2022 Awards Luncheon

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The John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award honors those Fellows and Masters of the American College of Physicians in the District of Columbia Chapter who have shown by their lives and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care and service to the College. Recipients of this award shall bear the title “Laureate in Medicine.”

Awards shall be presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the District of Columbia Chapter on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee with approval of the Governor. An awardee may be nominated by the Awards Committee or any member of the Chapter. The nomination must document the qualities or personal attributes, recognition, awards, and accomplishments the Chapter wishes to honor.

It is expected that the awardees will be senior physicians, Masters, or Fellows of the College, with a long history of excellence and peer approval of their accomplishments in the practice of internal medicine, as well as continued participation in College affairs at any level. Exceptional circumstances may modify these expectations.

For the past 24 years, the District of Columbia Chapter has been honoring physicians for their exemplary lives as internists. We are proud to honor physicians who have made lifelong contributions to the practice of internal medicine, to the community, and to the American College of Physicians. They have set standards for professional skill and ethical conduct, and serve as role models for other generations of physicians. This year our chapter recognizes and thanks Arrel Olano, MD, FACP for her many years of accomplishments.

Shmuel Shoham, MD, FACP
Governor ACP
District of Columbia Chapter
Born and initially educated in Mineola, New York, Dr. Maher came to Georgetown University for his bachelor of science and medical degrees. After interning at Boston City Hospital and completing two years in the Air Force, he did his residency and fellowship in renal disease at Georgetown University, remaining on the faculty from 1960 to 1969. He then left for the University of Missouri to become Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Nephrology.

Dr. Maher moved to the University of Connecticut in 1974 in the same capacity. He then moved back to Washington, DC, as Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Nephrology at the Uniformed Services University, where he remained until his untimely death on September 13, 1992.

Dr. Maher was on the National Council of the American Federation of Clinical Research, Past President of the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs, a member of the MKSAP Committee of the American College of Physicians, Chair and member of the Board of Directors of the National Kidney Foundation of the Washington area, and President of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis.

He received outstanding teaching awards from Georgetown University, the University of Missouri, and the Uniformed Services University. He was a Past Editor of the Journal of Clinical Research and was on the editorial board of 13 peer-reviewed journals; he also produced over 400 publications, including 50 book chapters and four books.

Dr. Maher was a leader in the District of Columbia Chapter of the American College of Physicians, a member of the Governor’s Council and Scientific Program Committee, and Chair of the Nomination and Awards Committee, and he was responsible for initiating the District of Columbia’s Chapter’s Laureate Awards.

Jack was an outstanding friend, physician, teacher, and writer. He had an international reputation which, if possible exceeded his national reputation, and he was honored with professorships from universities in several countries. His multiple talents, his ready Irish wit, and his friendship are sorely missed by all who knew and cherished their association with him.

It is most fitting, then, that these awards will serve as memorial to him and that the District of Columbia Chapter of the ACP now presents the John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award.
Dr. Olano earned his medical degree at Far Eastern University in the Philippines and completed his residency at The Cleveland Clinic. He joined Medstar Washington Hospital Center in 2007 and is Assistant Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Olano has emerged as a key clinician, educator and leader in our region. He serves as medical director of Outpatient Medicine at Washington Hospital Center and is a key member of the Internal Medicine residency program at that hospital. He has been a tireless advocate and contributor to our chapter and for the ACP as a whole. Over the past decade, he has served as a trusted advisor to multiple Governors and has participated in and organized too numerous to count events for medical students, residents and the medical community at large. These include service as faculty in ACP certification/recertification review courses, reviewer and judge for abstracts and posters at the national level and as Chair of our chapter’s Annual Scientific Meeting for the past 3 years.

"I have had the pleasure of working closely with Arrel for the past decade and especially during my years as Governor. He embodies the traits of dedication, integrity, intelligence and leadership."

Shmuel, Shoham, MD, FACP
Governor, DC Chapter
Dr. White has been a member of the American College of Physicians for 20 years. She is also a very active and involved member of our local chapter and of various other medical organizations.

Dr. White received her medical degree from the Harvard Medical School. She then completed post-doctoral training in Rheumatology and is board certified in Rheumatology. She achieved ACP Fellowship in 2012 and ACP Mastership in 2019. She is an emeritus professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine. She continues to be active in medical education teaching musculoskeletal sessions to medical students at Children's National Hospital. She is currently Co-Director of the Got Transition National Center and a faculty member of the Rheumatology Division at George Washington University.

Dr. White has focused on medical education, advocacy, and clinical care issues, especially for youth with disabilities as they move into adulthood. She is committed to working to build coalitions aimed at improving medical processes, developing educational programs, and being active in advocacy issues. She has recently accepted a position on the Medical Society of DC’s Advocacy Committee being one of our chapters’ representatives to this committee and thereby helping our DC ACP Health and Public Policy Committee (HPPC) (and entire chapter) become more active in local medical advocacy affairs in addition to our long standing activity in national medical affairs.

Dr. White has been active in the DC chapter and is currently a member of several committees including HPPC and our Governor’s Advisory Council. As a member of the HPPC, she has been the originator of several resolutions which have been approved by the Board of Governors and Board of Regents and thus adopted by the national organization as policy.

She has also been involved in many national activities including the ACP High Value Care Initiative and working with the Council on Subspecialty Societies to develop the ACP Pediatric to Adult Care Transitions Initiative. Dr. White chaired the committee that published the joint 2018 AAP/AAFP/ACP Clinical Report: "Supporting the Health Care Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood in the Medical Home.”
In 2009, the Washington DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians established the Walter Lester Henry, Jr., MD Award for Lifetime Teaching Excellence to recognize internists who have devoted their lives to teaching students and physicians at all stages of their careers.

Dr. Walter Lester Henry has been described as a master physician, mentor, esteemed professor and renowned internist. He was associated with the Howard University College of Medicine for almost fifty years. He was a native of Philadelphia. He received his undergraduate education at Temple University and his medical education at Howard University graduating first in his class in 1941. His postgraduate training included internship and residency in internal medicine at Freedmens Hospital, a year of advanced training at the University of Pennsylvania and two years of additional training in endocrinology at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago under Dr. Rachmiel Levine. During World War II, his training was interrupted by assignment as a medical officer attached to the Buffalo Soldiers. He served in the Italian campaign earning a Bronze Star and a Bronze Cluster.

Dr. Henry returned to Howard University as a faculty member in the Department of Medicine in 1953 and advanced to become department chairman by 1962. He then became the first African-American John and Mary Markle Foundation Scholar in Medical Science, a distinction he would hold for five years. In 1972, he became the first Vivian B. Allen Professor of Medicine. In addition to his responsibilities as a clinician-educator, he served as vice dean of the College of Medicine for six years and as a faculty representative on the Howard University Board of Trustees for four years.

Dr. Henry’s skills as a celebrated endocrinologist were recognized nationally. He was the first African-American member of the Board of Governors of the American Board of Internal Medicine and was the Board representative on the American Board of Medical Specialties. He was the first African-American Master of the American College of Physicians and the first African-American Regent of the College. He was inducted into the prestigious Association of American Physicians. He was a Laureate of the Washington DC chapter of the ACP in 1994.

Dr. Henry’s guiding principle throughout his career was the provision of the best possible medical education to physicians in all stages of their development. His success in achieving his goal was recognized several times by his alma mater. He received the Student Council Award of Merit four times and the Student Council Inspirational Leadership Award on four other occasions. Finally, in 1997 he received the ACP Distinguished Teacher Award for his exceptional contributions as a gifted clinician and educator. He strongly advocated a life-long learning effort for all physicians as the only route to high quality and appropriate patient care.

The Washington, DC ACP Chapter is proud to have established this award in Dr. Henry’s name to honor outstanding physicians who have devoted their careers to the education of their colleagues and students.
Dr. Simon is the Walter G. Ross Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Prior to going to medical school, Dr. Simon received a PhD degree in Physical Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin in 1972. He went to medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and graduated in 1975, did his residency at the University of Maryland and fellowship in infectious diseases at Tufts-New England Medical Center. In 1980, he joined the faculty at GW. From 1984-1993, he served as program director for the internal medicine training program and in 1993 assumed the position of Director, Division of Infectious Diseases. In 1997, he became Vice-Chair of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Simon won the GW housestaff teaching award in 1982, the ACP laureate award in 2000 and the GW Distinguished Researcher award in 2002. Dr. Simon was awarded mastership in the American College of Physicians in 2009.

Dr. Simon has taught infectious diseases to more than 6,000 medical students and more than 1,000 medical interns and residents. Since assuming the position of Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, he has trained more than 60 infectious disease fellows, many of whom are found in infectious disease practices throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

Dr. Simon has been active in infectious disease research for many years. In 1981, he diagnosed the first patient with, what at that time, was a new immunosuppressive condition which was subsequently identified as AIDS. Since that time, the infectious disease group has been actively involved in clinical studies of virtually every drug that has been used to treat this infection beginning with AZT. The ID group at GW was among the first to describe lipid abnormalities in patients undergoing treatment for HIV infection and, in a totally different vein, were the first to describe the anti-inflammatory effects of statins in reducing mortality in severe sepsis.

One of Dr. Simon’s greatest pleasures is to hear some of his older fellows quote him and say, “Sometimes, patients don’t read the books and they don’t present the way that we think they should.”

Walter Lester Henry, Jr. Award Past Recipients

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>James T. Williams, MD FACP</td>
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<td>Joseph Lindsay</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>V. R. Mody, MD</td>
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<td>Charles F. Rath, MD FACP</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Charles Curry, MD</td>
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<td>John Bennett, MD MACP</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Martin Dillard, MD MACP</td>
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<td>Margo Smith, MD FACP</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Kenneth Burman, MC, USA, MACP</td>
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<td>Edward Tsou, MD</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>David J. Nashel, MD FACP</td>
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<td>James D. Finkelstein, MD</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Geraldine Schechter, MD, MACP</td>
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<td>Leonard Wartofsky, MD, MACP</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Ross Fletcher MD</td>
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<td>Victor Scott MD MACP</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>David Parenti MD FACP</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Samuel Spagnolo MD</td>
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<td>Carmelita Tuazon MD</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Robert E. Goldstein MD MACP</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>Manuel Velasquez MD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daniel Ein MD FACP</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Morgan Delaney MD</td>
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<td>Joseph Timpone MD</td>
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Dr. Moore, earned his Bachelor of Sciences degree cum laude from Davidson College and his medical doctorate from the University of Virginia College of Medicine with induction into Alpha Omega Alpha. He then completed his residency and chief residency in medicine and fellowship in nephrology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He served as chief of the nephrology service and program director for the nephrology fellowship at Walter Reed as well as nephrology consultant to the Surgeon General. He joined the MedStar Washington Hospital Center as Director for the Section of Nephrology and Medical Director for Kidney and Kidney-Pancreas Transplantation, Georgetown University Transplant Institute at Medstar Washington Hospital Center. After an illustrious career in academics, Dr. Moore retired in December 2021.

First and foremost, Dr. Moore is a consummate physician. Genuinely interested in every patient, he invested the time, even as a senior physician, in detailed meaningful history-taking and expert physical examination and modeled that behavior for learners. Armed with brilliant knowledge and years of superb clinical judgment, Dr. Moore was quickly able to understand the patient’s clinical scenario and advocate for the patient. He never hesitated to ask the challenging questions as to whether interventions such as dialysis would truly benefit the patient. He modeled ownership and advocacy for each patient and was beloved by his patients and learners. Where Dr. Moore truly shined was as a teacher. He was able to teach any content, from simple acid base issues to the most complex renal pathology, in a clear, approachable, entertaining and engaging manner. Most importantly, interacting with him inspired learners and faculty to become even more committed in every aspect of their own work – their patients.

While his major focus has been in providing excellent clinical care and education, he has contributed to the medical profession through publishing more than 50 articles and papers, lecturing at the ACP Board Review in Internal Medicine for decades, and serving as a manuscript reviewer for several journals including Kidney International, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, American Journal of Kidney Diseases and the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. He served with the National Kidney Foundation as Chair of the National Capital area, on the Public Policy, Symposium and Research committees as well as the Professional Advisory Board and Task force for Women’s Health Care. He also served on the American Society of Nephrology’s program director council and in-service examination writing committee.

We are delighted to present Dr. Jack Moore, Jr. with the Washington, DC Chapter’s Walter Lester Henry Award on behalf of his patients, residents and fellows.
David Taylor joined the Georgetown University School of Medicine family in July 1990. In his role as the Senior Associate Dean for Student Learning, Dean Taylor is responsible for initiatives that promote the retention and advancement of students through the four-year curriculum. He utilizes knowledge and skills in educational philosophy and research, student and instructor interrelationships, advising and counseling, and learning and study strategies to implement academic support services essential to students’ academic success, the medical education mission and the quality of the learning experience.

Dean Taylor is also the Director of the Georgetown Experimental Medical Studies (GEMS) program, which targets underrepresented and disadvantaged students who aspire to the profession of medicine. GEMS serves as a rich, viable pool of future medical students in support of Georgetown’s commitment to diversity in the health professions.

Dean Taylor is a Member of the Racial Justice Committee for Change; Faculty Diversity & Inclusion (FDI) Subcommittee; Center for Innovation and Leadership in Education Steering Committee; Committee on Student Well-Being; Subcommittee on Evaluation and Assessment; Member, Medical Student Life Advisory Committee; Member, GEMS Academic Advisory and Admissions Committee; and Member, Curriculum Innovation Committee.

Dean Taylor received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Howard University in 1986, and completed the pre-clinical curriculum at the Howard University College of Medicine from 1986-1988. He obtained the Master of Education from George Mason University in 2008. Prior to Georgetown University, Dean Taylor served as Manager of Patient Enrollment for National Clinical Research Centers, Inc.

Dr. Simon was born in and spent his early life in Trenton, NJ. After graduating from Trenton Central High School and attending Temple University, he was accepted at The George Washington University School of Medicine, where he graduated in 1967. He had an internship and one year of residency in internal medicine (which were separate entities at the time) at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. That training was interrupted by two years of military service years in the US Navy at USNS Sangley Point in the Republic of the Philippines. Upon returning to the US in 1971, he came to Washington, DC and GWU to complete residency and then had a two year fellowship in Pulmonary Diseases at the Veterans Administration Hospital. He was boarded in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Diseases. From 1974 to 2001, he was in private practice in Washington, DC and was part of the voluntary faculty of GWU, participating on various committees and teaching housestaff and students. In 2001, he joined the GW Medical Faculty Associates, full-time in the Division of General Internal Medicine where he saw patients and continued teaching. Dr. Simon retired at the end of 2013 and was appointed Professor Emeritus the following year. He continued to work with students in physical diagnosis. Professionally, getting to know patients as people and not just their illnesses has truly been an honor and something I tried to convey to those he instructed.

On the personal side, he has been married for over 58 years, has two grown children and four grown grandchildren, and enjoy interacting with them and watching them develop. He and his wife, Patricia, enjoy travelling and studying foreign languages. One of the nicest things he learned comes from a now deceased trauma surgeon at the University of Texas, James “Red” Duke. “The road of life is filled with bumps and I’m just trying to smooth out a few bumps for folks.”
Community-Based Teaching Award
Peter A. Vasquez, MD

Dr. Vasquez graduated cum laude from William Paterson University in 2008, before continuing his studies at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. Dr. Vasquez completed his Internal Medicine residency at the Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai in 2015, and served as Chief Resident in 2015-2016.

He is currently the Director of Advanced Practice Provider Medical Education where he leads and coordinates a biweekly series of lectures on clinical Primary Care topics for the Primary Care and Immediate Care NP’s across the Virginia Hospital Center Physician Group. He also serves as the Patient Experience Champion within the group, working collaboratively with new and established providers to work on strategies to optimize the patient experience.

Dr. Vasquez is an Assistant Professor at the Georgetown School of Medicine and has been recognized by the students for his significant teaching contributions as an ambulatory preceptor in the medicine clerkship.

Community-Based Teaching Award Past Recipients

1998 Debra L. White-Coleman, MD
   Charles P. Duvall, MD, FACP
   Steven Kariya, MD
1999 Allen M. Monzac, MD, FACP
   Lewis Suskiewicz, MD, FACP
2000 Prudence P. Kline, MD, FACP
   Randi C. Abramson, MD
2001 Paul Schlein, MD, FACP
   Karen R. Myers, MD, FACP
2002 Beth C. Horowitz, MD, FACP
   Melvin W. Gaskins, MD
2003 Ramin Oskoui, MD
   Jack D. Summer, MD
2008 Stuart I Henochowicz, MD FACP
2018 Raymond C. Martins MD
2020 Deborah B Horwitz, MD
The Washington DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians has established an Award of Excellence in Teaching which honors the memory of Sol Katz, MD, MACP.

Dr. Katz, born and raised in New York City, received his undergraduate degree from the City College of New York, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, in 1935. He graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine, with similar high honors. This was followed by post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Diseases at Georgetown University Hospital and DC General (Gallinger) Hospital. He was appointed Chief, Division of Pulmonary Disease at the Hospital in 1946 and for the next 50 years remained in the District of Columbia as Chief of the Medical Service at the VA Hospital and as Chief of the Pulmonary Division of Georgetown University, where he was appointed Professor of Medicine, a position he held until his passing in 1997.

Among the many honors he received, of note was his Mastership in the College and, along with Dr. W. Proctor Harvey, he was the recipient of the Chapter’s first Laureate Award in 1993. Through his authorship of numerous medical journal articles and presentations at national and international conferences, he earned a reputation as one of the foremost investigators in the field of Pulmonary Medicine.

However, to his countless students at all stages of their education, he was the consummate teacher and mentor. His rounds were the highlight of the week: always patient oriented, documented by quotations from recent medical literature including journals obscure to even the most scholarly of his students. He quoted “evidence based medicine” before it was in vogue. He was instrumental in the training of numerous investigators and physicians who rose to prestigious academic positions, but his greatest legacy affected the countless physicians who elected to pursue private practice.

The Chapter is honored by having his name attached to this Teaching Award.

Sol Katz, MD Memorial Teaching Award
Ronald J. Distajo, MD FACP

Dr. Distajo earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and his medical doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He then completed his combined residency in medicine and pediatrics at Cook County Hospital. He also earned a Master’s of Public Health degree from the Harvard University School of Public Health while completing fellowship training in General Internal Medicine at Harvard Medical School. After working as a staff physician in the Cambridge Health Alliance and Beth Israel Deaconess Health Care systems, he joined the MedStar Washington Hospital Center as general medicine faculty in July 2012. He is board certified in internal medicine.

Dr. Distajo is beloved by his patients who appreciate his thoughtful, forthcoming and honest manner in interacting with them. He has a superb comforting and engaging bedside manner allowing him to navigate challenging interactions with ease. In this way, he serves as a role model for younger learners. As a teacher, he is available, approachable and kind, seeking to understand each learner to help elevate them to their highest potential. In this area, most importantly, Dr. Distajo also demonstrates careful review and consideration such that learners can appreciate the nuances of clinical decision making.

While his major focus has been in providing excellent clinical care and education, he has also continued his lifelong learning journey through participation in the Georgetown University Teaching Essentials program as well as the Association of American Medical College’s Medical Education Research Certificate and Leadership and Development Program. His support and mentorship of our residents has also been instrumental in encouraging them in scholarly pursuits. He is a perennial favorite attending in all settings from the continuity clinics to the inpatient wards and consult rotations. His dynamic and engaging lecture style as well as his approach to bedside teaching has allowed him to connect with learners at all levels. Our residents have awarded him the James Curtain Award for Excellence in Teaching an impressive seven times over his time at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center!
Dr. Farrish received her MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine (2009), and completed a combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency at Georgetown University (2013). She is currently an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Georgetown.

At the Medical School she directs Cura Personalis, a Clinical Skills course, which focuses on the development of professional skills unique to doctoring in the first two years. She has been involved in curriculum development ensuring the next generation of physician have the skills needed to take care of patients. Dr. Farrish enjoys seeing patients of all ages in her primary care practice and serves as an outpatient preceptor for the Med-Peds resident's clinic. Professional interests include medical education, procedures in primary care, and health maintenance and prevention in patients with chronic medical conditions.

Dr. Gea-Banacloche is a master clinician and master educator who began his medical training in Spain at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid. He came to the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease to train in Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases and then joined the infectious disease staff at NIH, where he became Chief of the Infectious Disease Consultation Service.

In 2017, Dr. Gea-Banacloche was recruited to the Mayo Clinic-Scottsdale where he was a senior associate consultant in infectious diseases, and Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. In 2021, he was recruited to return to the NIH to become infectious disease consultant for the hematopoietic stem cell transplant program.

Dr. Gea-Banacloche is a superb clinician whose knowledge and judgement impress the infectious disease fellows as well as his infectious disease and transplant colleagues. At the bedside and at patient care conferences, Dr. Gea-Banacloche is the voice that every wants to hear: he is a leader in explaining the pathophysiological and evidence based reasons behind his management plans. His lectures to the trainees and staff are also high valued; he has won the distinguished teaching award at NIH.

Dr. Gea-Banacloche is an outstanding example of the clinical excellence and commitment to teaching that Sol Katz represented.
Dr. Kelly is a Professor and Clerkship Director, Department of Medicine, and a Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Physician at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He is a Fellow in the American College of and Master of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) and Master of the American College of Physicians. He has held many national leadership positions including Chair of Education for the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) and Chaired several of their past national and international meetings. In addition to numerous peer-reviewed published manuscripts, chapters, and abstracts, he has more than 200 presentations including national and international meetings and workshops, and over 40 teaching and military awards. Dr. Kelly’s original live and computer-based learning activities using game-informed learning (GIL) have reached over 15,000 physicians in North America, Spain, India, China and Italy.

Dr. Narayanan is an Internist and Pain Management Specialist at Kaiser Permanente Group in Northern Virginia, District of Columbia, and Maryland. Focused on management of chronic pain. Dr. Narayanan serves the greater metropolitan area through clinical practice and training of the next generation of physicians and practitioners. Dr. Narayanan has an established record of excellence in teaching and mentorship in clinical medical education, using both didactic, case-based, and applied learning approaches with his students. From precepting residents to providing weekly clinics for board preparation, reviewing patient care techniques, and serving as Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at Penn State College of Medicine, he is keen to ensure that students stay abreast of the fundamentals and cutting-edge knowledge of internal medicine and powerfully matriculate to subsequent stages of their education and training. Dr. Narayanan completed his residency at ICAHN Mt. Sinai and St. Joseph’s Hospital. He also holds a Master of Surgery in Anatomical Sciences from Stanley Medical College and an M.B.B.S from Madras Medical College. Dr. Narayanan resides in Virginia with his wife, Sandhya, and adopted Labrador retriever, Opal. He is the proud parent of three female doctors-in-training!
Sol Katz, MD Memorial Teaching Award

Gail Nunlee-Bland, MD

Dr. Nunlee-Bland is the Chief of Endocrinology and Director of the Diabetes Treatment Center at Howard University Hospital. She is a Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine. Dr. Nunlee-Bland is a graduate of Howard University College of Medicine.

Dr. Nunlee-Bland has professional memberships in the American Diabetes Association, Pediatric Endocrine Society, Endocrine Society and American Association of Clinical Endocrinologist. She has served on several advisory committees and has presented at national and local scientific meetings on diabetes, obesity and technology. She has participated in Diabetes Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) in Washington, DC and Seattle, Washington. This project uses videoconference technology, brief lecture presentations and case-based learning for primary care providers in the management of diabetes.

Dr. Nunlee-Bland is enthusiastic about improving access to quality diabetes care. This passion has translated into the American Diabetes Association recognized Diabetes Treatment Center. The Diabetes Treatment Center is a resource for patients and practitioners to have access to the expertise of nutritionists, diabetes educators, podiatrists, and diabetes specialists. She has numerous publications related to diabetes in the African American population and is currently conducting research in the areas of diabetes and use of technology in pregestational diabetes.

Sol Katz, MD Memorial Teaching Award

Samir S. Patel, MD

Dr. Patel is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University and serves as section chief of nephrology at the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He served as the nephrology training program director at the George Washington University for 10 years before moving to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2016. While at George Washington University he was a chief medical resident in Internal Medicine and elected to the AOA honor society as a faculty member in 2007.

His main areas of interest are in chronic kidney disease in the elderly, psychosocial issues related to end-stage renal disease, and medical education. Dr. Patel has extensive experience in various aspects of clinical nephrology having served as medical director of a large hemodialysis unit, co-director of the continuous renal replacement program, director of the therapeutic apheresis service, and director of renal ultrasonography all at the George Washington University Medical Center. In addition, Dr. Patel developed expertise in clinical research through participation in the research committee of the National Kidney Foundation for the National Capital Region. He participated in clinical trials that addressed both patients at risk for CKD in the CKD population at George Washington University, and the development of a clinical research unit for the renal section at the DC VA Medical Center. The trial has successfully completed a multicenter/multi-VA trial testing a antimicrobial agent to prevent dialysis catheter infections in 2018 initiating another multicenter trial of palliative care support for late stage and end-stage renal disease starting in 2019. He served on the DC VA Institutional Review Board since 2018 until he became Acting Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the DC VA in January 2022.
Dr. Paul is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at The GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences where he completed his residency in internal medicine and served as chief medical resident from 2016-2017. He is currently the Associate Program Director for Quality Improvement and Safety. Courtney has dedicated his career as an academic hospitalist to education and research in the areas of quality improvement and patient safety (QI/PS), medical education, and care delivery. He developed and leads the three-year longitudinal curriculum in quality improvement and patient safety for the internal medicine residency, is the course director for the medical school quality improvement elective and serves as co-chair of the Clinical Learning Environment Review Committee. Through these endeavors he reaches over a 100 medical students and hundreds of residents and fellows each year.

In addition to his work as a medical educator he has also served as faculty advisor and mentor to dozens of residents as the co-chair of the internal medicine residency clinical competency committee. Dr. Paul has several presentations and publications in the fields of medical education and QI/PS. His future career goals will continue to focus on expanding educational endeavors related to QI/PS and care delivery.