The Department of Medicine is an academic and clinical department within the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Most of the more than 280 members of the department are located in Saskatoon or Regina, with additional members in Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, and Yorkton.

**VISION**
Inspiring hope for Saskatchewan patients

**MISSION**
Advancing patient care by providing innovative education, research and clinical services

To our patients: We offer the best possible medical care.

To our students and residents: As role models for future clinicians and scientists, we offer quality programming and a supportive learning environment.

To our department members: We support, develop and engage all members to foster a mutually beneficial relationship and a common sense of purpose.

To Saskatchewan: We collaborate, engage and innovate to address medical needs.
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DEPARTMENT of MEDICINE at a GLANCE
(As of December 31, 2021)

more than **280 department members**

- **268** Internists,
- **5** Emeritus Professors,
- **2** Research Associates,
- **6** PhD Faculty

with **11** subspecialties

in **6** cities across Saskatchewan

received **$3,011,709** in new research funding*

produced **>385** peer reviewed publications*

*2020/2021 fiscal year - based on OVDR Research Productivity report

supervised **27** graduate students (MSc and PhDs)

and **76** Core IM residents + **34** subspeciality resident fellows.
MESSAGE from the PROVINCIAL HEAD

I am pleased to present a modified annual report for the Department of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. The report covers the 2020 – 2021 Academic Year as well as the remainder of 2021 to December 31. We intentionally delayed the collection of data for this report because of the incredible demands faced by our faculty members particularly during the fourth wave of COVID-19 during the fall of 2021.

While COVID has affected the entire medical community, the burden of this crisis has fallen disproportionately on our department. Even when COVID hospitalizations declined, inpatient numbers for Internal Medicine remained well above normal. Department of Medicine members took on extra shifts, helped to upskill colleagues, and worked with local and national media to translate knowledge for the public. All this while also taking on leadership roles such as Pandemic Area Chiefs of Staff.

Demonstrating flexibility, strength and resilience, Department of Medicine members continued to provide innovative education, research and clinical services. Despite research restrictions, publication and citation counts remain strong. For the first time in many years, this year’s cohort of new residents all filled as a first match. Not only are we attracting high quality internal candidates, our programs are also attracting a wider range of residents from out of province. Administratively, we are working to improve the work environment for everyone by following recommendations made by the new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. It is a first step as we move in the right direction.

We are continuing to examine the recommendations provided by the external review of the department, carried out in the fall of 2020. While many of the recommendations are outside the control of the department, a provincial Department of Medicine committee is determining which of the specific recommendations to target in the year ahead.

I am proud to continue to lead this dedicated team of healthcare professionals, researchers, teachers and administrators. I am grateful for the outstanding contribution of all members of the department including the administrative team lead by our Finance and Admin Manager Helen Chapple, who is retiring after serving the department for 31 years.

I encourage everyone to take care of yourself with the same compassion and understanding you provide to others, as we all look for better days ahead.

DR. HAISSEMAH HADDAD
Provincial Head
Dept of Medicine University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Health Authority
ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT of MEDICINE

SECTION I
DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE
(As of December 31, 2021)

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT HEAD
Dr. Haissam Haddad

KEY LEADERS
Deputy Head – Dr. Anne PausJenssen
Director Research – Dr. Josh Lawson
Director Quality of Care – Dr. Rabia Shahid
Director UGME – Dr. Rahul Mainra

PGME PROGRAM DIRECTORS
Core IM – Dr. Jessie Baptiste
Cardiology – Dr. Stephan Wardell
GIM – Dr. Alia Teja
Nephrology – Dr. Jim Barton
Neurology – Dr. Gary Hunter
Respirology – Dr. Erika Penz
Rheumatology – Dr. Keltie Anderson

RESEARCH SUPPORT
Research Facilitator – Dr. Ozlem Sari (PhD)

ADMINISTRATION
Assistant to Provincial Head – Sheena Kaiser
Finance & Admin Manager – Helen Chapple
(.until Dec 23, 2021)
Finance & Admin Coordinator – Lindsay Doig

COMMUNICATIONS
Director Communications – Dr. Rob Skomro
Communications Officer – Susan Burton

EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORT
UGME – Tenille Shivak and Angela Kuffner
Core IM – Janna Ethier, Jenny Gates-Debogorski, Melissa Pardy, Kim Gilbert (Regina)
Neurology – Angela Loehndorf
Sub-specialities – Sherrise Mareschal, Lesley Reynolds

AREA LEADS

Saskatoon
Dr. Anne PausJenssen

North East
Dr. Adel Lookman (outgoing)

North West
Dr. Abdul Ben-Saleh

South East
Dr. Saliu Oloko

South West
Dr. Fauzi Ramadan (outgoing)

 Regina
Dr. Bonnie Richardson

DIVISION HEADS – Saskatoon
CCHSA – Dr. Niels Koehncke
Cardiology – Dr. Erik PausJenssen
Dermatology – Dr. Duane Lichtenwald
Endocrinology & Metabolism – Dr. Nassrein Hussein
Gastroenterology – Dr. Anil Bedi
General Internal Medicine – Dr. Kempe Gowda (outgoing)
Geriatric Medicine – Vacant
Infectious Diseases – Dr. Stephen Sanche
Nephrology – Dr. Rod Stryker
Neurology – Dr. Alex Rajput
Respirology, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine – Dr. Mark Fenton
Rheumatology – Dr. Regina Taylor-Gjevre

SECTION HEADS - Regina
Cardiology – Dr. Rod Zimmermann (outgoing)
Critical Care – Dr. Hendrik Van Der Merwe
Dermatology – Dr. Karen Holfeld
Endocrinology – Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald
Gastroenterology – Dr. George Chami
General Internal Medicine – Dr. Jarol Boan (outgoing)
Infectious Diseases – Dr. Stuart Skinner
Nephrology – Dr. Syed Amin
Neurology – Dr. Melad Shawush
Respirology – Dr. Zenon Belak
Rheumatology – Dr. Ardyth Milne
WELCOMES and FAREWELLS

The Department of Medicine continues to grow. The following lists include faculty who joined the Department of Medicine in the 2020 / 2021 academic year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). It also includes faculty who came on board before December 31, 2021. During the same 18 month timeframe we also said farewell to several colleagues, including Dr. Tellez Zenteno who passed away in early October 2020.

RECRUITMENT

Saskatoon
- Dr. Angelica Lang – CCHSA
- Dr. Michael Cenkowski – Cardiology
- Dr. Chris Pekrul – Cardiology
- Dr. Steven Pylypchuk – Cardiology
- Dr. Kirsten Walker – Dermatology
- Dr. Devon Houdek – Endocrinology
- Dr. Krista Lagimodiere – Geriatric Medicine
- Dr. Megan Surkan – Geriatric Medicine
- Dr. Amina (Sarah) Henni – Infectious Diseases
- Dr. Amanda Halpin – Nephrology
- Dr. Regan (Sean) Colley – Neurology
- Dr. Sanchea Wasyliw – Neurology
- Dr. Fahd Al-Dhalaan – GIM
- Dr. Ubhi Charanpretti – GIM
- Dr. Joseph Dimitry – GIM
- Dr. Jeremy Katulka – GIM
- Dr. Benjamin Leis – GIM
- Dr. Arthur Ling – GIM
- Dr. Fatima Pirani – GIM
- Dr. Matthew Skeldon – GIM
- Dr. Michael Zawadowski – GIM
- Dr. Colin Ellis – Respirology, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine
- Dr. Stacy Lok – Respirology, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine
- Dr. Ambreen Khan – Rheumatology
- Dr. Vanessa Rininsland – Rheumatology
- Dr. Sarah Oberholtzer – Rheumatology

Regina
- Dr. Scott Donald – Cardiology
- Dr. Omoniyi Akinpeloye – GIM
- Dr. Mowad Benguzzi – GIM
- Dr. Anmol Cheema – GIM
- Dr. Matthew Mittelstadt – GIM
- Dr. Calvin Tsui – GIM
- Dr. Eric Sy – CC
- Dr. Priya Figurado – Neurology
- Dr. Lookamn Abdul – Nephrology
- Dr. Olu Ogundare – Nephrology
- Dr. Alia Daoud – Respirology
- Dr. Ingrid Wirth – Respirology
- Dr. Cairistin McDougall – Rheumatology
- Dr. Zachary Wolfmueller – Rheumatology

Prince Albert
- Dr. Joma Kondi – GIM

Swift Current
- Dr. Michelle Lund – GIM

Yorkton
- Dr. Livinus Okafor - GIM
DEPARTURES

Saskatoon
   Dr. Iain Magee
   Dr. Monica Miliszewski
   Dr. Elene Van Der Merwe
   Dr. Jose Tellez-Zenteno

Regina
   Dr. Mahsa Rezaei Nejad
   Dr. Olivia Potok

Prince Albert
   Dr. Allison Martin

Swift Current
   Dr. Robin Colwell
PROMOTIONS
(Effective July 1, 2021)

Congratulations to Dr. Rahul Mainra, Nephrology (Saskatoon) on his promotion to Professor.

Congratulations to the following faculty members on their promotion to Associate Professor.

Dr. Sharyle Fowler
Gastroenterology & Hepatology (Saskatoon)

Dr. Gary Hunter
Neurology (Saskatoon)

Dr. Shaqil Peermohamed
Infectious Diseases (Saskatoon)

Dr. Alexander Wong
Infectious Diseases (Regina)
COVID-19 IMPACT

At the time of writing this report, the province is in the midst of the fifth wave of COVID, and once again Department of Medicine members have stepped up to fill staffing gaps in critical areas including ICUs. Department of Medicine members continue to provide leadership in all aspects of COVID-19 activities taking on roles, often at great personal sacrifice, ranging from Pandemic Area Chief of Staff to patient advocates and public educators through social media.

The department has been under intense pressure with the inpatient census consistently above 100% and frequently reaching 140-150%. Fortunately, collaboration between multiple divisions in managing COVID patients has been excellent including, for example, the Cardiology Division and ICU creating an ECMO team and shock team that was crucial in providing optimal advanced care for the most critically ill patients.

In addition to pressures caused by an increased COVID-related workload, there are increased volumes of both outpatient and inpatient non-COVID patients. This has resulted in dramatic increases in waiting lists, testing, outpatient procedures and increased complexity and volume for inpatient patients admitted to our medical services throughout the province. It will take some time for these numbers to return to normal even after COVID is under control.

On a more positive note, learners and educators have adapted to the unusual conditions caused by COVID, with increased engagement in virtual events such as Academic Half Days for Residents, Grand Rounds and Resident Research Days. Recent changes in SHA policy have allowed medical students the option of being involved in the care of COVID positive patients.

COVID did affect research over the past year and half, with the university instituting a pause on research activities for several months. This pause has since been lifted with recommended precautions. Not surprisingly, research funding is down from previous years, however publications and citation counts are at new highs, so work is obviously continuing despite the interruptions.

Examples of COVID-related research include CCHSA faculty who are involved in work related to a SARS CoV-2 vaccine development, as well as research with the engineering department addressing the impact of ventilation on virus transfer. The Prairie Vascular Research Group, made up of members of the Division of Cardiology in Regina, was integral in developing the NACMI (North American Covid-19 ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction) Registry, which helped to better understand the MI experience in COVID-19.

The Department of Medicine has an excellent participation rate for vaccination, and all members are encouraged to obtain boosters, comply with SHA policies, and get their N95 masks fitted if they have not done so recently.

While it is difficult to predict the future of the pandemic, the increased vaccination rates, new COVID therapies and ongoing enforcement of SHA policies are expected to lessen the impact of COVID on inpatient services in the months ahead. Thank you to all members of the Department for their dedication and contributions. We look forward to a better year ahead.
Another year of the pandemic and our faculty continue to provide excellence in teaching to our UGME students. Our Year 3 students finished a hectic year of on-again, off-again rotations. They made the best of it and are currently excelling in their Year 4 electives. The new Year 3 students are quickly getting used to life as clerks. This group of students faced significant adversity in Year 2 when the pandemic started and all in-person teaching was cancelled. Despite this and the numerous COVID outbreaks on the wards, they are raising the bar in their rotations.

Recent new SHA policy now allows learners to remain on COVID outbreak wards, which is good news for them and for the logistics of managing these wards. Recent changes now allow learners to be involved in the care of COVID positive patients. Additionally, year 4 and 5 students may also choose to be involved in an AGMP on a COVID positive patient. This change brings us in line with other Canadian medical schools and also prepares our students for transitioning to residency. Students do have the option to opt out of these exposures.

The number of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) required for this Year 3 cohort has increased to include #1-6. This number will continue to increase over the next few years until they will be required to complete all 12. The clerkship competency committee meets every month to review each students’ EPA accomplishments and ensure they are achieving competency in each rotation. The committee also ensures that narrative feedback given by faculty is adequate and useful matching their scores, as this information makes its way into their Dean’s Letters. Please contact me if you are interested in being a part of this very rewarding and important committee.

This past year’s final class scored very well on their LMCC part 1 exam. Our graduates had a 96% pass rate, very comparable to the national rate of 97%. The National mean score was 263 while our graduates scored a very impressive 267. This is very positive news and kudos to all the great teaching you do to prepare our students for success.

Starting next year, students will have the opportunity to do all their training from Year 1–4 in Regina. “Having our learners train in many, varied locations throughout Saskatchewan is a win-win-win,” said Dr. Preston Smith, Dean of the College of Medicine. “Medical students benefit from a greater number and range of learning opportunities across urban, rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Physicians and other care providers deliver improved care when learners are involved in their practices and at our clinics and hospitals. And Saskatchewan people are on the receiving end of this improved care.” This will open up many teaching opportunities for Regina faculty and those interested can contact Dr. Jackie Kraushaar.
Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and incredible dedication of all our Administrative Assistants in all sites that maintain our department’s teaching activities within the entire curriculum. We all do an immense amount of teaching in various levels of the curriculum and the coordination of the students is done by our amazing administrative team. The success of our academic activities is dependent on this strong cohesive team and a huge THANKS goes to them.

I also want to thank Dr. Alex Zhai for his commitment and dedication to clerkship as the Site Director for CTU. I am excited to welcome Dr. Fatima Pirani to this role. We look forward to working with her!
The Internal Medicine program had a successful academic year and a half despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect all aspects of the Internal Medicine residents’ training. The Academic Half Days educational/teaching sessions are still being delivered virtually. The faculty presenters have adapted their presentations to this platform, and we work on continuing to encourage engagement on both side in this era.

The PGY2/PGY3 SIM session re-started in October 2020 after a brief hiatus starting in March of that year. These sessions are a highly valued educational experience.
A big thank you goes out to Dr. Masri and Melissa Pardy for organizing the sessions and to Christina Sparrow, our CTU Nurse Coordinator who is an important resource for the simulation in her role as our nurse confederate in these sessions.

The CaRMS subcommittee was very busy during the 2021 PGY1 match cycle. All CaRMS interviews and program information sessions were done virtually for the first time this past year. The residents were integral in the development of the program promotional video, highlighting the strengths of the Internal Medicine program in both Regina and Saskatoon. The video was posted on the CANPREPP site. There were three virtual Town Hall sessions that included senior residents from Regina and Saskatoon as well as two faculty members at each session. The Town Hall sessions were well attended by final year medical students from across Canada and international medical graduates from around the world.

The Internal Medicine program had a very successful CaRMS PGY1 2021 match. For the first time in the last fifteen years (or longer) the program filled all our training positions in Saskatoon and Regina in the first round. The Medical Subspeciality Match for 2021 and 2022 were held in the fall of 2020 and 2021. We had a very high match rate in both years, with everyone matching in the 2020 cohort. Finally, all of the PGY3 residents successfully passed the Royal College Internal Medicine specialty written exam held in March 2021.

Resident Research Days were held virtually again and will continue to be so for the 2021-2022 year. Through Dr. Julian Tam’s leadership, the research presentations were very well received, with some Internal Medicine residents submitting their research to the PGME Research Day. Within the PGME main research category, Internal Medicine residents were awarded the 1st place prize and the 3rd place prize. We look forward to the 2021-2022 round of research presentations and are always looking for people who would like to be involved.

The CBD (Competence By Design) training curriculum continues to evolve as we moved into having all three years now fully enrolled in CBD. The Competence Committee has been working diligently, and we would like to thank all committee members for their efforts in the residents’ assessment and education. Feedback from faculty members in the Department of Medicine continues to increase and improve as we move forward in our third year in CBD.

Over the last few years, there has been a steady increase in the number of patients coming to the ED and requiring admission to the internal medical inpatient teams at both training sites. The Internal Medicine Program has worked closely with the Department of Medicine to ensure that the CTU inpatient teams provide excellent and safe patient care as well as a safe learning environment for all levels of learners. The Department of Medicine faculty members have stepped up to provide coverage for non-teaching inpatient teams in both Regina and Saskatoon. In Saskatoon, a separate in-hospital night call coverage schedule was also developed to cover the non-teaching medical inpatient services that was previously covered by the Internal Medicine residents when they were on call. This provided significant workload reduction for the residents on call each night.

Overall, it was a very busy year and a half with many successes. The educational mission of the Internal Medicine program was maintained despite the high inpatient numbers due to the hard work and commitment of the Internal Medicine residents at all level of training, and the commitment of the faculty in the Department of Medicine.

Starting in July 2021, Dr. Jessie Baptiste took over as Program Director for the Internal Medicine program from Dr. Karen Laframboise. She brings her experience as GIM Program Director to the
position as well as UGME educational and leadership experience. Dr. Laframboise was an exceptional leader for the last eight years and the program has grown under her guidance. A huge thank you for all her hard work and sacrifice over the years.

We would like to thank Dr. Haddad and the members of the Department of Medicine in Saskatoon and Regina for their commitment to resident education and support of the Internal Medicine training program.
GRAND ROUNDS

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE PRESENTERS

In the electronic version, click on the underlined titles to view a recording of the presentation.

Dr. S. Bose – General Internal Medicine – Saskatoon
Freshly Minted Lipid Guidelines 2021

Dr. Sharon Card – General Internal Medicine – Saskatoon, PGME CBD Lead
The Journey of Entrustment - Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs): The Why and the How

Dr. Sharon Card and Dr. Ben Leis – General Internal Medicine – Saskatoon
Identifying and Exploring Factors that Promote and Impede Successful EPA (Entrustable Professional Activities) Observations

Dr. Gudrun Caspar-Bell – Endocrinology – Saskatoon, Dr. David Reid – Nephrology – Saskatoon and Dr. Alexander Zhai – Cardiology – Saskatoon
A New Pancrea? A Drug that Seems to be the Fix.

Dr. Janine Eckstein – Cardiology – Saskatoon
Aortic Stenosis and the Expanding Role of Transcatheter Valve Replacement

Dr. Vernon Hoeppner. – Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine – Saskatoon
Dr. Wendy Wobeser – Infectious Diseases, Queen’s University Kingston
Quantifying the Effect of Canada’s Public Health Intervention (PHI) on Covid-19 Cases

Dr. Gary Hunter – Neurology – Saskatoon
Current Controversies in Acute Stroke (+/- CoVID)

Drs. Harry Deneer, Joseph Blondeau, Camille Hamula, Stephen Sanche — Infectious Diseases – Saskatoon
Division of Clinical Microbiology, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
COVID Testing: Past, Present and Future

Dr. Krista Lagimodiere and Dr. Megan Surkan – Geriatric Medicine – Saskatoon
Geriatric Medicine in Acute Care

Dr. Josh Lawson – CCHSA – Saskatoon
The Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA) - An Inter-Disciplinary Centre for Research and Extension

Dr. Latha Naik – Rheumatology – Saskatoon
Updates on Gout Management

Dr. Mina Niazi – Gastroenterology and Hepatology – Saskatoon and Dr. Gage Watson – Dept. of Medical Imaging
Closing the Loop in Hepatic Encephalopathy

Dr. Anita Chakravarti – Dept of Anesthesiology and Dr. Anne PausJenssen – General Internal Medicine – Saskatoon
How Do We Achieve Departmental Well-Being Now?

Dr. Shaqil Peermohamed – Infectious Diseases – Saskatoon
The Great Escape! Benefits of an Antimicrobial Stewardship Themed Escape Room as an Educational Activity for Internal Medicine Residents.
Dr. Michael Prystajecky – General Internal Medicine – Saskatoon
*Preoperative Medicine Update: Moving Beyond the 2016 CCS Guidelines*

Dr. Bonnie Richardson – Nephrology – Regina
*Kidney Health & Community Based Dialysis in Saskatchewan Indigenous People*

Dr. Sachin Shah – Nephrology – Saskatoon
*Improving Cardiorenal Outcomes in Diabetic Kidney Disease - A Review of SGLT2 Inhibitors*

Dr. Jay Shavadia – Cardiology – Saskatoon
*De-Prescription of Therapies in Coronary Artery Disease. Focus on Beta-Blockade.*

Dr. Kerri Schellenberg – Medical Director ALS Clinic, Division of Neurology – Saskatoon
*ALS/Motor Neuron Disease Care in Saskatchewan*

Dr. Ahmed Shoker – Nephrology – Saskatoon
*A Primer on CKD to the Internist*

Dr. S. Wardell – Cardiology – Saskatoon
*Atrial Fibrillation: Rate vs Rhythm Control*
GRAND ROUNDS

VISITING PRESENTERS

Dr. Juan G. Abraldes – Professor of Medicine, Director, Liver Unit Division of Gastroenterology, University of Alberta
Medical Management of Severe Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis and Criteria for Liver Transplantation

Dr. Meyer Balter – Director Asthma Education Centre, Director Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at Mount Sinai Hospital, Professor of Medicine University of Toronto.
OCS in Severe Asthma - Time to Re-Evaluate?

Dr. Nowell Fine – Clinical Associate Professor, Libin Cardiovascular Institute, University of Calgary.
Cardiac Amyloidosis Update: A New Era for an Old Disease.

Dr. Kieran Halloran – Lung Transplant Program – Division of Pulmonary Medicine, University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services
Primary Graft Dysfunction after Lung Transplantation: Mapping the Risks and Repercussions

Dr. Daren Heyland – Professor of Medicine, Queen's University
Plan Well Guide: a novel decision aid to support decision-making in serious illness (Like COVID-19)

Dr. Jonathan Howlett – Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Calgary
Modernizing Heart Failure in Type 2 Diabetes and Beyond

Dr. Donald Mitchell Memorial Lectureship – Presented by the Division of Rheumatology
Dr. Sindhu Johnson, Director, Toronto Scleroderma Program
Clinician-Scientist, University Health Network & Sinai Health Systems
Associate Director, Clinical Epidemiology & Health Care Research, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto
Current Concepts in Systemic Sclerosis

Sean Polreis – Teaching and Learning Specialist, Faculty Development, USask College of Medicine
Unconscious Bias: Improving Decision-making, Communication and Relationships

Dr. Ashkan Shoamanesh – Associate Professor of Medicine, McMaster University
Antithrombotic Therapy in Patients Prone to Bleeding in the Brain with Comorbid Cardio/Cerebrovascular Disease

The Donald K Mitchell Memorial Lecture – Presented by the Division of Rheumatology
Dr. John H. Stone – Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, The Edward Fox Chair in Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
Managing Giant Cell Arteritis Now.

Dr. Dilini Vethanayagam – Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, University of Alberta
Assessment and Management of Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia

Dr. Wendy Wobeser – Division of Infectious Diseases, Queen's University Kingston
Quantifying the Effect of Canada's Public Health Intervention (PHI) on Covid-19 Cases
CME WEBINAR SERIES

Several faculty members from the Department of Medicine shared their expertise with their College of Medicine colleagues through an online webinar series organized by the College’s Office of Continuing Medicine Education. The target audience is family and specialist physicians and other health care professionals. The goal is improved patient care while learning from medical experts throughout Saskatchewan.

November 2020
- Dr. Jenny Basran – Connected Care Strategy

December 2020
- Dr. Shaqil Peermohamed – Antimicrobial Stewardship

January 2021
- Dr. Regan Cooley and Dr. Sanchea Wasyliw – Stroke Prevention & Management of Acute Stroke
- Dr. Stephen Pylypchuk – Appropriateness of Echocardiograms
- Dr. Ben Leis – Approach to EKGs

November 2021
- Dr. Devon Houdek – Introduction to Insulin Pump Therapy
- Dr. Terra Arnason – SGLT2-i Therapy Update
- Dr. Gudrun Caspar-Bell – GLP-1RA Therapy Update
- Dr. Nassrein Hussein – Current Approaches to Glycemic Optimization in Type 2 Diabetes

December 2021
- Dr. Kyle Cunningham – Acne and Rosacea
- Dr. Rachel Asiniwasis – Skin Cancers and Actinic Keratoses
- Dr. Rachel Asiniwasis – Psoriasis and Atopic Dermatitis
Over the past year and a half, research has been paused then restarted under strict review conditions, and, more recently, opened up with recommended precautions. Despite a variety of challenges, our researchers have continued to produce a great deal of high-quality research with several researchers continuing to address COVID-19 either as principal investigators or as members of local and national teams.

Our department continues to be one of the most productive departments in the College of Medicine based on reports from the Office of the Vice Dean of Research. This is a testament to the important work being completed by our researchers. Some of our programs and highlights are described below.

Department members have been very successful in grant competitions locally, provincially, and nationally. A number of DOM researchers received funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation as principal investigators (PI) and co-investigator.

Notably, DOM researchers were successful at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Dr. Alexandra King was successful as a co-PI on a number of CIHR grants for her work in Indigenous health and wellness and community approaches; Dr. Debra Morgan was a co-PI on grants related to dementia care; Dr. Erika Penz was co-PI on a grant looking at the effects of e-cigarette exposure on macrophage function; and Dr. Julian Tam and Dr. Anderson Tyan were co-PIs on a grant looking at cellular bases of Cystic Fibrosis. In addition to this, there were a number of DOM researchers included as co-investigators on successful CIHR grants.

The DOM Faculty Research Days were unfortunately cancelled in 2020, however, in June 2021 we were able to hold this event remotely with an excellent turnout and participation. It was a packed day that highlighted the intensity and emphasis of research in the department. The topics varied from biomedical to clinical to population-based to health services research, and demonstrated the diversity of research in the department. We were also fortunate to include third year resident projects, which were very well done. We would also like to congratulate Dr. Michael Prystajecky for receiving the award for the top presentation in the Clinical, Population Health, and Health Services research category and Dr. Michael Levin for receiving the award for the top presentation in the Biomedical research category. We look forward to the next research day, anticipated for June 2022.

We would like to congratulate all members of the department for successes in and out of research. As always, we encourage you to contact the research committee and staff about your projects and ways in which we can assist you. Our departmental Research Facilitator, Dr. Ozlem Sari, can be reached at ozlem.sari@usask.ca. We also hope that by working together, we will be able to continue to build on our momentum in research throughout the province.
The Department of Medicine continues to provide support for new and established researchers through a variety of channels.

**RESEARCH LUNCH AND LEARNS**

Research Lunch and Learns are needs-driven meetings for members of the Department of Medicine. At these sessions, a presenter discusses practical topics related to research followed by a question-and-answer session with participants. The following topics were covered during the past year and half:

- Patient Oriented Research
- Knowledge Translation
- Quality Improvement
- Ethics Approval and Operational Approvals
- Grant Writing Workshop with Panel Discussion
- Exploring Funding Opportunities

Whenever possible, the lunch and learn sessions are recorded and available for viewing on the Dept. of Medicine Research SharePoint site which can be accessed from the research page on the DoM website.

**RESEARCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The Research Mentorship Program is designed to provide one-on-one and team support and advice for new researchers and those who wish to move into research. For more information about the Research Mentorship program, please contact our research facilitator Ozlem Sari at ozlem.sari@usask.ca

**ANNUAL RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY**

The Annual Resident Research Day was delayed due to the COVID-closures, and then rescheduled as online events. The PGY1 Case Presentations were held in June, and the PGY2 Poster Presentations took place in October. See the Celebrating Success pages of this report for a list of winners.
QUALITY of CARE

SECTION IV

Our Quality of Care Committee (QCC) continued to focus on the teaching around cognitive biases and concepts of system thinking/improvement during the Department of Medicine quality improvement rounds. Each group of presenting internal medicine residents is supervised by a member of Quality of Care Committee, which enhances the learning of trainees around the concepts of quality improvement. These rounds foster a culture of safety and provide a platform to have open conversations around quality and patient’s safety issues.

To date, no formal learning has been organized for the faculty of the Department of Medicine. Therefore, the Department of Medicine QCC felt the need to have a formalized assessment program to enhance the knowledge of patient safety and quality improvement in the Department of Medicine. A self-assessment program (SAP) for quality improvement and patient safety was offered for faculty (2020-2021). Faculty who attended the rounds were invited to participate in self-assessment after each quality improvement rounds and could claim it towards Royal College Section 3 credits. This was an accredited Self-Assessment Program (Section 3) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Continuing Medical Education Division, University of Saskatchewan. This activity was also awarded a Royal College Continuing Professional Activity Grant.
The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created in the spring of 2020 and released its terms of reference in July 2020.

The committee’s mandate is to promote an environment of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within the Department of Medicine, in line with the University of Saskatchewan’s EDI Policy, using evidence-based initiatives to implement best practices.

The committee membership is meant to reflect the diversity within the Department of Medicine and currently is comprised of five faculty members. Resident representatives from Saskatoon and Regina joined the committee early in the 2021 – 2022 academic year.

Output

- An EDI Needs Assessment Survey was conducted in the spring of 2021. Results will be used to shape future recommendations.
- The EDI Committee hosted Dr. Sean Polreis who gave a well-received presentation on unconscious bias during the May 5, 2021 Grand Rounds. A link to his recorded presentation can be found on the Department of Medicine website from the DOM Diversity Committee Link on the homepage. Links to several related articles can also be found on the Diversity Committee page.
- In June 2021, the committee made two recommendations for voluntary actions designed to contribute to creating a more inclusive environment for Indigenous members as well as members of the LGBTQ+ community.
  1. The Department of Medicine Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee recommend staff, faculty and trainees consider using the University of Saskatchewan land acknowledgement statement in their presentations.
  2. The Department of Medicine Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee recommends staff, faculty and trainees consider using their preferred pronouns in introductions as well as in email signatures.

The Department has adopted the use of the land acknowledgement statement in several scenarios including Grand Rounds, and several faculty and staff have included their preferred pronouns in their email signatures.
CELEBRATING SUCCESS
SECTION VI
HONOURS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our faculty make significant impacts in our communities, and many are nationally and internationally recognized leaders in their field. Some examples of their achievements are provided below.

Dr. Alexandra King – Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness (GIM – Saskatoon) was a key player in the launch of the waniska Centre for HIV, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and sexually transmitted blood-borne illness (STBBI). Read more about community-led research goals for the waniska Centre. June 2021.

Dr. King is also the co-lead of pewasaskwan, the Indigenous Wellness Research Group (IWRG) at USask. The group signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations to develop health-related projects of mutual interest. November 2021.

Dr. Alex Wong – Infectious Diseases (Regina), was awarded the 2021 CAHR-CANFAR Excellence in Research Award (clinical sciences category) from the Canadian Association for HIV Research in recognition of his contributions to HIV/AIDS research and a commitment to improving the lives of those living with HIV or at risk of HIV. May 2021.

Dr. Hassan Masri – GIM, Intensive Care (Saskatoon) was named one of CBC’s Future 40 for his ongoing efforts to educate the public about COVID through social media where he has more than a million view on Facebook, and through the mainstream media where he combats misinformation and encourage Saskatchewan people to look out for each other. December 2020.

Dr. Masri was also named one of two Teachers of the Year by the Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan. August 2020.

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk – Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine (Saskatoon) delivered the Presidential Honor Lecture titled COPD Management: We’ve Come So Far, at the 2020 CHEST Annual Meeting in recognition for his exceptional expertise. October 2020.

Dr. Terra Arnason – Endocrinology & Metabolism (Saskatoon) was one of twenty invited speakers from across Canada who provided an update on the current state of diabetes research for parliamentarians and heads of Diabetes Canada and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The online event was called “Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of Insulin: Diabetes Research and Innovation in the Making.” February 2020.

Dr. Donna Goodridge – Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, led a research team that created a video to highlight ways to intervene when older adults are experiencing abuse. The video was shared on June 15, 2021 as part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS

VOTED ON BY RESIDENTS AND PRESENTED AT AN ONLINE CEREMONY JUNE 2021

Bedside Teacher of the Year Award
Awarded to a faculty member in the internal medicine program for outstanding contribution to Grand Rounds, Academic Half Day or Subspecialty Rounds.

DR. SHARON CARD and DR. UPUL MADAMPAGE

Distinguished Lecturer Award
Awarded to a faculty member in the internal medicine program for outstanding contribution to Grand Rounds, Academic Half Day or Subspecialty Rounds.

and

Saskatoon Teacher of the Year Award
Awarded to a faculty member in the internal medicine program for excellence in informal and formal teaching.

DR. SHAQIL PEERMHOAMED

Regina Teacher of the Year Award
Awarded to a faculty member in the internal medicine program for excellence in informal and formal teaching.

DR. ZENON BELAK
RESIDENT AWARDS 2020-2021
AS VOTED BY FACULTY

Dr. David Cotton Award
(PGY1 or 2)

The Junior Resident who best displays the qualities of professionalism, accountability, commitment to excellence, duty, integrity and respect for patients and colleagues.

Samuel Harder

Dr. Ian Holmes Award
(Senior PGY3 Resident)

The Senior Resident who best displays the qualities of professionalism, accountability, commitment to excellence, duty, integrity and respect for patients and colleagues.

Tara Swami

Regina Resident of the Year

Awarded to the Regina Resident who best displays the qualities of professionalism, accountability, commitment to excellence, duty, integrity and respect for patients and colleagues.

Karen Ho
RESIDENT AWARDS 2020-2021
AS VOTED BY RESIDENTS

T.W. Wilson Spirit Award
Awarded by the Internal Medicine Residents to the Resident whose outstanding contribution to the program helped to build a rewarding and positive environment, motivating and inspiring his or her colleagues.

AlexTrebek Award
Awarded to the Senior Resident who best demonstrated excellence in bedside teaching, informal teaching, morning report teaching, or any other teaching activities as voted on by the PGY1 residents.

Professionalism Award
Awarded by the Internal Medicine Residents to the Resident who best displays the qualities of professionalism, accountability, commitment to excellence, duty, integrity and respect for patients and colleagues.

Nasim Zamir
Karen Ho
RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY

Due to pandemic-related restrictions, Resident Research Day was once again held as two online events. Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all who participated.

The current PGY2s presented their PGY1 Case Presentations in June 2021.

1st **Erik Yip-Liang**

2nd **Nina Dhillon**

3rd **Josh Low**

The current PGY3s presented their PGY2 projects in October 2021.

1st **Tim He**

2nd **Sam Harder**

3rd **Sanji Ali** and **Nikki Hodgins**

The top PGY3 research project was awarded to **Karen Ho** who was also the recipient of the **Kloppenburg Award**

Awarded to the PGY3 resident who has displayed consistent excellence in resident research throughout three core years of Internal Medicine training.
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY IN AGRICULTURE (CCHSA)

The Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture is a Type B University of Saskatchewan Research and Outreach Centre, with many of our faculty belonging to the Department of Medicine. Contributions from faculty whose primary academic appointment are outside the Department of Medicine are not included in this report. The Centre’s MISSION is to conduct and stimulate research, education, and health promotion programs aimed at enhancing the health and well-being of agricultural, rural and remote populations.

Over the last year CCHSA research and outreach has grown and adapted to our ongoing COVID-related challenges. On top of ongoing rural and agricultural health and safety research, CCHSA Department of Medicine faculty continue to have had significant roles related to the COVID pandemic including: work related to the SARS CoV-2 vaccine development, research with engineering addressing the impact of ventilation on virus transfer, and occupational health policy guidance to SHA regarding COVID policies and response as well as vaccine roll-out. CCHSA faculty also play a crucial role helping manage resumption of activities and presence in health sciences, particularly during the 4th wave.

So many remarkable lines of research and outreach have continued and developed over the year. Rural health remains a key area including the work of the Rural Dementia Action Research (RaDAR) Team and the Musculoskeletal Health and Access to Care research group. Through many partnerships and collaborations, our faculty continue research and outreach in respiratory exposures and health effects, farm injury and fatalities, musculoskeletal health, proteomics and metabolomics, rural dementia, asthma, diabetes in First Nations, and sleep health among First Nations People. We await news on a number of submitted tri-council grants and a Canada Foundation for Innovation Notice of Intent.
THE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NETWORK is the outreach arm of the Centre. The Ministry of Agriculture continues to provide funding support to the Centre ($100,000 per year) to support Network activities. The Network has built a library of COVID resources for agriculture and continues to be a very active partner in national efforts to coordinate resource development and communication strategies for agricultural producers across Canada. The fall 2020 and spring 2021 editions of the Network News, delivered to approximately 22,000 rural and farm families across Saskatchewan, covered numerous topics including COVID, mental health and wellness, musculoskeletal access to care in Saskatchewan, lyme disease, sun safety and skin health, and carcinogen exposures in Canada.

CCHSA also provides the knowledge translation for seven different applied research programs for the next 3 years under the Agrivita Canada Agrisafety Applied Science Program ($470,000 matched).

THE RURAL DEMENTIA ACTION RESEARCH (RaDAR) team, housed at CCHSA and under the leadership of Dr. Morgan, continues to support the implementation, sustainability, and spread of primary health care memory clinics in rural communities in Saskatchewan that range from 350 – 11,000. Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, four primary health care teams have continued to run clinics, with a new team beginning this fall. An excellent video about the clinics can be found here.

CCHSA is delighted to welcome Dr. Angelica Lang to our faculty as of July 1 2021. Dr. Lang earned her doctoral degree in Health Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan and her Master's degree in biomechanics from the University of Waterloo. Dr. Lang's research program will focus on improving the health and quality of life of individuals with musculoskeletal disorders. She aims to define upper limb function across musculoskeletal disorders to inform ergonomic interventions and return-to-work in rural and agricultural settings. Dr. Lang leads the ergonomics and vibration lab at CCHSA.

Under the supervision of Dr. Koehncke (occupational medicine) and Kendra Ulmer RN, CCHSA continues to provide clinical screening and surveillance to employers and producers through its CANWORKSAFE program. This includes hearing testing, lung function testing as well as respirator fit testing and medical fitness-to-wear respirator assessments, delivered by a nurse and under the supervision of an occupational medicine specialist.
The Cardiology Division in Saskatoon has expanded with the recruitment of three new cardiologists in the summer of 2020. These new members include Dr. C. Pekrul, Dr. M. Cenkowski and Dr. S. Pylypshuk who all returned to Saskatoon after completion of their fellowships.

**Dr. Cenkowski** has completed a fellowship in echocardiography and has a special interest in stress echocardiography and 3D mitral valve echocardiography.

**Dr. Pekrul** has a fellowship in electrophysiology and is performing device implants/complex ablations. He is currently facilitating the development of an atrial fibrillation rapid access clinic/pathway.

**Dr. Pylypshuk** completed fellowships in echocardiography and adult congenital heart disease (ACHD). He is the first cardiologist in Saskatchewan with a 2-year fellowship in ACHD and is in the process of establishing an adult congenital heart clinic to meet the increasing demands of this complex and growing patient population.

**COVID IMPACT**

The Covid pandemic has created many challenges throughout all areas of medicine. One benefit of the pandemic was the rapid development and implementation of virtual care. This enabled us to see the possibility of continuing virtual care long-term, especially for some of the older and rural patient populations. With the Covid pandemic, the cardiology division and ICU were able to create an ECMO
team and shock team that was of paramount importance during the Covid waves to provide optimal advanced care for those most critically ill patients.

EDUCATION

The cardiology residency program continues to have successful recruitment of residents with two trainees per year (total of six cardiology trainees in the program). The graduating trainees have all successfully passed their Royal College Cardiology exams.

We would like to thank Dr. Coverett for his hard work and dedication as he recently completed a 10-year term as cardiology program director. During this time, he was instrumental in the successful recruitment and training of our cardiology residents and creating a positive and rewarding training experience. Dr. Wardell has become the cardiology program director as of July 2021.

This year the cardiology program has implemented Competency by Design (CBD) and Dr. Ecsktein is facilitating the delivery of this program and is the CBD lead for the division of cardiology.

Over the past two years, Dr. Nosib has become a regular subspecialist contributing additional call weeks on the internal medicine/CTU teams in addition to his regular cardiology duties. He is passionate about medical education at the postgraduate level and has been dedicated to rounds and bedside teaching with the internal medicine residents. We would like to acknowledge Dr. Nosib for his exemplary teaching and the successful publication of multiple case reports with the internal medicine residents over the past year.

RESEARCH

The USask Cardiovascular Research Group (CRG) is committed to research that will improve cardiac care delivery to the province. Dr. Haddad is the chair of this research group and Dr. Shavadia is co-chair. There are currently three PhD candidates: Udoka Okapalauwaekwe, Sabeena Khan, Natasha Boyes Mostat. There are multiple research initiatives that are underway and the details are available on the Department of Medicine website.
DERMATOLOGY

Faculty and Rank
Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. Duane Lichtenwald

Assistant Professor
Dr. Kyle Cullingham
Dr. Kerry Gardner
Dr. Irina Oroz
Dr. Kirsten Walker

FAREWELL
to Dr. Miliszewski who moved in July 2021.

PATIENT CARE
All six Saskatoon dermatologist are full time private office-based fee for service physicians handling consultations predominantly from the northern half of the province.

Dr. Lichtenwald is the medical director of the phototherapy unit at RUH.

RESEARCH
Dr. Kirsten Walker and Dr. Kerry Gardner have ongoing clinical trials:

i. Dupilimab for adolescents with atopic dermatitis,
ii. An oral immune modulator for adults with atopic dermatitis,
iii. A phosphodiesterase inhibitor (apremiplast) in mild to moderate psoriasis.
iv. IL-17 inhibitor for Hidradenitis suppurativa.

EDUCATION
Medical students, medical, surgical, pediatric and family medicine residents do elective time in the private dermatology offices of the division members.

Members of the division lecture in the undergraduate skin sciences course and have lectured at provincial CME conferences for Family Physicians, Pediatricians and Pharmacy.

Members of the division have a monthly, accredited journal club and a monthly, accredited clinical meeting to review challenging cases. The division members, medical students interested in pursuing dermatology, and students or residents doing dermatology electives, attend these meetings.

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Oroz was appointed co-chair of the Basics of Skin Science program. She has also become the Royal College Sub-Speciality region 2 rep for Dermatology.

Dr. Cullingham was re-elected as RAC member, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.
The Division of Endocrinology currently consists of five faculty members who serve Saskatoon and all of northern Saskatchewan.

Dr. Houdek and Dr. Hussein have been involved in consultation meetings with the Ministry of Health to advise on the rollout of the new province-wide insulin pump program for adults with Type 1 Diabetes in Saskatchewan. We are excited for this initiative and have been working hard with our multidisciplinary diabetes teams to meet the insulin pump demands of our Type 1 Diabetes patients.

Dr. Caspar-Bell gave numerous well-received Grand Rounds presentations for the Division on a variety of Endocrinology topics and continues to provide clinical care in joint pituitary and thyroid clinics with general surgeons and neurosurgeons at RUH.

Dr. Houdek is also participating in these joint clinics, as well as running his own busy practice and the endocrinology consultation service out of St. Paul’s Hospital, and providing specialized diabetes clinics along with Dr. Hussein through the LiveWell program. Dr. Houdek is also designing a CME diabetes series through the University of Saskatchewan to take place in the Fall of 2021 for primary care practitioners across the province.

Dr. Arnason has published multiple papers and has had multiple grants awarded this year (listed in the Grants section). In addition, Dr. Arnason was one of 20 researchers selected from across the country to present to Members of Parliament in Ottawa in a live national webinar held by Research Canada for the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus, “Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of Insulin: Diabetes Research and Innovation in the Making.”

Dr. Arnason was also the Keynote Speaker for all undergraduate students who did research over the academic year, “The Clinician-Scientist Path: Companion dogs enhance human cancer therapeutics” for the Student Undergraduate Research Experience Symposium at the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.
We also wish to congratulate **Dr. Hussein** who obtained the American Board of Obesity Medicine in the Spring of 2021 and has plans to start an obesity focused practice when she returns from maternity leave next year.

**Dr. Dala** continues to provide community endocrinology and diabetes care for patients in Saskatoon and Northern Saskatchewan.

**LEADERSHIP:**

- Dr. Hussein is the Vertical Theme Lead for Interprofessional Education at the UGME at the University of Saskatchewan.
- Dr. Hussein is the Vertical Theme Lead for Clinical Skills Internal Medicine Discipline Specific Patient Encounters.
- Dr. Hussein is the chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee for the Department of Medicine.
The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology continues to be proactive in recruitment and is now comprised of 11 members. Division specialized interests include therapeutic endoscopy, capsule endoscopy, small bowel ultrasound, hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease, and undergraduate/postgraduate education.

**RESEARCH**

**Dr. Sharyle Fowler** was invited to be a member of the Crohn’s and Colitis Canada Covid Task Force and helped author three publications relating to this as part of “Crohn’s and Colitis Canada’s 2021 Impact of COVID-19 and Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Canada” article series published in 2021. She is also a co-investigator on a CIHR Operating Grant “Serological Testing to Outline Protocols for COVID-19 in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: STOP COVID-19 in IBD”.

**PATIENT CARE**

Our three hepatologists, **Dr. Lawrence Worobetz, Dr. Mina Niazi and Dr. Nabeel Samad**, have created THE LIVER UNIT. The Liver Unit has a pooled consult service. It has developed its own website for information and education for both patients and health care workers. Additional funding has been obtained to expand the Liver Transplant component to include all patients post-liver transplant in the entire province as well as managing patients in the north and central portions of the province in the pre-transplant period. The liver unit now attends weekly ZOOM meetings with Edmonton liver transplantation for ongoing management of patients in pre and post transplant periods. A specific combined liver clinic with Aboriginal medicine has been established with Dr. King, Head of Aboriginal Medicine. We are moving forward to establish a multidisciplinary chronic liver disease unit to include social work, addiction services, aboriginal support, pharmacy, nursing and psychology. This will include components of teaching and research. This will also include post discharge follow-up of patients with the goal of preventing readmissions to hospital.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to **Dr. Sharyle Fowler** on her promotion to Associate Professor effective July 1, 2021.
**Dr. Tom Guzowski** continues to provide intestinal ultrasound that has impacted the IBD management model by providing a non-invasive and accessible tool for accurate disease staging and diminished requirements for CT, MRI, and colonoscopy. Dr. Guzowski has expanded intestinal ultrasound to include contrast enhanced ultrasound (CEUS). CEUS has the advantages of improved abscess assessment and enhanced differentiation between fibrotic and inflammatory disease.

**Dr. Samson Haimanot** has continued to expand advanced therapeutic endoscopy. He has made advancements in Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection for early esophageal and gastric cancer management and Per-oral Endoscopic Myotomy for Achalasia. Recently, he has pushed into other areas of third space endoscopy; this includes competing the first full thickness resection endoscopically of a Gastric GIST in Saskatchewan this year. The defect was closed with an advanced purse string technique.
GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Faculty and Rank
Emeritus Professor
  Dr. Thomas Wilson

Clinical Professor
  Dr. Uddhav Bhalerao
  Dr. Kempe Gowda
  Dr. Nawal Sharma

Clinical Associate Professor
  Dr. Sabyasachi Bose

Associate Professor
  Dr. Heather Ward

Assistant Professor
  Dr. Fahd Al-Dhalaan
  Dr. Syed Ali
  Dr. Jessie Baptiste
  Dr. Raviqubal Basi
  Dr. Allison Budd
  Dr. Sharon Card
  Dr. Jonathan Dean
  Dr. Nathan Degenhart
  Dr. Joseph Dimitry (July 2021)
  Dr. Bryan Evans
  Dr. Mark Fenske
  Dr. Devin Frobb
  Dr. Colin Gebhardt
  Dr. Sanyukta Ghoorah
  Dr. Rodmehr Hafezi
  Dr. Norman Joanis
  Dr. Jeremy Katulka (July 2021)
  Dr. Alexandra King
  Dr. Rekha Kundapur
  Dr. Benjamin Leis
  Dr. Arthur Ling
  Dr. Upul Madampage
  Dr. Lori Mamchur
  Dr. Hassan Masri
  Dr. Jill Newstead-Angel
  Dr. Anne PausJenssen
  Dr. Fatima Pirani (Oct. 2021)
  Dr. Michael Prystajecy
  Dr. Zohreh Sabbagh
  Dr. Griselda Serrano
  Dr. Rabia Shahid
  Dr. Praveena Sivapalan
  Dr. Matthew Skeldon (Aug 2021)
  Dr. Kristoffor Stewart
  Dr. Eileen Szabo
  Dr. Alia Teja
  Dr. Charanpreet Ubhi
  Dr. A. Unger
  Dr. Sabria Vallani
  Dr. Alastair Wall
  Dr. Andrew Yang
  Dr. Michael Zawadowski

Residents 8

RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Dr. Jessie Baptiste (until June 30, 2021)
  Dr. Alia Teja (as of July 1, 2021)
PROGRAM ADMIN ASST.
  Sherrise Mareschal & Lesley Reynolds
WELCOME
The General Internal Medicine Division is please to welcome our most recent recruits.

- Dr. Joe Dimitry completed his training at the University of Saskatchewan and has an interest in addictions medicine.
- Dr. Fatima Pirani joined our division after completing her training at the University of Calgary. She is working toward completing a Masters Degree in Quality Improvement from John Hopkins in 2022, and she has an interest in the outpatient care of vulnerable populations.
- Dr. Mathew Skeldon completed his training in Saskatchewan and has additional training focussing on Obesity Medicine.

Thank you to Dr. Jessie Baptiste for her years of service as the Program Director for GIM and we look forward to Dr. Alia Teja taking on this role.

PATIENT CARE AND EDUCATION
The General Internal Medicine Division has 46 members providing support to clinical services and educational activities at all three sites in Saskatoon. In any given week GIM Division members provided call coverage for 18 clinical inpatient services in the region. This is two more than the previous year and includes nine services at Saint Paul’s Hospital (SPH), two services at Saskatoon City Hospital (SCH) and seven services at Royal University Hospital (RUH). In addition, GIM members provide outpatient service to the Diabetic Management Clinic at the Westgate Clinic, HIV Clinic and Tuberculosis Clinic at RUH as well as outpatients clinics for General Medicine patients.

GIM Division members are actively involved in teaching undergraduates, residents and GIM fellows.

Royal University Hospital Clinical Service Coverage = 7
This past year has continued to be a challenging one for Internal Medicine inpatient services requiring the creation of additional teams to care for COVID patients and the increasing number of non-COVID patients. GIM members provide a significant number of weeks of call coverage to three clinical teaching units, and along with other subspecialty faculty members, provide coverage to the Medical Overflow Unit and the A and B Covid Units. GIM members are actively involved in providing clinical services and teaching medical students, residents and fellows. GIM also provides 24/7 medical consultation services for patients of General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology and other allied services.

St. Paul’s Hospital Clinical Service Coverage = 9
GIM provides clinical service support to six Accountability Care Units. These are well-structured geographically co-located units involved in well-organized multidisciplinary clinical rounds with the support of pharmacy, physiotherapy and other disciplines. This has increased the quality care of patients at SPH.

GIM Surgical Internist Consult Service provides consultation service to patients in General Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Thoacie Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Urology service at SPH.
The GIM On-Call Internist provides consultation service to medical patients for the Emergency Department at SPH as well as SFCC calls.

**Saskatoon City Hospital**  Clinical Service Coverage =2

Two internists are involved in providing clinical service at SCH. One provides consultation coverage to the Surgical Ward inpatients, Rehab and Geriatric Medicine Wards as well as Convalescent Unit coverage. Coverage is also occasionally provided to Rehab Medicine. The second internist provide consultation to the Pre-op Assessment Unit for surgical patients.

**RESEARCH**

Congratulations to **Dr. Alexandra King** on her accomplishments in promoting and supporting Indigenous health and wellness.

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael Prystajecky** for being awarded the top presentation in the Clinical, Population Health and Health Services category for the Department of Medicine Faculty Research Day for his work on *Geographic Collocation of an Internal Medicine Inpatient Service*. Dr. Prystajecky and other faculty members are also involved in other quality improvement projects.

Congratulations to **Dr. Sabira Valiani** on receiving various grants to explore improvements to patient care.
GERIATRIC MEDICINE

DIVISION HEAD – VACANT

FACULTY AND RANK
Associate Professor  Dr. Jenny Basran
Assistant Professor  Dr. Krista Lagimodiere
                      Dr. Megan Surkan

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS
This past year two new geriatricians were hired, Drs Surkan and Lagimodiere.
They have established an inpatient consult service at RUH as well as outpatient practices and are accepting referrals from family physicians and specialists in the community.

PATIENT CARE
Starting in August 2020, a geriatrician-led inpatient consult service at RUH provides individualized care plans and evidence-based Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments (CGA) in acute care for complex older inpatients.

Drs. Surkan and Lagimodiere have also been involved with restructuring the Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) primary care program, working to update the Day Hospital service and plan to provide specialist consultation once services resume.

EDUCATION
Over a dozen internal medicine residents and fellows have completed rotations in geriatric medicine in 2021, and Drs. Surkan and Lagimodiere have participated in teaching core IM resident and GIM fellow academic half days. They have also been involved in UGME teaching and Dr. Surkan was recently appointed geriatric clinical skills section lead for the College of Medicine.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT
• Development of an acute care delirium order set for RUH Cardiology 6000
• Advocating for an improved goals of care order set within the SHA, and
• Collaboration with the RaDAR program whereby both have presented various topics to community clinicians looking to expand their geriatric knowledge
• Joining U of S researchers in a study in collaboration with the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Justice Studies focusing presence of dementia in older offenders at the Regional Psychiatric Centre.
CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Shaqil Peermohamed on his promotion to Associate Professor effective July 1, 2021.
Congratulations to Dr. Rahul Mainra on his promotion to Professor effective July 1, 2021.

Farewell to Dr. Elene Van Der Merwe who relocated to British Columbia in February 2021.

NEW INITIATIVES
Dr. Sachin Shah has led the home-based dialysis program for Kidney Health – North/Saskatoon. Providing optimal care closer to home for patients living with kidney failure via peritoneal or home hemodialysis is important, more sustainable and significantly more cost-effective than hospital-based dialysis. This strategy has helped keep patients home and safer during the pandemic.

LEADERSHIP ROLES
Dr. A. Halpin continues to participate on nation guideline committee for kidney failure conservative care pathways.

Dr. S. Shah is a member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons’ nephrology examination board.

Dr. J. Barton continues to participate on local and national medical education committees such as the Professional Learning and Development Committee- Royal College, the AFMC CACME Committee, and the Physician Skills Enhancement Committee.
CONGRATULATIONS
to Dr. Gary Hunter on his promotion to Associate Professor effective July 1, 2021

WELCOME
The Division of Neurology welcomed two of our former residents as staff – Dr. Sanchea Wasyliw joined in August 2020 after a one-year stroke fellowship at the University of Calgary, and Dr. Regan Cooley joined in September 2020 after a one-year stroke fellowship in Melbourne, Australia. Their addition has greatly enhanced the Provincial Stroke program.

PATIENT CARE
The Neurology inpatient and consult service transitioned to dedicated Stroke and General Neurology services in September 2021. This reorganization is designed to further enhance patient care and resident education.

Prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, multidisciplinary clinics including multiple sclerosis (MS) and ALS/motor neuro disease have transitioned to providing care remotely. The Stroke clinic also continues to provide remote care.
EDUCATION

Dr. Brett Graham and Dr. Katherine Archibold (PGY2) created and implemented Stroke Care and Neurological Emergency Response Simulation (SCaNERS) with the CLRC (clinical learning resource centre), which involves acute stroke simulation training and education.

RESEARCH

Dr. Kerri Schellenberg was an invited speaker and moderator at the Neuromuscular Disease Network for Canada (NMD4C) in June 2021 where she presented on Kennedy’s Disease in Indigenous Populations in Canada (with collaborators Drs. Malcolm and Alexandra King from the U of S, and Dr. G. Pfeffer from the University of Calgary). She was profiled in the local media about this neuromuscular condition, which has a much greater than expected prevalence in the Indigenous population.

There were 49 peer reviewed publications from the Division in the past 18 months. In addition, Division members received Tri-Council funding, funding from other competitive peer reviewed sources, and participated in industry-funded clinical studies.

FAREWELL

The Division of Neurology acknowledges with sadness the passing of our friend and colleague Dr. Jose Tellez-Zenteno in the fall of 2020.
The Division of Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine continues to make significant contributions within the three pillars of patient care, administration, and research. Our members provide both inpatient and outpatient clinical services and contribute to teaching of both undergraduate and post-graduate students.

Members of the division continue to provide leadership in the Saskatchewan Health Authority and University of Saskatchewan pandemic responses in addition to a host of other administrative duties in both organizations. For example, Dr. Mark Fenton served as the Pandemic Area Chief of Staff for Saskatoon.

The division remains highly productive in research with over 80 publications in addition to receiving multiple peer-reviewed grants.

FAREWELL to Dr. Ian Magee who left the department in July 2021.
We extend congratulations to the following members who were recognized with national/international awards and recognitions:

- **Dr. B. Graham**
  1) 2021 Canadian Thoracic Society Distinguished Achievement Award and
  2) 2021 Canadian Lung Association Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Dr. D. Marciniuk**
  1) American College of Chest Physicians Award of Distinguished CHEST Educator, 2021 and
  2) CHEST Presidential Award and Honour Lecture, October 18, 2020.
  American College of Chest Physicians
- **Dr. E. Penz**
  Appointed as Advisory Board Member, Institute of Cancer Research/CIHR
- **Dr. M. Fenton**
  American College of Chest Physicians Award of Distinguished CHEST Educator 2021, American College of Chest Physicians

The **Respiratory Research Centre (RRC)** is dedicated to enabling ground-breaking discoveries in respiratory health from across the province. Nine of the 33 academic members are from the Department of Medicine and several are from the Division of Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine including the Director, Dr. Donna Goodridge. Centre members had a very productive 18 months. A list of publications and grants can be found at the end of this report. More information about the RRC can be found on its website at [https://medicine.usask.ca/respiratoryresearch](https://medicine.usask.ca/respiratoryresearch).
The Saskatoon Division of Rheumatology is very pleased to share that we have welcomed the addition of three new members in the summer of 2021. **Drs. Ambreen Khan, Vanessa Rininsland and Sarah Oberholtzer** have completed their rheumatology training at University of Saskatchewan and have joined practices here in Saskatoon.

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, our division members have continued to provide ongoing rheumatologic care to Saskatchewan people with focal and systemic rheumatologic disorders. This has involved considerable creativity and collaboration in care delivery to support patients with often multisystem and complex care needs. During this time, members have supported large outpatient practices and have strived, for the most part successfully, to ensure these vulnerable patients can be cared for outside of the inpatient hospital setting. We have also provided and maintained a continuous consultation service for all three hospitals in Saskatoon and the Northern Saskatchewan catchment area during this time.

Our newest members are already actively contributing to further expansion of rheumatology service delivery. **Drs. Rininsland and Oberholtzer** are collaborating with our Northern Medical Services leadership to develop and offer a periodic rheumatology clinic in La Ronge, SK which will contribute to increased access-to-care for Northern rheumatology patients.

Ongoing and expanding service delivery by our members include: the rheumatology-respiratory combined clinic collaborations with **Drs. Keltie Anderson** and Veronica Marcoux as well as **Drs. Vanessa Rininsland** and Stacey Lok. These clinics particularly provide care for patients with interstitial lung disease in the context of connective tissue/rheumatic disease. **Dr. Jodie Reis** continues to collaborate with Dr. Sheryl Fowler for a combined rheumatology-GI clinic which provides care for patients with inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatologic presentations. Dr. Reis also supports bone health care delivery through both a fracture liaison service creating opportunity for osteoporosis treatment intervention for orthopaedic patients as well as through a clinic dedicated to
oncology patients on hormone deprivation therapies. **Dr. Tun Nyo** continues to support the division with his ultrasound skills in assessment of patients including those with suspected giant cell arteritis diagnosis or reactivations.

Saskatoon division members participate in all aspects of our department and university mission including research including various clinical trials, post-graduate and undergraduate teaching, administration and clinical service delivery. Division members participate in national committees and in national scientific conferences.

Division members have supported continuous medical education with our weekly rheumatology grand rounds which are accessible to the provincial community as well as through annual educational meetings including the ROS meeting chaired by **Dr. Latha Naik** and the SRAM meeting chaired by **Dr. W. Olszynski**. SARRS, an educational meeting for internal medicine and rheumatology residents, has been developed and hosted by **Drs. Anderson** and **Reis**.

Our rheumatology subspecialty program has gone through a cyclic Royal College Review during this past year and has continued to be fully accredited. We currently have one resident in our program in their R4 year, **Dr. Matthew Chan**.
It has been another year of working in a pandemic with significant challenges in healthcare.

Regina has an outstanding team and when I pause to consider, I am once again amazed at the growth, leadership and teamwork they have displayed especially with such limited resources. I am grateful for the many division members who have stepped forward and assumed COVID-specific leadership roles.

In spite of the pandemic, we have managed to move forward with recruitment, academics and research.

Welcome to the new faculty members who have joined our team in GIM, Cardiology, Nephrology, Neurology and Respirology. We are delighted to have you join us and hope your first few months have been rewarding.

I am so proud and grateful to being part of this team!

As we head into our fifth wave of COVID I am hoping for continued resiliency in the year ahead.

The following pages contain the highlights of some of the Regina divisions from the past 18 months.

Dr. Bonnie Richardson MD, FRPC
Area Lead – Regina
CARDIOLOGY – REGINA

Faculty and Rank
Clinical Professor
- Dr. Ayman Aboguddah
- Dr. Hassan Gargoum
- Dr. Rodney Zimmermann

Clinical Associate Professor
- Dr. Payam Dehghani
- Dr. Wladyslaw Wojcik

Assistant Professor
- Dr. Jeffrey Booker
- Dr. Scott Donald (Oct. 2021)
- Dr. Andrea Lavoie
- Dr. Dakshina Murthy
- Dr. Omar Sultan
- Dr. Colin Yeung
- Dr. Yang Zhan
- Dr. Wenwan Zhou

Clinical Initiatives
We have recently taken over management of the Lipid Clinic in Regina, rebranding it as a Cardiac Risk Clinic to reflect management of cardiac risk beyond lipids, including diabetes and rehabilitation led by Dr. Yeung.

Dr. Aboguddah donated equipment and will help initiate autonomic cardiac testing in Regina.

We are continuing to expand the TAVI program led by Drs. Booker and Dehghani. Dr. Zhan has been working closely with radiology to bring enhanced cardiac imaging to southern Saskatchewan.

Welcome to Dr. Donald who joined our team as an interventional cardiologist October of 2021.
**ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH**

The Prairie Vascular Research Group, with **Dr. Dehghani, Dr. Lavoie and Dr. Sultan**, continue to provide significant output of research from the Regina with multiple publications and presentations. PVRI was integral in developing the NACMI (North American Covid-19 ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction) Registry which helped to better understand the MI experience in COVID-19.

**LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

**Dr. Zimmermann** has just completed his role as Division Head. His leadership and commitment are greatly appreciated. He has just completed his role as treasurer of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and remains the Chair of the External Relations Committee.

**Dr. Dehghani** has played a large role in development of the NACMI Registry with ongoing leadership.

**Dr. Lavoie** is Vice President of the Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology and on the Royal College AFC Subcommittee of Interventional Cardiologists She sits on the Board of The Hospitals of Regina Foundation and is Director of the Prairie Cardiac Foundation.

**AWARDS and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Dr. Donald** received his DRCPSC for interventional cardiology.

**Dr. Lavoie** was nominated for the YMCA Women of Distinction Award (Healthcare Hero) and received her designation as a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology.
**DERMATOLOGY – REGINA**

Dr. Abbas has been providing teaching opportunities to medical students and residents from many specialties throughout the last few years. Her focus has been to help prepare learners to tackle patient care through the challenges of the pandemic. She has incorporated virtual care into her practice and provided learners an opportunity to learn this skill set. She also has taken on academic day learning for dermatology residents and in addition helped with the Systems teaching for medical students in their second year.

She is working alongside medical students to publish interesting case reports and in addition is taking on the role of Board of Directors for the Eczema Society of Canada. She also spends time through educational events educating family doctors on eczema management in Western Canada.

**Dr. Asiniwasis** has been providing teaching opportunities to medical students and residents from both Internal Medicine and Family Medicine on dermatology-related topics. She also leads Indigenous Health sessions for year 3 medical students.

Dr. Asiniwasis has continued her dermatology clinics to remote communities and is a frequent presenter about treating skin disease in remote and Indigenous communities. She continues to build her research activities and in April 2021 was selected for the 2021-23 Clinical Research Support Program from the SHA. In August 2021 she was awarded the 2021 University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine Spirit of the College Award.
COVID-19 Representation
Dr. Kevin Hamming and Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald served as Coronavirus (COVID-19) Department of Medicine Task Force Members to assist with strategic planning in preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Practice Updates
Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald and Dr. Kevin Hamming successfully relocated their endocrinology outpatient practices from an academic setting at the Regina General Hospital to a community-based practice in downtown Regina during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Quality Improvement Initiatives
Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald and Dr. Kevin Hamming provided valuable clinician input and leadership to assist with helpful revisions to the Provincial Insulin Pump Program to improve the access to insulin pump therapy for all patients with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus.

Dr. FitzGerald, working with Medical Biochemist Ramesh Saeedi, successfully implemented standardized dynamic stimulation testing protocols for endocrine testing in the Regina Area.

Medical Student and Resident Education
Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald and Dr. Kevin Hamming both remain actively invested in ongoing medical education by providing medical student and resident teaching pertaining to endocrine disorders.

Research
Dr. Jeremy FitzGerald remains actively involved in resident research serving as supervisor for Dr. K. Wang and Dr. K. Ho and their ongoing resident research study examining osteoporosis treatment among hip fracture patients at the time of discharge.
Gastroenterology – Regina

Dr. Sanchit Bhasin continues to practice in general gastroenterology, with a predominant focus on inflammatory bowel disease. He leads the Regina video capsule endoscopy program. Dr. Bhasin is currently collaborating with Dr. S. Fowler and Dr. T. Guzowski in looking at the impact of virtual care on IBD patients in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. He remains committed to being involved with the Regina Internal Medicine residency training program and currently acts as an academic advisor.

Dr. George Chami and Dr. Mike O’Byrne continue to practice in general gastroenterology and therapeutic endoscopy. Regina remains a busy referral centre for advanced endoscopy with a strong focus on endoscopic ultrasound, ERCP, double balloon enteroscopy and luminal stenting. Dr. O’Byrne is pursuing advanced training in endoscopic submucosal dissection.

Dr. Christian Rueda-Clausen continues to expand his general gastroenterology practice with a focus on bariatric gastroenterology and fatty liver disease.
GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE – REGINA

Faculty and Rank

Clinical Associate Professor
Dr. Jarol Boan
Dr. Patrick Duffy
Dr. Habib Rehman

Assistant Professor
Dr. Moyosore Abimboye
Dr. Babatunde Adewunmi
Dr. Henry Akinpeloye (July 2021)
Dr. Mowad Benguzzi (July 2021)
Dr. Anmol Cheema
Dr. Amanda Ellwood
Dr. Elizabeth Gibbings
Dr. Linas Kumeliauskas
Dr. Steven Lwanga
Dr. Ghulam Moinuddin
Dr. Olumide Ogundare
Dr. Tom Perron
Dr. Anmol Cheema
Dr. Amanda Ellwood

DR. OLUMIDE OGUNDARE
DIVISION LEAD – INCOMING
(AS OF JANUARY 1, 2022)

DR. JAROL BOAN
DIVISION LEAD – OUTGOING
(UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2021)

GENERAL STATE OF THE DIVISION

The division continued to make progress in the year and became stronger in its ability to deliver care to our patients and respond to the challenges of the time. We provided the stable hands needed to get Regina through the most challenging period of the pandemic, both in leadership positions and in term of boots on the ground.

Dr. Olumide Ogundare assumed the Area Division Lead position in January 2022, as Dr. Jarol Boan rounded up her tenure in December 2021.

COVID-19

The division as a group continued to make progress in the year despite the significant challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. Building on the experience of the early months of the pandemic, division members became quite flexible and were able to quickly respond to the bumps and grind the pandemic brought.

Covid hospital services at the Regina General Hospital (RGH) provided the backbone for in-patient care for COVID infected patients and we worked collaboratively with our intensive care colleagues in Regina and province wide, to ensure our patients got the care they needed. The physician upskilling programme helped fill in the small gaps we had in our number, and we worked leading the RGH group to flexibly provide care and education.
**Highlights of COVID Work**

- 2 GIM hospital service lines provided core COVID care at RGH, with support from the 2 Hospitalist service lines.
- 1 COVID fighter pilot provided COVID specific support to the community-based COVID assessment centre and the surrounding areas.
- 1 internist service line ("day admitters") provided dedicated admission services to RGH and Pasqua Hospital for COVID and non-COVID patients and supported physicians from Regina and peripheral areas.
- Sitting at a variety of leadership level forums to help direct the COVID response.

**Welcome**

The division continues to increase in number and strength during the year with the addition of our most recent new members, **Dr. Calvin Tsui, Dr. Mowad Benguzzi** and **Dr. Henry Akinpeloye**. Dr. Anita Lwanga was interviewed and has a start date for January 2022. The previously recruited new members continued to become established in their role and community service provision within the limits of the pandemic.

The increased number of members within the division has made a difference in our ability to respond to crisis and maintain a good work life balance for members. A strategic plan is being developed to increase the number of division members to meet the challenges of the future.

**Education**

**Dr. Marc Reeson** continues to grow in his role as the Residency Programme Director for Regina. With the increased number of faculties also came the increased in skill and interest levels available to the teaching programme.

There are currently 18 residents based in Regina: 8 in PGY1, 6 in PGY2 and 4 in PGY3. The number of residents for the coming year is projected to increase to 21, which is welcomed.

Forty Year 3 medical clerks rotated through Regina in the past year, and we enjoyed the opportunity to train the medical workforce of the future. We look forward to welcoming more medical clerks to Regina in the future.

**Research**

Several members of the division continue to be involved in research activities and we hope to encourage the new members to explore their research interests.

**Dr. Ogundare** has joined the research team led by Dr. Mohan Babu looking at “Development of SARS-CoV-2 Peptide Therapeutics and Point-of-Care Salivary Diagnostics for Rapid Viral Detection (COVPE).
Over the past year and a half, the Division of Infectious Diseases in Regina provided leadership, both locally and provincially, for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in all aspects. Members worked exhaustively to provide support and recommendations towards all aspects of COVID-19 prevention, education, treatment and infection control.

Moreover, the division continued to provide clinical care for both inpatients and outpatients with all Infectious Diseases (ID) related issues. The division developed, innovated and utilized unique and virtual approaches and methods for urban, rural and the most vulnerable populations to provide care that can be utilized in the future. Division members provide numerous outreach clinics to harm reduction clinics, correctional facilities, and rural and First Nation communities. At the same time, the ID division continued to be extremely productive in research, receiving numerous grants and producing numerous publications and abstracts. All these successes occurred despite the significant need for recruitment of additional physicians.

**COVID - 19**

The division showed leadership in providing expertise in all aspects of COVID-19. As a summary, members were leaders in the local IHICC group and guided the Regina and Saskatchewan COVID-19 pandemic responses. In addition, members provided leadership in therapeutic guidance and recommendations for the province.

Our division provided significant clinical and therapeutic support guidance for physicians in the hospital to provide optimal clinical care and navigate incredibly difficult and complex patient scenarios.

Our division also worked in partnership with infection control and public health to ensure the safety of HCW’s and patients to prevent outbreaks and ensure patient flow.

In addition, members sat on numerous provincial expert committees, supported vaccination strategies and approaches, and provided education and awareness to HCW’s and the public through social media and media appearances.
Regina was hardest hit in Saskatchewan in 2020-21 with COVID-19 outbreaks, including VOC’s. The division of ID members worked tirelessly and in close partnership in all physicians and providers to minimize the impact during those difficult times.

**Highlights of COVID work**

- Regina Pandemic Chief of Staff
- Development and implementation of rapid testing in Regina hospitals
- Clinical and programmatic support of COVID care in isolation centers
- Saskatchewan Therapeutics Expert Group Co-Lead (Provincial COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines)
- Leadership in the Operationalization of Province-Wide Therapeutics Programs Including the Monoclonal Infusion Clinics, Oral Antivirals, and Inpatient Therapies
- COVID-19 Rapid Evidence Reviews Group
- HCW vaccination development and support
- Infection Control Provincial Expert Panel
- Virtual care pilot for the use of Tablets in COVID units
- Virtual care clinic development for rural and Indigenous communities
- Media and public awareness messaging and advocacy, particularly Dr. Wong with 17,000 Twitter followers.
- COVID-19 immunization clinic for HIV positive patients
- Numerous grants received for COVID-19 related research and initiatives
- Representation in the National COVID Monoclonal and Therapeutics Group
- COVID-19 Clinical Trials Including: REMAP-CAP and CONCOR-1

**Recruitment**

The division still sees recruitment as one of the most significant needs and priorities. We were unable to recruit additional physicians this year but look to add an additional one or two members in the year ahead to ensure stability and provide better work-life balance for our members.

**Education**

Division members continue to provide clinical ID education for Regina and Saskatoon residents and students. In addition, a number of residents are involved in ID related research projects with our members, resulting in a number of publications for the residents and students. Furthermore, division members contribute to competency based medical education through roles such as academic advisor to Core Internal Medicine residents.

**Research Activities**

The Division of Infectious Diseases in Regina continues to be extremely productive in research and publications. Numerous grants were received by members, including tri-council and competitive grants. This has developed into a large research team within our division.

Moreover, division members have been productive in publications, abstracts and conference presentations. **Dr. Wong** was included in the ATLAS-2M clinical trial published in the Lancet.

The division is productive in a diverse area of research and innovation. These areas include:

- clinical trials in hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV (**Dr. Wong**)
- clinical informatics and data science (**Dr. Lee**)
- virtual care delivery (**Drs. Wong, Lee, Skinner**)
• Indigenous and First Nation community health care delivery for chronic health conditions (Dr. Skinner)
• Antimicrobial stewardship (Dr. Lee)

AWARDS

Dr. Wong was awarded the 2021 CAHR-CANFAR Excellence in HIV Research Award for Clinical Sciences and the 2021 Clinician of Year for the Regina Department of Medicine.

Dr. Lee received the 2021-23 Clinician Support Program award.
The nephrologists work in a multidisciplinary Kidney Health Center, which serves chronic kidney disease patients, in-center hemodialysis and home dialysis patients.

Most of our work this year was focused on pandemic planning and resumption of services specifically in our CKD and Home Dialysis clinics.

Dr. Syed Amin took over as Division Lead in April 2021. We would like to thank Dr. Karunakaran for his leadership over the years.

Dr. Dorothy Thomas was appointed the Area Co-Chief of Staff along with Dr. G. White. We are grateful for her leadership.

RESEARCH
We would like to highlight Dr. Bhanu Prasad’s continued success in research and several publications in high impact journals. Detailed information can be found at the back of this report in the list of departmental publications.

NEW RECRUITS
We would like to welcome to Dr. Lookman Abdul and Dr. Olu Ogundare to the Division.
NEUROLOGY – REGINA

Faculty and Rank
Clinical Professor  Dr. Felix Veloso
Assistant Professor  Dr. Priya Figurado
Dr. Mohammad Ijaz
Dr. Vinesh Pillay
Dr. Ziaur Rehman
Dr. Syed Rizvi
Dr. Melad Shawush

STAFFING
Staffing continues to be a challenge for the Neurology Division with the Division short at least five neurologists. We look forward to the return of Dr. Figurado from maternity leave July 2022 and to the arrival of Dr. Asif who is in the process of completing his neurology training in Saskatoon. Dr. Asif is sponsored by SHA to do a fellowship in stroke and to come back to join our team in July 2023. With current members of the division nearing retirement age, recruitment will continue to be a priority.

OUTPATIENT CLINICS
Stroke and MS Clinic continue to provide necessary care to patients in person and virtually as per COVID guidelines and restrictions. EMG Lab and EEG Lab also continue to provide the necessary services, with a limited number of patients seen because of COVID guidelines and restrictions.

ACADEMIA
Unfortunately, we were not involved in research in 2021. Given our shortage of neurologists and overwhelming workload, we were not able to engage in research activities.
The Division of Respiratory Medicine – Regina provides a complete consultative service in respiratory medicine, including: overseeing the delivery of complete diagnostic services in pulmonary function and cardiopulmonary exercise testing; sleep medicine; a pleural disease clinic for management of non-malignant and malignant pleural disease; advanced diagnostic bronchoscopy with limited interventions. Quaternary referrals to Saskatoon and out of province are made in select cases.

**EDUCATION**

Dr. Tallon continues in the role of CBD Lead for postgraduate medical education (PGME) for internal medicine. Dr. Belak continues in his role as the Regina lead on the Residency Program Committee (RPC) for the Adult Respirology fellowship program in Saskatoon.

The Division of Respiratory Medicine continued to have a presence on the CTU. Dr. Tallon regularly participates on the teaching unit.

All Division members continue to accept assignment of undergraduate medical clerks and postgraduate residents for clinical rotations in adult respiratory medicine.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Tallon served as COVID-19 pandemic physician lead for the Division of Respiratory medicine – Regina.

Dr. Belak serves on numerous committees including: Provincial Respiratory Executive Committee; Endoscopy Operations Committee; Provincial Lung Health Alliance Committee; Respirology Residency Program Committee.

2022 will see active recruitment in the subspecialty of sleep medicine.

**WELCOME**

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Alia Daoud and Dr. Ingrid Wirth to the Division of Respiratory Medicine – Regina.
The Division of Rheumatology welcomed Dr. Zachary Wolfmeuller in 2021. We now have five rheumatologists in our division, all of whom are in community practice.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE
The pandemic was particularly challenging for our patients, and we all rose to the challenge of providing the best care, whether in-person or virtual, and advocating for our immunocompromised population in receiving vaccines in a timely manner.

Dr. Milne was the COVID lead, and provided support to the division of General Internal Medicine by doing in-hospital work.

TEACHING
Most of the members of our division provide teaching, to a variety of learners. Dr. Fahlman and Dr. Milne facilitate the undergrad rheumatology teaching. Dr. Milne is very involved in the internal medicine resident teaching, as well as other learners including family medicine and physiatry.

OTHER ROLES/COMMITTEES
Dr. Fahlman is an examiner for the Royal College in Rheumatology. She is also the Director of Student Affairs-College of Medicine, Regina Campus, and Member of the Academic Support Team-College of Medicine.

Dr. Milne is the Clinical Co-Lead for the IVIG Stewardship Program in Saskatchewan.
CRITICAL CARE ASSOCIATES (CCA) – REGINA

DR. HENNIE VAN DER MERWE
DIVISION HEAD
SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY AREAS

NE AREA – Prince Albert

**Dr. Adel Ben-Saleh**
- NE Area Lead

Faculty and Rank
Assistant Professor

Dr. Paul Acheampong (GIM)
Dr. Adel Ben-Saleh (GIM)
Dr. Radu Ilie-Haynes (GIM)
Dr. Joma Kondi (GIM)

Farewell and best wishes to Dr. Allison Martin who departed in August 2021.

Welcome to Dr. Joma Kondi.

NW AREA – North Battleford

**Vacant - NW Area Lead**

Thank you to Dr. Lookman Abdul for his work as NW Area Lead. We look forward to his continued contributions as part of the Regina team.
SW AREA – Moose Jaw and Swift Current

**DR. FAHAD MAJID**  
– SW AREA LEAD

Faculty and Rank  
Clinical Associate Professor  
  Dr. Walea Tarhuni (Cardiology)  
Assistant Professor  
  Dr. Jeffrey Wilkinson (Cardiology)  
  Dr. Alexandra Akinfiresoye (GIM)  
  Dr. Muhammad Aslam (GIM)  
  Dr. Michelle Lund (GIM)  
  Dr. Fahad Majid (GIM)  
  Dr. Tadeyo Khonje (GIM)  
  Dr. Fauzi Ramadan (GIM)  
  Dr. Omar Rodwan (GIM)

Thank you to **Dr. Fauzi Ramadan** for his years of service as SW Area Lead. **Dr. Fahad Majid** has now taken on this role.

Welcome to **Dr. Michelle Lund**.

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SE AREA– Yorkton

**DR. SALIU OLOKO**  
– SE AREA LEAD

Faculty and Rank  
Assistant Professor  
  Dr. Livinus Okafor (GIM)  
  Dr. Saliu Oloko (GIM)

Welcome to **Dr. Livinus Okafor** who set up practice in Yorkton in 2021.
### Research Grants July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021

(Main Source of Information: USask Uview)

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<tr>
<td>Arnason, Terra</td>
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<td>Inozyme Pharma, Inc. Boston, MA USA</td>
<td>A Phase 1/2, Open-Label, Multiple Ascending Dose Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacodynamics of INZ-701 Followed by an Open-Label Long-Term Extension Period in Adults with ENPP1 Deficiency. Protocol # 701-101.</td>
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<td>TERMINATION AGREEMENT: “A Phase Ib, Double-Blind, Randomized, Parallel Group, Placebo Controlled Multi-Centre Study to Evaluate the Effect of AZD8154 Administered via Nebulizer Once Daily on Allergen-Induced Inflammation in Subjects with Mild Allergic Asthma Challenged with an Inhaled Allergen”</td>
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<td>Fenton, Mark</td>
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<td>Longitudinal clinical symptom and experience analysis of Long COVID cases in Saskatchewan using a triangulation, mixed methods study leveraging app-or web-based surveys and focus group participation</td>
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<td>Fowler, Sharyle</td>
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<td>Letter of understanding for pre-trial activities for cancelled study MA41419 entitled “Randomized, open label Phase 3B study of Etrolizumab based induction therapy combinations followed by Etrolizumab maintenance therapy in patients with moderate to severe ulcerative colitis”</td>
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<td>EleosCare: Supporting Caregivers of People with Dementia through the Practice of Self-Compassion</td>
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<td>Impact of neutrophil chemokine antagonism in COVID-19 pneumonia</td>
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| Lee, Stephen  
| (Co-I) | Infectious Diseases | Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) | Staying Connected with Social Media During Social Distancing |
| Levin, Michael | Neurology | University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine (CoMRAD) | A novel approach to study oligodendrocyte dysfunction in multiple sclerosis disease model |
| Levin, Michael | Neurology | University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine (CoMBRIDGE) | A dysfunctional RNA binding protein contributes to neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis |
| Levin, Michael | Neurology | Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat -New Frontiers in Research Fund: Exploration Grant | An innovative approach designed to disrupt RNA binding protein aggregation and attenuate neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Co-I) | Neurology | Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation (CCNI) | Targeted radioimmunotherapy as a novel approach for the treatment of multiple sclerosis |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Co-I) | Neurology | Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) | Mitochondrial System (mitoSYSTEM) Research Centre for Chronic Disease |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Co-I) | Neurology | Helius Medical | Translingual stimuli with physical therapy to improve walking in MS |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Supervisor) | Neurology | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) | Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) Student: Todd Stang |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Supervisor) | Neurology | Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) | Frederick Banting & Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship: Doctoral Award – Cole Libner |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Supervisor) | Neurology | University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine | College of Medicine Graduate Student Award (CoMGRAD) – Hashim Abidullah |
| Levin, Michael  
| (Supervisor) | Neurology | University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine | Biomedical Summer Research Project Award – Todd Stang |
| Levin, Michael  
(Supervisor) | Neurology | Mitacs | Globalink Graduate Fellowship Award – Ansalna Ansari |
| Levin, Michael  
(Supervisor) | Neurology | University of Saskatchewan  
College of Medicine | Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology  
Devolved Scholarship – Ansalna Ansari |
<p>| Mainra, Rahul | Nephrology | Saskatchewan Health Authority | SNO-TRAC: COVID-19 Infections in Transplant Recipients: A Multicenter Registry |
| Marciniuk, Darcy | Respirology | Astrazeneca Canada Inc. | RESOLUTE: D3251C00014: A Multicenter, Randomised, Double-blind, Chronic-dosing, Parallel-group, Placebo-controlled Phase 3 Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Benralizumab 100 mg in Patients with Moderate to Very Severe Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) with a History of Frequent COPD Exacerbations and Elevated Peripheral Blood Eosinophils |
| Marciniuk, Darcy | Respirology | GlaxoSmithKline Inc. | CANCOLD: The Canadian Cohort Obstructive Lung Disease Study |
| Marciniuk, Darcy | Respirology | Saskatchewan Health Authority | COVID-19 and COPD: Important knowledge gaps in subclinical pulmonary disease in the Canadian population |
| Marciniuk, Darcy | Respirology | Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated | Confidentiality Agreement - Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AAT) |
| Marcoux, Veronica | Respirology | Astrazeneca Canada Inc. | Dr. David Cotton Excellence Award for 2020, Operating Grant |
| Marcoux, Veronica | Respirology | Saskatchewan Health Authority | CARE PF2020a: Characterizing Risk Factors and Disease Subgroup Classification in Interstitial Lung Disease in a Large Multi-site Canadian Cohort |
| Marcoux, Veronica | Respirology | Saskatchewan Health Authority | CARE-PF: Canadian Registry for Pulmonary Fibrosis |
| Marcoux, Veronica | Respirology | University of British Columbia | Canadian Registry for Pulmonary Fibrosis (CARE-PF) |
| Marcoux, Veronica (Co-I) | Respirology | Respiratory Research Centre, College of Medicine | Contribution of abnormal wound healing to the pathogenesis and progression of bleomycin-induced idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis using synchrotron-based imaging |
| Morgan, Debra (Co-I) | CCHSA | Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Grant - Analysis of CLSA Data | The association between loneliness and cognitive decline and the roles personality traits may play |</p>
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<td>Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA)'s Women, sex, gender &amp; dementia (WSGD) program funding competition</td>
<td>Understanding and improving the care of men and women with dementia across four Canadian provinces during and after the COVID-19 pandemic</td>
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<td>Morgan, Debra (SK lead)</td>
<td>CCHSA</td>
<td>Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Operating Grant: COVID-19. May 2020 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity</td>
<td>Improving the care of older adults living with dementia in the community across Canada during the COVID pandemic: a mixed methods study to inform policy and practice</td>
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<td>Peermohamed Shaqil</td>
<td>Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>Department of Medicine</td>
<td>Implementation of Fecal Microbiota Therapy for Recurrent Clostridioides difficile Infection in Saskatooon, Saskatchewan</td>
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<td>Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Establishment Grant</td>
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<td>Visualizing the effects of e-cigarette vape on alveolar macrophage function using a mouse model</td>
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<td>Implementation of a Novel Multidisciplinary Preoperative Assessment Pathway: Virtually There</td>
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<td>Rajput, Alex (Co-I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rajput, Ali (Collaborator)</td>
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<td>Schellenberg, Kerri</td>
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<td>A phase 3, multi-center, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Reldesemtiv in patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (COURAGE-ALS)</td>
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<td>Respirology</td>
<td>Cystic Fibrosis Canada</td>
<td>Adult CF Clinic Incentive Grant 2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tam, Julian</td>
<td>Respirology</td>
<td>Respiratory Research Centre, College of Medicine</td>
<td>Contribution of abnormal wound healing to the pathogenesis and progression of bleomycin-induced idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis using synchrotron-based imaging</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tyan, Chung-Chun</td>
<td>Respirology</td>
<td>Astrazeneca Canada Inc.</td>
<td>Dr. David Cotton Excellence Award for 2019 - for Dr. Chung-Chun (Anderson) Tyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valiani, Sabira</td>
<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
<td>College of Medicine</td>
<td>Exploring the impact of COVID-19 visitor restrictions on patient and family centered care in Canadian ICUs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valiani, Sabira</td>
<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research</td>
<td>Patient Engagement Application Development Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valiani, Sabira</td>
<td>General Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation</td>
<td>Connect-ICU: Using technology to facilitate communication and build relationships between patients, their loved ones, and the healthcare team in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wong, Alexander</td>
<td>Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation</td>
<td>COVID-19: Improving the Evidence to Treat an Emerging Infection Through Observational Studies and a Randomized Trial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zhai, Alexander</td>
<td>Cardiology</td>
<td>Brigham and Women's Hospital</td>
<td>CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT: A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel Group, Placebo-Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Effect of In-Hospital Initiation of Dapagliflozin on Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction Who Have Been Stabilized During Hospitalization for Acute Heart Failure</td>
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</table>

USask Department of Medicine Annual Report July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021
Each publication is included only once and is in order based on the last name of the first listed Department of Medicine author. The names of Department of Medicine faculty (or Professional Research Associate) are bolded.


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Verity R, **Kirk A**, Hunter G. *Symptoms of Lewy Body Dementia Induced by Herpes Zoster Encephalitis.* *Practical Neurology* 2020 July/August. 54-56.


Tso M, Kushneriuk DJ, Bree TL, Nosib SS. Incidental Acute ST Elevation Due to Cannabis-Induced Myocarditis After a Mechanical Fall. *CJC Open*. 2021 May 18;3(10):1303-1306. doi: 10.1016/j.cjco.2021.05.008.


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S Saadati, U Eduok, A Abdelrasoul , A Shoker **A surface-enhanced Raman scattering-based approach for rapid and highly sensitive quantitative analysis of 3-carboxy-4-methyl-5-propyl-2-furanpropionate and indole-3-acetic acid in saline, human serum and uremic serum of patients with chronic kidney disease.** *RSC Advances* Issue 71, 2020 doi.org/10.1039/D0RA06123A.


doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32666-0.


