.

As part of this initiative, THMU has recently welcomed a clinical research coordinator to help manage the anticipated increase in clinical trials. This expansion will enhance opportunities for the Muskegon community to participate in cutting-edge studies, particularly in oncology and cardiovascular care.

The addition of these trials comes in conjunction with the Cancer Network of West Michigan and the Cardiovascular Network of West Michigan, a joint operating agreement between THMU, THGR, and Michigan Medicine. This focus on clinical research is set to provide a transformative experience for the Muskegon community, driving advances in cancer and cardiovascular care while offering new hope to patients.

TRINITY HEALTH MUSKEGON GME UPDATE

For the second year in a row, the Emergency Medicine (EM) residents won Michigan College of Emergency Physicians SIMwars, placing first among 10 other residencies from across the state. EM residents competed in an ACEP-sponsored national board review “quiz bowl”-type contest against numerous University and IVY league residencies. In multiple rounds they finished 7th, 1st, and 3rd, but ultimately lost in the semi-finals.

Two EM residents won the SAEM Midwest Regional meeting “Best Clinical Research” Award by presenting a research project that has been featured on three well-known national podcasts.

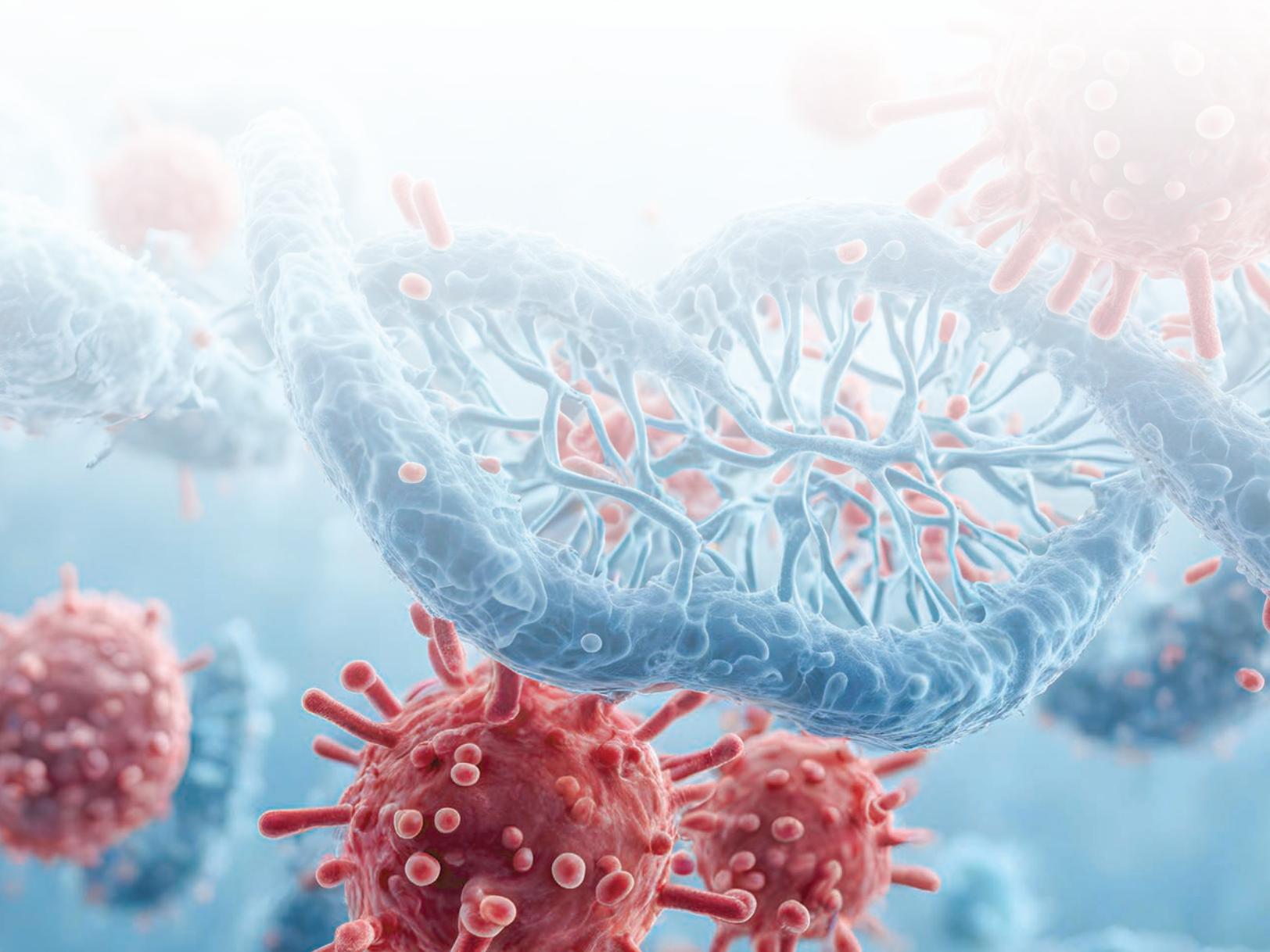
EM Associate Program Director Adam Anderson was presented with the Volunteer Faculty of the Year Award from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine last March.

SELECTED GME PUBLICATIONS

Emergency Medicine

- Anderson, A. M., Coallier, S., Mitchell, R. E., Dumkow, L. E., & Wolf, L. M. (2024). *Full-dose challenge of moderate, severe, and unknown beta-lactam allergies in the emergency department*. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine*, 31(8), 777–781. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acem.14893>
- Brandt, R. C. L., & Anderson, A. M. (2024). *Unveiling the silent invader: A Haitian immigrant presenting with non-traumatic back pain*. *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians open*, 5(2), e13145. <https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.13145>
- Blanchard, T., Hacker, K., Grill, J., & Betcher, J. (2023). *Who watches the WATCHMAN? A rare case of lower extremity paralysis*. *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians open*, 4(5), e13052. <https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.13052>
- Lewis, J., Dye, A., Koehler, T., Grill, J., Baribeau, S., & Bryant, C. (2023). *An Approach to Improving Compliance of Treatment in Asymptomatic Bacteriuria*. *Spartan medical research journal*, 8(1), 38898. <https://doi.org/10.51894/001c.38898>
- Pfau, D. R., Baribeau, S., Brown, F., Khetarpal, N., Marc Breedlove, S., & Jordan, C. L. (2023). *Loss of TRPC2 function in mice alters sex differences in brain regions regulating social behaviors*. *The Journal of comparative neurology*, 531(15), 1550–1561. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cne.25528>

To learn more about research at Trinity Health in West Michigan, contact Nicolina Evola, MHA, Regional Manager at: Nicolina.Evola@trinity-health.org.





HOLY CROSS FLORIDA

HOLY CROSS RESEARCH OVERVIEW

- **Michael & Dianne Bienes Comprehensive Cancer Center:**
84 studies (including NCORP)
- **Phil Smith Neuroscience Institute:**
1 study
- **Jim Moran Heart and Vascular Center:**
5 studies
- **Orthopedics (encompassing the Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center; Pain Management):**
8 studies



INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHT



Principal Investigator: Joshua Purow, MD

Study: Artemis Trial

Sponsored Collaboration:

Duke Clinical Research Institute & Novo Nordisk

Duke Clinical Research Institute & Novo Nordisk:
cardio study on Acute Myocardial Infarction

Therapeutic Area: Cardiology

Brief Summary of Study

The purpose of this research study is to see if Ziltivekimab can be used to treat people who were admitted to the hospital because of a heart attack. Ziltivekimab might reduce development of heart disease, thereby preventing new heart attacks or strokes. Participants will either receive Ziltivekimab (active medicine) or placebo (a dummy medicine which has no effect on the body). The treatment participants receive is determined by chance — the chance of receiving Ziltivekimab or placebo is the same. The participant will need to inject the study medicine into a flat skin surface in their stomach, thigh, or upper arm once every month. Ziltivekimab is not yet approved in any country or region in the world. It is a new medicine that doctors cannot prescribe. The study will last for about two years.

CARDIOLOGY RECOGNITION

In 2024, Holy Cross was nationally recognized for its commitment to providing high-quality heart failure care. The American Heart Association presented the Get With the Guidelines - Heart Failure Gold Plus award for proven dedication to ensuring all heart failure patients have access to best practices and life-saving care.



RESIDENCY PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

The partnership between the University of Miami and Holy Cross Hospital encompasses several residency programs, including Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and a Transitional Year program. These programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

HOLY CROSS GME RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS



Justin David Mark, MD, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Mark is a second-year internal medicine resident. His particular research interests include frailty, arrhythmias, and heart failure.

Brief Summary

We performed a secondary analysis of the FIGHT trial to evaluate racial disparities in advanced heart failure. Black patients were younger, had higher rates of hypertension, hypertensive cardiomyopathy, and stroke, and presented younger with more impaired cardiac function. They were also more likely to be hospitalized for heart failure within 180 days. These findings highlight persistent disparities in heart failure management and underscore the need for structural interventions. Dr. Mark presented at ACC 2025 as an oral moderated presentation, simultaneously published in JACC: Heart Failure.

Full coverage of Dr. Mark's interview can be found at www.hcplive.com/view/racial-ethnic-differences-in-heart-failure-outcomes-in-type-2-diabetes-with-justin-mark-md?trk=public_post_comment-text.

- Mark J, Lopez J, Tracy. *Racial Differences in Advanced Heart Failure Patients: Insights from the FIGHT Trial*. JACC: Heart Failure. Published online March 29, 2025. doi: 10.1016/j.jchf.2025.03.005
- Margulies KB, Hernandez AF, Redfield MM, et al. *Effects of Liraglutide on Clinical Stability Among Patients With Advanced Heart Failure and Reduced Ejection Fraction: A Randomized Clinical Trial*. JAMA. 2016;316(5):500–508. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.10260

To learn more about research at Holy Cross, contact Eve Sakran, MJP, MS, CHRC, Executive Director at: Eva.Sakran@holy-cross.com.







Clinical Research

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