



Infectious Diseases Division Newsletter

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Awards and Honors



Congratulations to **Ashita Batavia** (former ID fellow), who was awarded the Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award of Alpha Omega Alpha at the WCM Convocation.



Congratulations to **Priya Kodiyanplakkal** and **Ayana Morales**, who graduated from the Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (LAMP).



Awards and Honors



Congratulations to **Lish Ndhlovu**, for selection of his [publication](#) as a highlighted article and cover feature in the Journal of Leukocyte Biology: “Genome-wide DNA methylation profiling of peripheral blood reveals an epigenetic signature associated with severe COVID-19”.



Congratulations to **Alina Pang**, who was received the Dean’s Pilot Program to Promote Diversity in T32 Research Training Award



Appointments and Transitions



Congratulations to **Cesar Arias**, who will transition from UTHealth in Houston to become the new Chief of I.D. at Houston Methodist, a WCM affiliate.



Congratulations to **Nick Demenagas**, who joined NYPH/WCM as a Clinical Pharmacy Manager on July 26th. He'll be helping with ID consult services and antibiotic stewardship.



Congratulations to **Anna Gwak** of the ID-Clinical Research Unit, who has been promoted to Regulatory Specialist.

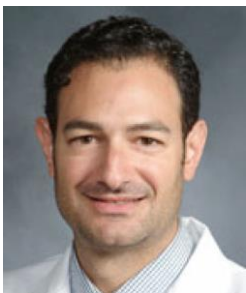


Appointments and Transitions

Congratulations to incoming I.D. Fellows, **Anna Mertelsmann** (left), **Alex Stabell** (right), and **Kate Stoeckle** (center), who joined the I.D. Division on July 1st:



Farewell to **Katy Robb**, who has accepted Research Nurse Coordinator position with the NYP Transplant Nephrology research team.



Congratulations to **Larry Siegel**, who has been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Expedited IRB as of July 1st.



Grants



Congratulations to **Thomas Walsh**, who received a Hellenic American Fellowship/Mentorship grant to provide support for work in bacteriophages for MDR GNRs, COVID-19 medicinal chemistry, and antifungal pharmacology, while training 4 Hellenic Fellows.



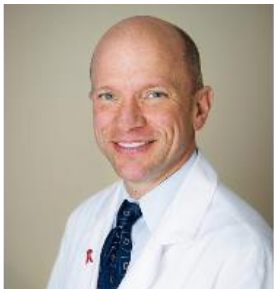
Other News



On July 13th, **Grant Ellsworth** gave a [talk](#) for the International Antiviral Society—USA entitled “Prevention of HPV-Related Anal Cancer in Persons With HIV: How Should We Screen and Will Vaccines Make a Difference?”



On July 19th, **Teresa Evering** gave a talk for the Infectious Diseases Symposium at the Annual National Medical Association (NMA) Convention entitled “Rise Above COVID - COVID-19 Treatment and Research”.



On June 19th, **Trip Gulick** gave a talk for the Asia-Pacific AIDS & Co-Infections Conference (APACC) entitled “Positioning Long-Acting Antiretrovirals for HIV Treatment in Low- and Middle-Income Countries” (webinar).



Other News

31st **ECCMID** EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF
CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were numerous presentations at the 31st European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) 2021 to note:

- **Walsh TJ**: "The Crucial Role of Rapid Diagnostics in the Early Detection of Secondary Bacterial and Fungal Infections Complicating COVID-19."
- **Walsh TJ**, Mencacci A, Paggi R, Douka E, and Vrettou C: Prospective Study of the T2 Resistance (T2R) System for Detection of Resistance Genes in Bacterial Bloodstream Infections. Abstr 3434.
- **Walsh TJ, Witting B, Robb K, Finkelsztein EJ, Spagnoletti J**, Rex JH, and **Small CB**: Weill Cornell Medicine of Cornell University, New York, NY. 2 F2G, Ltd, Eccles, UK. Treatment of Scedosporium Mycetoma Refractory to Voriconazole with Olorofim. Abstr 4049.
- **Zagaliotis P**, Michalik-Provasek J, **Naing E**, Gill J, **Walsh TJ**: Antimicrobial Efficacy and Kinetics of Bacteriophages in a Murine Model of Disseminated Carbapenemase-Producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (KPC) Infection. Abstr 02613.
- **Kavaliauskas P, Petraitiene R**, Grybaite B, Anusevicius K, Mickevicius V, **Walsh TJ and Petraitis V**: Screening of a Small Molecule Library of Synthesized Heterocyclic Compounds and Amino Acid Derivatives against Triazole-Resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Abstr 2473.
- Prakapaite R, Planciuniene R, Grigaleviciute R, **Petraitis V, Petraitiene R**, Jauneikaite E, **Walsh TJ**, Pockevicius A, and **Kavaliauskas P**: Development of a Novel Translational Ex Vivo Model for Investigation of Host-Pathogen Interactions during Acute Pyelonephritis Caused by Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli*. Abstr 2347; 2021.
- **Petraitis V, Petraitiene R, Kavaliauskas P, Naing E, Garcia A**, Kau AY, Goldner N, Bulow C, and **Walsh TJ**: Pharmacokinetics, Tissue Distribution, and Efficacy of VT1 Formulation (Meropenem/Piperacillin/Tazobactam) Following Intravenous Administration for Treatment of Experimental Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Vascular Catheter-Related Blood Stream Infections in Immunocompetent Rabbits. Abstr 2442.
- **Burkitt M, Satlin M, Derti S, Loo A, Westblade L**, Hargrave J, **Simon M**. Impact of rapid molecular diagnostic techniques on clinical outcomes of patients with vancomycin-resistant enterococcal bacteremia.

 **IAS 2021**
18–21 July

The following abstract was presented at the 11th IAS Conference on HIV Science:

- Peter Ackerman, **Timothy Wilkin**, Amy Pierce, Shiven Chabria, Marcia Wang, Andrew Clark, Max Lataillade. Clinical Impact of Antiretroviral Agents Used in Optimized Background Therapy with Fostemsavir in Heavily Treatment-Experienced Adults With HIV-1: Exploratory Analyses Of The Phase 3 Brighte Study.



Other News

There is now a Transplant/Oncology Infectious Diseases webpage on the I.D. Division website: <https://medicine.weill.cornell.edu/tx-oncology-id-program>.

A patient and their family commented:

“Patient Mr. H and his wife praised Anna Mertelsmann [new I.D. fellow] for her very professional and compassionate care she provided while he was sick in the hospital.”

On July 28th, there was a welcome gathering for the incoming Fellows in Central Park:



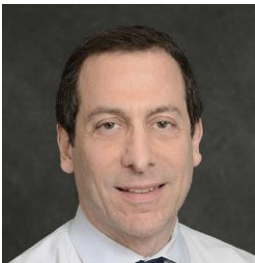


Newsroom Updates



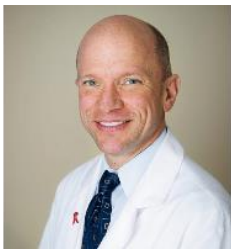
Adeel Butt was featured in the following articles:

- Science: “The overlooked superpower of mRNA vaccines” ([link](#))
- Medscape: “‘Gold Standard’ Study Confirms COVID mRNA Vaccines Prevent Infection” ([link](#))
- WedMD: “‘Gold Standard’ Study Confirms mRNA Vaccines Prevent Infection” ([link](#))



Marshall Glesby was featured in the following article:

- U.S. News & World Report: “Americans Living With HIV Have Near-Normal Life Expectancy: Study” ([link](#))

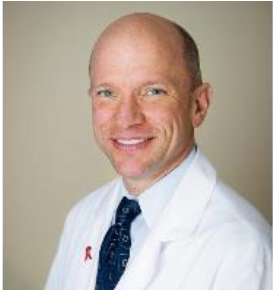


Marshall Glesby and **Trip Gulick** were featured in the following article:

- Healio: “Mortality gap narrows between patients with HIV, general population” ([link](#))

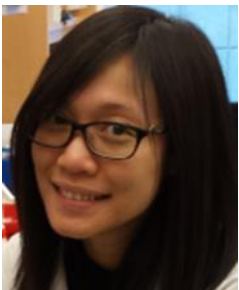


Newsroom Updates



Trip Gulick was featured in the following articles:

- Washington Post: “You had the Johnson & Johnson coronavirus vaccine. Should you try to get a booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna?” ([link](#))
- MSN News: “You got a coronavirus vaccine. But you still became infected. How did that happen?” ([link](#))
- NewYork-Presbyterian Health Matters: “The Delta Variant: What You Need to Know” ([link](#))
- NewYork-Presbyterian Health Matters: “10 Facts About the COVID-19 Vaccines” ([link](#))
- WCM Newsroom: “NIAID Renews Weill Cornell Medicine Grant for Advancing Prevention and Treatment Research for HIV” ([link](#))
- Politico Pro “Today’s Tip” on July 7th: Dr. Trip Gulick (NYP/WCM) shares the latest on the COVID-19 Delta variant ([link](#))



Guin Lee was featured in the July 2021 Office of the Research Dean Newsletter:

“Dr. Guinevere Lee (Instructor of Virology in Medicine) received a \$2.1M research grant from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases for her study entitled, ‘Characterization of Non-subtype B HIV-1 Reservoirs and its Association with Longitudinal Clinical Outcomes.’”



Newsroom Updates



Lish Ndhlovu was featured in the July 2021 Office of the Research Dean Newsletter under Research Highlights as well as Notable Publications for his study/publication entitled “Antibody-based CCR5 blockade protects Macaques from mucosal SHIV transmission” ([link](#)). He was also featured in the following article:

- WCM Newsroom: “Antibody Shows Promise as an HIV Prevention Tool in a Preclinical Study” ([link](#))



Mirella Salvatore was featured in the following article:

- Health: “Can You Safely Hang Out with Unvaccinated Friends? Here's What Doctors Recommend” ([link](#))



Ole Vilemeyer was featured in the following article:

- WCM Newsroom: “Summer Travel Tips: How to Stay Safe From COVID-19” ([link](#))



Divisional Publications

Butt AA, Omer SB, Yan P, Shaikh OS, Mayr FB. SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Effectiveness in a High-Risk National Population in a Real-World Setting. *Ann Intern Med*. 2021 Jul 20. doi: 10.7326/M21-1577. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [34280332](#).

Ellsworth GB, Stier EA, Chiao EY, Lensing SY, Darragh T, Jay N, Berry-Lawhorn JM, Einstein M, Barroso LF, Cranston RD, Levine R, Guiot HM, French AL, Goldstone SE, Preiser W, Claassen M, Palefsky JM, **Wilkin TJ**; AIDS Malignancy Consortium. Xpert HPV as a Screening Tool for Anal Histologic High-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions in Women Living With HIV. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2021 Jul 1;87(3):978-984. PMID: [34110312](#).

Glesby MJ, **Gulick RM**. HIV: Closing the Mortality Gap. *Ann Intern Med*. 2021 Jul 6. doi: 10.7326/M21-2586. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [34224260](#).

Hoffmann J, Chedid C, **Ocheretina O**, Masetti C, Joseph P, Mabou MM, Mathon JE, Francois EM, Gebelin J, Babin FX, Raskine L, **Pape JW**. Drug-resistant TB prevalence study in 5 health institutions in Haiti. *PLoS One*. 2021 Mar 18;16(3):e0248707. PMID: [33735224](#).

Johnston CD, Siegler EL, Rice MC, Derry HM, Hootman KC, Zhu YS, Burchett CO, Gupta SK, Choi ME, **Glesby MJ**. Urine Cell-Free Mitochondrial DNA as a Marker of Weight Loss and Body Composition in Older Adults with HIV. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2021 Jul 19. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [34285158](#).

Plassmeyer M, Alpan O, **Corley MJ**, **Premeaux TA**, Lillard K, Coatney P, Vaziri T, Michalsky S, **Pang APS**, Bukhari Z, **Yeung ST**, **Evering TH**, Naughton G, Latterich M, Mudd P, Spada A, Rindone N, Loizou D, Ulrik S, **Ndhlovu LC**, Gupta R. Caspases and therapeutic potential of caspase inhibitors in moderate-severe SARS CoV2 infection and long COVID. *Allergy*. 2021 May 15:10.1111/all.14907. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [33993490](#).

Premeaux TA, Mediouni S, Leda A, Furler RL, Valente ST, Fine HA, Nixon DF, **Ndhlovu LC**. Next-Generation Human Cerebral Organoids as Powerful Tools To Advance NeuroHIV Research. *mBio*. 2021 Jul 13:e0068021. doi: 10.1128/mBio.00680-21. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [34253056](#).

Shytaj IL, Procopio FA, Tarek M, Carlon-Andres I, Tang HY, Goldman AR, Munshi M, Kumar Pal V, Forcato M, Sreeram S, Leskov K, Ye F, Lucic B, Cruz N, **Ndhlovu LC**, Biciato S, Padilla-Parra S, Diaz RS, Singh A, Lusic M, Karn J, Alvarez-Carbonell D, Savarino A. Glycolysis downregulation is a hallmark of HIV-1 latency and sensitizes infected cells to oxidative stress. *EMBO Mol Med*. 2021 Jul 20:e13901. Epub ahead of print. PMID: [34289240](#).

Siegler EL, Moxley JH, **Glesby MJ**. Aging-Related Concerns of People Living with HIV Referred for Geriatric Consultation. *HIV AIDS (Auckl)*. 2021 Apr 30;13:467-474. doi: 10.2147/HIV.S306532. PMID: [33958897](#).



Important Dates



ID Faculty Meeting (8:30 am). Linked [here](#).



IDWeek 2021 will take place from September 29th through October 3rd. Register [here](#).

- Late breaker deadline: August 18th
- Early registration deadline: August 27th



Department of Medicine Research Retreat. Abstract deadline: August 27th.