On behalf of the University of Minnesota, thank you for your support of the Cardiovascular Fellowship Program. We are now in our 60th year of the program, having graduated more than 250 fellows throughout the years. In aligning our goals of the division for academic scholarship, we have committed ourselves to educating physician scholars in cardiovascular diseases.

We currently have 22 general Cardiology fellows who proudly represent our vision. Recently, our fellows have 14 publications in press and 25 submitted to major journals. Additionally, 7 fellows presented oral abstracts at the AHA meeting in November. At the ESC Congress in Amsterdam, first year fellow Chadi Alraies was recognized for the winning moderated poster presentation.

Beginning this year, we have been broadcasting our fellows Core Conference series via UMConnect, a web conferencing program, as well as our Grand Rounds series. For more information, please see page 5.

Our program will shift to a 4-year program in the 2014-2015 academic year, which will combine subspecialty training (Interventional Cardiology, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology, Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation, Advanced Cardiac Imaging, Prevention, Vascular, etc) with their general Cardiovascular Fellowship training.

Yours in heart health,
Fellow Updates:
- Khalil Murad, MD (2nd year fellow) won the Clinical Fellow Award at the UMN Cardiovascular Retreat on July 31, 2013 for his poster on “Impact of Extreme Body Mass Index on Outcomes of Heart Transplantation Recipients” (see right).

- Alok Sharma, MD (3rd year fellow) received Best Oral Presentation at the 9th Annual Complex Cardiovascular Catheter (C3) Global Summit in Orlando in June. Dr. Sharma also was awarded 3rd prize for best research abstract at the ACC Controversies in Cardiology annual meeting in May 2013 in Minneapolis. He was invited to speak at the AHA 2013 Annual Scientific Sessions this fall on “Heart Failure: Challenges Old and New.” At AHA, he was one of five fellows to receive the “Laennec Young Clinician Award”.

- Prab Nijjar, MD (3rd year fellow) published a manuscript “Race and gender variation in response to evoked inflammation” in the Journal of Translational Medicine in March 2013. In October, Dr. Nijjar presented a poster at the International Congress for Clinicians in Complementary and Integrative Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

- Ann Coumbe, MD (3rd year/Chief fellow)’s publication based on her research (“Cardiovascular Risk and Psoriasis: Beyond the Traditional Risk Factors”) on the NIH T32 training grant was published in the January 2014 issue of The American Journal of Medicine.

- Jason Rasmussen, MD (2nd year fellow) presented his poster on “Initiation of pulmonary arterial hypertension specific therapy is well tolerated in patients with severe lung disease and associated WHO Group III pulmonary hypertension” at CHEST in October 2013.

- Ash Tamene, MD (3rd year fellow) presented at two conferences in 2013 (ACC, VA Research Day) regarding his research on COPD and heart failure.

- Farzad Azimpour, MD (Fellow ’13, Chief fellow), who presented his research at ESC in September, had his first patent application published in October and is working on his third patent application.

- Balaji Krishnan, MD, MS (2nd year fellow) had abstracts at AHA in November and at HRS in 2013. He also recently applied for a Postdoctoral Fellowship grant at the AHA.

- Jason Bartos, MD, PhD (2nd year fellow) published articles in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics (“The high-risk patient with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction: Treatment Options and Challenges”) and also in Current Opinion in Critical Care.
- Hirad Yarmohammadi, MD, MPH (2nd year fellow) had an oral presentation at AHA in November, and has two abstracts accepted for ACC in March and ISHLT in April 2014. Additionally, he has published 3 papers in September 2013, including “Efficacy of CHADS2 scoring system to assess left atrial thrombogenic milieu risk before cardioversion of non-valvular atrial fibrillation” in The American Journal of Cardiology.

- Chadi Alraies, MD (1st year fellow) has had 9 publications in the past 5 months, the most recent two appearing in January’s issue of Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine (“Deep T waves and chest pain”).

- Kairav Vakil, MD (2nd year fellow) published 4 articles in 2013, including “An absolute obstacle: Cardiac metastasis of synovial sarcoma” in The American Journal of Medicine.

2013 Stethoscope Ceremony for First Year Cardiovascular Fellows

On July 13, 2013, we welcomed in a new group of incoming fellows by giving them their own stethoscope at the ceremony in the Campus Club. Our first year fellows:

Kashan Abidi, MD  Matt Olson, MD  Jason Wu, MD
Chadi Alraies, MD  Ziad Taimeh, MD
Wobo Bekwelem, MD  Bill Tran, MD

Forum Kamdar, MD, PhD candidate

Dr. Kamdar is a 4th year cardiology fellow in the Physician-Scientist Pathway doing research and working toward a PhD under the mentorship of Dr. Daniel Garry.

Following the completion of her clinical and research training, she plans to seek an academic position in cardiology. Based on her clinical experience, research in advanced heart failure patients, advanced degree and laboratory studies using hiPSC, she will be well positioned to successfully compete in this highly innovative and relevant field of research.

She recently presented 3 posters at ISHLT and was honored at AHA with a Young Investigator award from the American Association for Cardiologists of Indian Origin based on the accepted AHA abstracts. In December, she published a peer-reviewed article in the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplant titled “Safety of discontinuation of anti-coagulation in patients with continuous-flow left ventricular assist devices.” Forum’s achievements are echoed in her clinical work on CCI and EP rotations, where her attendings are consistently impressed with her work.
New Colleges Established

Beginning in 2013, 4 colleges were developed in the Cardiology Division. Meeting on a quarterly basis, the goal of these colleges is to establish an environment to promote academic and career mentoring as well as support, wellness and balance.

Additionally, we hope to fuel passion and excitement for discovery, innovation and pursuit of an academic career and love of medicine. The overall goal for the College Program is to fuel the passion and excitement for discovery, innovation and pursuit of an academic career and love of medicine. In addition, our goal is to foster leadership skills and promote an awareness of the impact that one leader can have on an entire field. There are three dedicated colleges for cardiovascular fellows and a fourth established for residents at the University of Minnesota who are interested in pursuing a career in cardiovascular medicine.

Each of the colleges are named for luminaries at the University of Minnesota that have transformed cardiovascular medicine and include:

- **Burchell College** (fellows)
  - Chancellor: Russell Luepker
  - Vice Chancellor: Alan Hirsch

- **Cohn College** (fellows)
  - Chancellor: Jay Cohn
  - Vice Chancellor: Gary Francis

- **Lillihei College** (fellows)
  - Chancellor: Dan Garry
  - Vice Chancellor: Ganesh Raveendran

- **Ebert College** (residents)
  - Chancellor: Ganesh Raveendran
  - Vice Chancellor: Dan Garry

Recruitment Update:

We concluded interviews for our 2014-2015 incoming class of cardiovascular fellows, interviewing more than 50 candidates over 4 days. We are excited to announce that we have an incredibly talented group of fellows to start in July 2014!

- **Stephen George, M.D. Ph.D.**  
  Med Sch: Univ of Utah  
  Residency: UT Southwestern

- **Jessen Jacob, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: State University of NY  
  Residency: Cleveland Clinic

- **Felipe Kazmirczak, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: Univ Luterana do Brasil  
  Residency: UCSD

- **Ryan Koene, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: Univ of Wisc-Madison  
  Residency: Univ of Minnesota

- **Zenab Laiq, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: Khyber Medical College  
  Residency: Univ of Nebraska

- **Ankit Maheshwari, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: Rush Univ Med Center  
  Residency: University of Iowa

- **Jeremy Markowitz, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: Northwestern Univ  
  Residency: UPMC

- **Kurt Prins, M.D., Ph.D.**  
  Med Sch: Univ of Minnesota  
  Residency: UAB

- **Marina Zakharova, M.D.**  
  Med Sch: Saint Petersburg Pavlov State Med Univ  
  Residency: Univ of Minnesota
UMConnect:

Inside the weekly Conference Schedule email sent from Elizabeth Goldsmith (Fellowship Coordinator, cvfellow@umn.edu), the link is provided to the weekly Core Conference web conferencing. Within a day or two following the conferences, the videos of the individual conferences are uploaded and posted them to the Google website page that houses past conference videos. For more information, please visit our website:

https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/umncvd/home/13-14-conference-schedule

Save the date!

University of Minnesota’s Cardiopalooza/Cardiovascular Research Retreat

Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 12:00-7:00pm

Cancer & Cardiovascular Research Building, 2231 6th Street SE, Mpls, MN 55455

Wilson College Established

A fifth college was established in December 2013, the Wilson College (named for Robert F. Wilson, below), which will have similar goals as the fellow and resident colleges, but would consist of medical students who have shown a significant passion for the Cardiovascular field.