NEW PUBLICATIONS


Rachel Miller, MD
Appointed as Deputy Editor for the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology

Max O’Donnell, MD, MPH
R21 Fogarty International Center/NIH/DHHS
Impact of a multimodal intervention to reduce dual stigma and improve treatment outcomes in HIV/Drugresistant TB co-infected patients in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
07/01/2018-04/30/2020


• ACAAI Second Place Clemens von Pirquet Award
• Abstract accepted for oral presentation at the 2018 ACAAI conference
We are thrilled to welcome three new faculty members to our division. Please join us in welcoming Drs. Michaela Anderson, Jeremy Beitler, and Christine Garcia.

Michaela Anderson, MD

Dr. Anderson joins the division as an enthusiastic clinician, researcher, and new mom. She is seeing patients in the Interstitial Lung Disease center and rounding on the inpatient lung transplantation service. Her research is focused on evaluating the association between adiposity and primary graft dysfunction after lung transplantation using CT imaging and adipose gene expression analyses. Using similar techniques, she is investigating the association between adipose and acute respiratory distress syndrome, frailty, and functional decline in the critically ill. She hopes that a better understanding of the links between obesity and acute lung injury will help identify novel target pathways for prevention and treatment.
Jeremy Beitler, MD, MPH

Jeremy joins the PACC Division as an Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Research for the Center for Acute Respiratory Failure. After residency at NYU, he completed fellowship at the Harvard-combined program, where he trained in the Talmor-Loring laboratory on esophageal pressure-guided ventilation and earned an MPH in clinical research. Prior to joining Columbia, he most recently was an Assistant Professor at University of California San Diego. His NIH-funded research program aims to develop personalized ventilatory support strategies by understanding patient-specific risk of mechanical lung injury via lung biomechanics and applied biology.

Outside of work, Jeremy cherishes spending time with his wife, Radhika (a physician-scientist at Cornell), and 4-year-old son, Lukas. They spend free weekends exploring the many great parks and restaurants of New York, hanging out at various Forest Hills playgrounds, and hiking the Hudson Valley and beyond (who would have guessed a 231-ft waterfall was so close to the city).
Christine Garcia, MD, PhD

Christine Kim Garcia received both her medical and graduate degrees from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 1996. Her training in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine preceded her faculty appointment at UT Southwestern. An invitation to participate in a Precision Medicine Symposium at Columbia in 2016 led to her recruitment and move to this institution. As of October 2018 she joined the Columbia faculty as the Frode Jensen Professor of Medicine and the Associate Director of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Garcia has had a long-standing interest in the genetics of adult-onset lung disease. Her laboratory has discovered rare mutations in several genes (TERT, TERC, SFTPA2, PARN, RTEL1, FLCN) that are linked to inherited forms of interstitial lung disease. These discoveries have implicated the telomere pathway and telomere shortening in the pathogenesis of progressive pulmonary fibrosis in aging humans. She looks forward to working with her new colleagues at Columbia to expand these studies.

Christine has been recruited to Columbia with her husband of 25 years, Joseph Garcia, a cardiologist and physician scientist. Together, they have made CRISPR-Cas9 directed changes in mice that mirror the genetic mutations found in humans. They have two grown children: a daughter, who is a chemical engineer in Texas, and a son, who is completing his computer science degree in Massachusetts.
VENT-AVOID in the MICU

We are currently screening and enrolling patients for the VENT-AVOID trial. This is a prospective, multi-center, randomized, controlled, pivotal trial which aims to validate the safety and efficacy of a device called the Hemolung Respiratory Assist System. The Hemolung provides extracorporeal carbon dioxide removal (ECCO₂R) for patients with an acute exacerbation of COPD, which can potentially reduce time on or serve as an alternative to invasive mechanical ventilation for this patient population. The study team is led by Dr. Daniel Brodie.

If you are aware of a patient who may qualify or would like to find out more about this trial please contact Alexis Serra, Research Coordinator at als9220@nyp.org or 646-317-2269.

NAVIGATOR Study

The NAVIGATOR Study is a Phase III randomized placebo controlled study that will look at anti-TSLP in relatively severe asthma among adolescents and asthma. Inclusion criteria:

- >12 years
- History of asthma exacerbations and severe, uncontrolled asthma
- Receiving high dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) plus at least one additional asthma controller medication (LABA, LTRA, theo LAMA, cromones) with or without oral corticosteroids (OCS).
- Morning pre-BD FEV₁ <80% predicted normal (<90% for subjects 12-17 years of age)
- Reversibility of FEV₁ ≥12% and ≥200 mL
- Documented history of at least 2 asthma exacerbation events within 12 months prior to Visit 1.

Email Rachel Miller, rlm14@cumc.columbia.edu or Elizabeth Duverger, ed2714@cumc.columbia.edu with possible patients.