



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
2025 ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair and glasses, smiling and leaning on a metal railing. She is wearing a dark blue short-sleeved top and a black skirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting with large windows.

Building the Next Century of Impact:

Supporting Discovery and Care



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

We are the Department of Medicine.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaties 6, 7 and 8 territories, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Saukteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

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Chair's Message



The heart of our strategic plan is people, specifically our wellbeing and engagement in all areas of academic medicine, with goals and concrete actions to support growth, learning, and success.

Part of growing, learning, and succeeding means questioning how we've done things before in order to usher in new, evidence-informed approaches.



Dr. Narmin Kassam

Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and Clinical Department Head, Edmonton Corridor, Alberta Health Services (AHS)

As the Department of Medicine enters its second century, we have much to celebrate, much to navigate, and as always, much more that we aim to accomplish.

Despite the challenges in our environment, we are adapting, evolving, and using our ingenuity and collaborative strengths to find solutions to new and longstanding issues. **Above all, we continue to uphold our academic mission and deliver the best quality care to Albertans.** This annual report, covering the calendar year of 2025, highlights the successes we've had in contributing to each of our Department's academic pillars and in advancing the goals of our strategic plan.



For **Dr. Lindsay Bridgland**, Director of Access, Community, and Belonging (ACB) for the Department, such questioning can be difficult, but often results in new understanding, which is essential for her efforts to develop an environment of inclusion and belonging. The same kind of transformative tension is important in the work undertaken by Competence Based Medical Education Director (Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry) **Dr. Anna Oswald** to implement a model of learning that prioritizes dynamic communications between learner and supervisor.

Indigenous and Global Health Research Group (IGHRG) founder **Dr. Sangita Sharma**, her colleague IGHRG's Executive Director **Dr. Fariba Kolahdooz**, and PhD candidate **Se Lim Jang** questioned the effectiveness of standard health information intended for Indigenous populations. For decades, the researchers have worked side-by-side with people in Arctic communities to develop culturally appropriate health information, resulting in community-led initiatives and projects to improve health.

In clinical service, the major challenge remains the unprecedented number of patients seeking hospital and specialist care within a shifting healthcare environment. Grappling with this on the frontlines was a major concern for our five Internal Medicine Site Leads in 2025. **Drs. Winnie Sia, Dan Slabu, Fraulein Morales, Hernando Leon, and Tracey Bryan** led efforts within their hospital sites as well as in an Edmonton Corridor-wide collaboration to manage patient numbers that, at times, overwhelmed their hospitals. For example, the five site leads jointly implemented a 2-2-1-1-1 General Internal Medicine (GIM) patient allocation system across the Corridor to reduce hospital pressure in December.

The leads also oversaw hospital-specific GIM initiatives, some of which will be implemented at other Edmonton Corridor sites. Examples of site GIM initiatives, many of which were developed in collaboration with other specialties, include a reorganization of admissions for continuity of care, a Recovery-to-Respite Program to provide a medical home for patients discharged from the virtual hospital program, and an oral care QI project to reduce incidences of hospital-acquired pneumonia on the ward.

High patient volumes in hospitals and increasing complexity are reflected in longer-than-ever patient waiting times for ambulatory specialist consults.

Dr. Carrie Ye's development of an artificial intelligence (AI) model to triage patients on waiting lists demonstrates that AI outperforms human triaging. Her success shows the potential for AI as a tool to reduce the physician administrative burden and deliver more targeted and efficient health care.

Our Departmental administrative programs provide expert guidance, innovative approaches, and high quality results to support our core academic pillars. Our Research Office, co-led by **Drs. Evangelos Michelakis** and **Gopinath Sutendra**, is an internal quality assurance hub for all research funding applications, with support given to researchers at all stages of their careers. As a result, in addition to their funding success at a time of intense competitiveness for Tri-Council funding, our faculty publish in high-impact journals, conduct collaborative research, develop collaborative programs, and elevate scholarship within the Department to new heights.

Our Education and Faculty Development Program headed by **Dr. Vijay Daniels** is focused on fostering medical education scholarship, a Department strategic priority. Dr. Daniels and his team have implemented support mechanisms such as internal grants and mentoring for early career medical education researchers and are developing a community of practice to encourage and promote education scholarship activity.

In education, our graduate program remains one of the largest on campus, with over 142 masters, doctoral, and postdoctoral scholars. One of our star achievements as a Department was the successful accreditation of 16 of our Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons residency programs and four of our fellowship programs in November of 2025. This was achieved thanks to the dedicated work of the program directors, faculty, and learners.

Dr. Fraulein Morales leads our Clinical Faculty Program, overseeing remuneration and support for the clinical faculty who contribute outstanding service to the Department. Not only do clinical faculty deliver the majority of clinical teaching, but they are increasingly taking on leadership positions in the Department and Faculty.

While issues such as the need for a newly negotiated AMHSP agreement and new remuneration rates for physicians are pressing, I am delighted that in 2025 we recruited the largest number of AMHSP faculty ever during my tenure as Chair. I'm also very proud that we had a highly successful year in terms of faculty promotions. The clear message for all of us is that, despite an unsettled environment, people want to join and remain in our ranks in the Department of Medicine.

As Department faculty and administrative support staff rise to meet the challenges of our health care landscape, we have placed a new emphasis on two important areas: improving wellness and a sense of community among Department members, and external engagement to share our successes with the community. This has led to the appointments of **Dr. Karen Kroeker** in the newly created role of Director of Wellness and **Dr. Lynora Saxinger** as the inaugural Director of Scientific Communication with new programming on both fronts coming in 2026.

On a personal note, my term as Department Chair in 2025 has been renewed for another five years. That speaks to how very proud I am of this Department—our faculty members, our learners, and our staff. Their contributions continue to grow our stellar reputation and impact and make the role of Chair a privilege and a pleasure to embrace.

Dr. Narmin Kassam

Chair, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, and Clinical Department Head, Edmonton Corridor, AHS.



STEERING COMMITTEE 2025

Department of Medicine Steering Committee Members



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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26		

1. **Narmin Kassam**, Chair, Department of Medicine
2. **Michelle Graham**, Director, Cardiology
3. **Robert Gniadecki**, Director, Dermatology
4. **Terra Arnason**, Director, Endocrinology and Metabolism
5. **Clarence Wong**, Director, Gastroenterology
6. **Jennifer Ringrose**, Director, General Internal Medicine
7. **Adrian Wagg**, Director, Geriatric Medicine

8. **Marlene Hamilton**, Director, Hematology
9. **Stephanie Smith**, Director, Infectious Diseases
10. **Jacques Romney**, Director, Nephrology (Interim)
11. **Penny Smyth**, Director, Neurology
12. **Denyse Richardson**, Director, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
13. **Sebastian Straube**, Director, Preventive Medicine
14. **Giovanni Ferrara**, Director, Pulmonary Medicine
15. **Steven Katz**, Director, Graduate Education (until June 30, 2025); Co-Associate Chair, Research (as of July 1, 2025)
16. **Stephanie Keeling**, Interim Director, Rheumatology (as of Oct 1, 2025)
17. **Evangelos Michelakis**, Co-Associate Chair, Research

18. **Vijay Daniels**, Associate Chair, Faculty Development and Education
19. **Thirza Carpenter**, Director, Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME)
20. **Rebecca Lee**, Director, Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME)
21. **Gopinath Sutendra**, Director, Graduate Education (until June 30, 2025) Co-Associate Chair, Research (as of July 1, 2025)
22. **Fraulein Morales**, Director, Clinical Faculty
23. **Cecile Phan**, Director, Fellowships
24. **Lindsay Bridgland**, Director, Access, Community, Belonging (ACB)
25. **Francois Bouman**, Academic Department Manager
26. **Nancy Zhu**, DZCDH & Ambulatory Representative

CCDEC COMMITTEE 2025

Corridor Clinical Department Executive Committee Members



1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	

1. **Narmin Kassam**, Zone Clinical Department Head, Medicine
2. **Fraulein Morales**, Zone Site Chief, Medicine, University of Alberta Hospital (UAH)
3. **Hernando Leon**, Zone Site Chief, Medicine, Sturgeon Hospital (SCH)
4. **Winnie Sia**, Zone Site Chief, Medicine, Royal Alexander Hospital (RAH)
5. **Dan Slabu**, Covenant Site Chief, Medicine, Misericordia Community Hospital (MCH)
6. **Tracey Bryan**, Covenant Site Chief, Medicine, Grey Nuns Community Hospital (GNH)
7. **Steven Katz**, Zone Section Chief, Rheumatology (Until Sept 30/25)

8. **Stephanie Keeling**, Interim Director, Rheumatology (Starting October 1/25)

9. **Giovanni Ferrara**, Zone Section Chief, Pulmonary Medicine

10. **Sebastian Straube**, Zone Section Chief, Occupational Medicine

11. **Jacques Romney**, Zone Section Chief, Nephrology (Interim)

12. **Stephanie Smith**, Zone Section Chief, Infectious Diseases

13. **Marlene Hamilton**, Zone Section Chief, Hematology

14. **Adrian Wagg**, Zone Section Chief, Geriatrics

15. **Neeja Bakshi**, Zone Section Chief, General Internal Medicine

16. **Clarence Wong**, Zone Section Chief, Gastroenterology

17. **Terra Arnason**, Zone Section Chief, Endocrinology

18. **Robert Gniadecki**, Zone Section Chief, Dermatology

19. **Lana Chivers**, Senior Director, Operations (GNCH)

20. **Greg Hrynchyshyn**, Medical Director, Virtual Health

21. **Nancy Zhu**, Deputy Zone Clinical Department Head, Medicine

22. **Rob Hayward**, Department of Medicine Connect Care Representative

23. **Pam Mathura**, Clinical Quality Improvement Consultant

No photo available:

Karen Maier, Site Director (SCH)

Evelyn MacKinnon, Senior Director, Operations (MCH)

Kimberly Neigel, Patient Care Manager, KEC

Christie Sharun, Executive Director, Ambulatory Care

Jennifer Woods, Executive Director, UAH/EZ Medicine Program

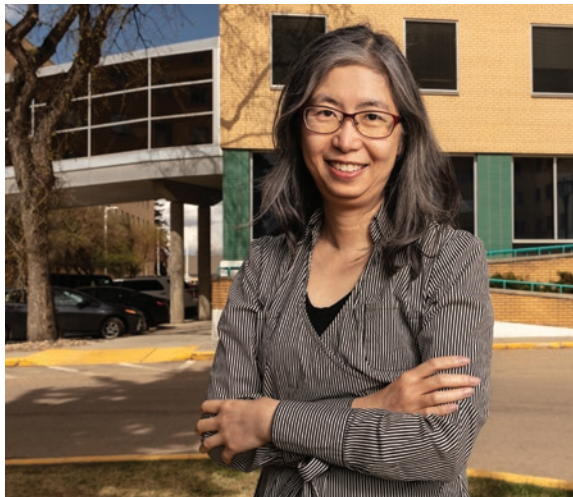
Liane Wright, Executive Director (RAH)



Tracey Bryan, Medical Site Chief Grey Nuns



Dan Slabu, Medical Site Chief Misericordia



Winnie Sia, Medical Site Chief Royal Alexandra



Fraulein Morales, Medical Site Chief University of Alberta



Hernando Leon, Medicine Site Chief Sturgeon

Edmonton Zone Hospital Sites

Patient numbers remained at record-breaking levels in the five Edmonton Zone hospitals in 2025 and heading into 2026.

Faced with overcapacity and constrained resources on General Internal Medicine (GIM) inpatient wards, the five medicine site leads are tackling the challenges with site-specific initiatives as well as Zone-wide actions.

"Patient numbers at the Royal Alexandra Hospital Emergency Department have led all hospital areas to explore different models to manage the pressure," says Site Chief of Medicine **Dr. Winnie Sia**. "For instance, in GIM we're trying to start a **point-of-care ultrasound service**, similar to the one at the University Hospital, to expedite diagnosis and care."

Another GIM initiative, called the **Departure Lounge**, is a dedicated hospital space where patients awaiting discharge can be moved from their beds to wait for their families. "Even though it's only a few hours, it allows us to move patients from Emergency up to the ward faster," says Dr. Sia.

The GIM team at RAH is collaborating with University Hospital general surgeon and researcher **Dr. Rachel Khadaroo** to implement her post-operative mobilization program, **BE-FIT**. "This program improves patient mobility and strength and could lead to decreased lengths of hospital stay," says Dr. Sia. "We have medical students and physical therapy students in the **Active Mind Active Body** volunteer program to roll out **BE-FIT** on our wards."

At the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH), services within the Department of Medicine have expanded to manage patient volumes. Surge units are now available for GIM, and new doctors have been hired to cover the expanded service.

Clinical Department Site Chief for Medicine **Dr. Fraulein Morales** notes several new collaborative initiatives aimed at managing evolving hospital realities, including an increase in cases of drug addiction and overdose on the wards. The response was the implementation of the **Acute Care Addiction Recovery Program** (ACARP) led by **Dr. Rex Townsend**, Facility Medical Director at the UAH. ACARP consultation along with input from Psychiatry and Addiction Services is helping the GIM team care for patients through withdrawal and medical recovery.

Another reality is the number of amputations from frostbite among Edmonton's vulnerable populations. A new Zone-wide protocol developed by Plastic Surgery and GIM provides consultation and care where patients are, rather than requiring them to come to UAH. The hope is that, with prompt and accessible attention, the number of amputations resulting from frostbite can be reduced.

Another collaborative initiative is the **Recovery to Respite** (R2R) program. R2R provides medications and care in a non-hospital facility to vulnerable people who don't need to be in hospital but require antibiotics or other medications. "Patients in the virtual hospital program need to have a home because program staff need to contact them," says Dr. Morales. "With R2R, we can discharge patients to a facility that provides a 'medical home' where they will receive the care they need."

Dr. Morales highlights several individuals for their contributions: **Dr. Justin Chen** for his superb leadership of the UAH's antibiotic stewardship program; **Dr. Saifal Anwar**, the GIM site chief for the Department of Medicine, for his collaborative leadership; award-winning medical educator and Interim Principal Teaching Physician **Dr. Mowad Benguzzi** for his willingness to cover maternity leaves; and **Dr. Anca Tarpadel** for her leadership in expanding GIM outpatient clinics and finding medical homes for patients transitioning from pediatric to adult care.

Several initiatives are also contributing to reducing the pressure of high patient volumes at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital. **Dr. Tracey Bryan**, former Site Chief, highlights the GIM group's work with the Emergency department to develop a new consultative service schedule that ensures rapid consults and protects physicians from burnout. The **End PJ Paralysis protocol**, led by GIM's nursing manager **Mary Lou Renaerts**, gets patients up and mobile as soon as possible so that they have shorter hospital stays. **Dr. Shiva Nandiwada** secured a new ultrasound machine and is establishing a **Point of Care Ultrasound service** to diagnose and treat patients more efficiently.

The GIM group is looking forward to an influx of new physicians over the next two years. "One of our new hires has special training in addictions, which is becoming more and more of a concern at the Grey Nuns," says Dr. Bryan. "We're hoping we can use her expertise to start up an addiction service that will greatly benefit our hospital."

"Everyone in the GIM group is very dedicated to the hospital and loves working with each other," says Dr. Bryan. She feels that one of the reasons is **Dr. Julia Rouget**, who has been with the GIM group for more than 20 years. "Dr. Rouget is the heart of the group," says Dr. Bryan. "She recognizes when people are struggling and reaches out to people on a regular basis to make sure that they're doing OK."

GIM Site Chief at the Misericordia Hospital **Dr. Dan Slabu** and his group have made structural changes to their processes to address patient volumes and complexity of care. His group developed what he calls an **Omega Team** of physicians to stabilize workflow, improve patient flow, and support safer, more reliable care.

"If you are on the Omega Team, you take over admissions in Emergency from 6 am to noon and then you follow your patients right up to the ward," Dr. Slabu says. "That means ward physicians can tend to patients without interruption from Emergency."

The Omega Team was developed using admission pattern data over five years that showed many admissions occur in the mornings. Omega has proven to be a success, so much so that the Misericordia Internal Medicine Group was nominated for a Covenant Health Mission Award.

Dr. Slabu and his group have also addressed increasing patient complexity by analyzing data and forming the **Sigma Team**. GIM Sigma physicians provide consults to non-GIM teams for GIM patients. Now in its second month of testing, the Sigma Team has seen consult numbers rise. Sigma also provides support for a new **Readmission Prevention Clinic** that ensures discharged patients succeed at home. "Sigma is also a pressure valve for teams in the case of a crisis," says Dr. Slabu. "When we have excess patients, the Sigma team can take some of the inpatients to give the other teams a much-needed break."

At the Sturgeon Community Hospital, GIM Site Chief **Dr. Hernando Leon** strongly believes that research needs to be done at community sites. He highlights a **quality improvement (QI) oral care project** conducted by a multidisciplinary team in 2025 to reduce hospital-acquired pneumonia in patients on the GIM ward. Guided by QI Lead **Dr. Pamela Mathura**, the team reviewed all aspects of oral care from policies to procedures, with much of the work on the front line done by speech pathologist **Alison Cassis**.

"We had very nice data out of the project and presented at a recent QI meeting," says Dr. Leon, "The result is that the protocol will be launched Zone-wide and province-wide."

Dr. Leon is heading up work to build bridges with other medical services to prevent readmissions and recurrences. "Despite the patient overload and rising acuity, everybody has put in a lot of effort," he says. "The important thing is that all the services recognize each others' limitations and can support and help each other so that we create a culture of understanding."

Dr. Winnie Sia is Professor; Dr. Fraulein Morales is Clinical Professor, Dr. Hernando Leon is Associate Clinical Professor, and Drs. Tracey Bryan and Dan Slabu are Assistant Clinical Professors in the Department of Medicine's Division of General Internal Medicine.

SPOTLIGHT ON AWARDS & HONOURS

Department of Medicine Awards 2025

Joel Dacks

Basic Science Publication Award

Sofia Ahmed

Clinical Investigation Publication Award

Troy Harkness

Translational Research Award

Azita Zahirihsini

Paul Man Award

Hazel Marriott

Best Clinical Research Oral Presentation

Kléouforo-Paul Dembele

Best Basic Science Research Oral Presentation

Samina Khan

Best Clinical Quality Improvement Oral Presentation

Yongneng Zhang

Best Basic Science Research Poster Presentation

Mark Grasdall

Best Clinical Quality Improvement Poster Presentation

Alisha Rullay

Best Clinical Research Poster Presentation

Janis Miyasaki

Thomas J. Marrie Mentorship Award

Angie Wiltzen

J. Charles (Chuck) Morrison Award

Aminu Bello

Paul W. Armstrong Excellence in Research Award

Saymon Tejay

Ballermann Translational Research Fellowship Award

Mahua Ghosh

Aderonke Achi

Julia Carter

Sarah Chambers

Paula de Gannes-Beckles

Maria Kupreeva

Caroline LeJour

Bettina Lott

Maggie McPherson

Laurie Mereu

Tarek Motan

Julie Robison

Lydia Sadiq

Beate Sydora

Donna Vine

Cooperation, Collaboration and Teamwork Award

SPOTLIGHT ON AWARDS & HONOURS

Department of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education Teacher of the Year

Mowad Benguzzi (UAH) Specialty: General Internal Medicine
Andrea Davenport (GNH) General Internal Medicine
Andrei Fagarasanu (RAH) General Internal Medicine
Sheela Vijay (UAH) General Internal Medicine

Department of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education Teacher of the Year Honourable Mention

Caitlin Collins (UAH) General Internal Medicine
Robert Kay (UAH) Cardiology
Graham Mah (GNH) General Internal Medicine
Jillian Walsh (RAH) General Internal Medicine

Department of Medicine Postgraduate Medical Education Teacher of the Year

Mowad Benguzzi (UAH) General Internal Medicine
Justin Chen (UAH) Speciality: Infectious Diseases
Andrei Fagarasanu (RAH) General Internal Medicine
Shiva Nandiwada (GNH) General Internal Medicine

Department of Medicine Postgraduate Medical Education Teacher of the Year Honourable Mention

John Bradley (GNH) Nephrology
Noreen Rajwani (RAH) Pulmonary Medicine
Stephanie Thompson (UAH) Subspecialty: Nephrology
Kelvin Tran (UAH) General Internal Medicine

International Research Awards

Aminu Bello	ASN 2025 Distinguished Researcher Award
Monty Ghosh	2025 Excellence in Community-Campus Research Partnership Award
Janis Miyasaki	2025 Movement Disorders Research Award

National Research Awards & Honours

Sara Davison	Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Kidney Supportive Care
Justin Ezekowitz	King Charles III's Coronation Medal
Brenda Hemmelgarn	King Charles III's Coronation Medal
Glen Jickling	Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Stroke Genomics and Immunobiology
Kailash Jindal	CSN Distinguished Service Award 2025
Wendy Johnston	King Charles III's Coronation Medal
Sanjay Kalra	King Charles III's Coronation Medal
Padma Kaul	Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Women and Children's Cardio-Metabolic Health
Gavin Oudit	King Charles III's Coronation Medal
Carrie Ye	Fall 2024 Early Career Researcher in Cancer Award

Provincial Research Awards

Heather Armstrong	2024 Terry G. Falconer Memorial Rh Institute Foundation Emerging Researcher Award
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International Administration Awards

Janis Miyasaki	2025 American Academy of Neurology (AAN) President's Award
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University of Alberta Administration Awards

Philip Halloran	Transcriptome Sciences Inc named as a top 10 Cdn company
Darryl Rolfson	2025 Innovation Award
Yasmin Madani Shamami and Nafisa Sadaf Hriti (students of Drs. Ross Mitchell and Mohamed Abdalla and of Randy Goebel respectively)	2025 Young Innovators Competition

National Teaching Awards & Appointments

Mahua Ghosh	2025 Killam Annual Professorship
Cheryl Goldstein	2025 Certificate of Merit Award

Provincial Teaching Awards

Clarence Wong	Distinguished Educator Award, Alberta Society of Gastroenterology
Elaine Yacyshyn	Educator of the Year, Alberta Medical Association

University of Alberta Teaching Awards

Alison Clifford	Rheumatology Teaching Award, Residents Association
Joel Dacks	Outstanding Mentorship in Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities
Steven Katz	University of Alberta Mentor Award
Karen Kroeker	Resident Appreciation Award for Excellence and Support as Program Director
Anna Oswald	E.N. Skakun Award (FoMD)
Jeff Patterson	Teacher of the Year, Residents Association
Lalith Satkunam	Physicianship Lecturer Excellence award, Medical Students Association
Gopinath Sutendra; Glen Jickling; Evangelos Michelakis	David Cook Award (FoMD)
Adrian Wagg	Tier 1 Mentorship Award

National Clinical Awards

Janis Miyasaki	King Charles III's Coronation Medal
Connie Switzer	King Charles III's Coronation Medal

Provincial Clinical Awards

Daniel Shafran	2025 Health Quality Alberta Patient Experience Award
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University of Alberta Administration Awards

Richard Camicioli	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Ronald Damant	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Syed Habib	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Carrie Hlady	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Wendy Johnston	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Cynthia Krys	35 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Paige Lacy	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Walter Maksymowych	35 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Allan Murray	30 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Vivian Mushahwar	2025 J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research
Darryl Rolfson	Technology Transfer Services (TTS) Innovation Award
Tracy Temple	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Harissios Vliagoftis	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards
Robert Welsh	25 years, 2025 Celebration of Service and Recognition Awards

Every effort has been made to include all external awards received by our faculty. This list reflects the information available at the time of publication.



Vijay Daniels

The education and faculty development portfolios were once separate in the Department of Medicine, until Vijay Daniels stepped into the newly consolidated role as Associate Chair of Education and Faculty Development in 2020.

Although the role doubled, the time allocated to it was halved, and taking on the position coincided with the start of the pandemic. Dr. Daniels focused the portfolio on basic needs such as clinical teaching and time management workshops, and tenure and promotion. When clinical teaching and time management were consolidated at the faculty level, tenure and promotion took centre stage.

Fostering Medical Education Scholarship

"I'm here to onboard new faculty and support them as they go through tenure and promotion." While it's satisfying to guide people to success, he says the excitement these days is about growing the department's impact in medical education scholarship.

That aligns with one of the pillars of the department's strategic plan: increasing the dissemination of medical education scholarship. "Our job is to figure out how we can increase dissemination of the work already being done, and how we can increase the production of this work among our group of well-trained and skilled individuals," Dr. Daniels says.

He began with setting up an oversight body to foster medical education scholarship in March 2024. "We have what I call a 'brain trust,' but the name is the **DoM Scholarship in Medical Education (SiME) Committee** which helps me move this forward," says Dr. Daniels. "We've already pushed along a few initiatives." He highlights the invaluable support of the Department of Medicine Chair, **Narmin Kassam**. Under her direction, a new grant was established in fall 2024 that funds all aspects of educational scholarship.

The DoM SiME Committee also hired a medical education research assistant, **Ashley Clelland**, a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Education in the Measurement, Evaluation, and Data Science program. "With our committee, the grant, and Ashley's support of faculty, we're seeing new projects underway and work getting to the finish line."

One of the most satisfying results is the growing medical education community of practice. "These are people who are interested in medical education beyond frontline teaching, so they are developing curricula, assessments, publications, and other scholarly products," says Dr. Daniels.

Medical education has always been a highly valued area in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the Department of Medicine, says Dr. Daniels. "I'm able to put my efforts into setting up the foundation for medical education scholarship success," he says. "In other institutions, publishing is valued over this type of work and is the only thing that gets you promoted."

Dr. Daniels and his team are working to solidify their community of practice and getting more projects off the ground. "We had a great meeting in the fall, where you could hear the buzz of people having ideas," he says. "We're really looking to keep the momentum going so that we can develop some products and share them on a national level. For example, if someone makes a really good curriculum in, say, pulmonary medicine on a topic, why wouldn't another university use it?"

***Dr. Vijay Daniels** is Professor of Medicine and member of the Division of General Internal Medicine since 2009. He has won more than 35 teaching awards over his career, including the 2022 3M National Teaching Fellowship Award. In addition to his role as Associate Chair, he is the Assistant Dean of Assessment for the MD Program.*



Gopinath Sutendra / Evangelos Michelakis

Co-Associate Chairs Research basic cardio-oncology scientist **Gopinath Sutendra** and cardiologist-scientist **Evangelos Michelakis** share the goal of facilitating high-quality competitive research across the department into strategic priorities.

“For example, aging is one of our three big themes, and it’s not only geriatric medicine,” Dr. Sutendra says. “All age-related diseases fall within the research remit of many divisions: cardiology, neurology, rheumatology, and more.”

The two other strategic themes are artificial intelligence and genomics. “We’ve had some really innovative research in these areas that led to major funding in 2025,” Dr. Sutendra says. **“Vivian Mushahwar’s** Smartwear secured \$24 million in New Frontiers in Research funding, and **Glen Jickling** is co-lead on a \$4.7 million Genome Canada grant.”

All funding applications in the Department stream through the Research office for review and sign-off. In turn, a portion of research grant funding supports salaries for technicians, research nurses, trainees, and other personnel integral to research. The resulting highly developed research environment fosters collaboration and fuels medical advances and important publications.

Fostering a Robust Research Culture

The Research office in the Department of Medicine is an accelerator for global research training, international collaboration, funding successes, and the growth of a robust research culture. Of the \$43 million in total funding awarded to the College of Health Sciences, comprising 28 departments, the Department of Medicine secured 22 per cent or \$9.35 million in national tri-agency finding.

In 2025, department members were first or corresponding authors on more than 3300 publications, including those in top journals such as *Nature Communications* and *Nature Medicine*. "Not only do our researchers publish in their specific area of research, but in generalized journals as well," says **Dr. Sutendra**. "That shows the range of unique and broad topics that are covered in our department."

Training is also supported through funding from research grants. "This is a major departmental theme and includes residents, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students," says Dr. Sutendra. "At 142 trainees, we have the largest graduate student and postdoctoral training platform within the faculty, and one of the largest in the entire university."

One of the star training opportunities offered by the Research Office is the innovative, one-of-a-kind master's with Specialization in Translational Medicine. The two-year translational medicine program was developed in 2013 by **Dr. Michelakis** and Research Office Team Lead **Eleni Karageorgos**.

This department-specific specialization is tailored to residents, allowing them to complete the degree while doing their residency. The curriculum, delivered by **Drs. Sutendra, Michelakis, and Jickling**, focuses a "lab-to-bedside" integration of research and clinical training, critical in the emerging field of precision medicine.

As of 2025, the program admitted five medical graduates from China as part of a joint medical training program between Wenzhou University and the University of Alberta. "The brightest of the medical graduates from Wenzhou are fully funded to enter a PhD program in our Department of Medicine," says Dr. Sutendra. "Their supervisors can be in other departments, but they funnel into our specialization in the translational medicine program."

The program's data shows that many graduates go on to faculty positions and work as clinicians and scientists within their own fields. These include cardiologist-scientist **Anoop Mathew** and neurologist-scientist **Adam Kinnaird** (Department of Surgery).

Supporting translational research in the department is the Translational Research Innovation Fund (TRIF), developed by **Drs. Narmin Kassam and Evangelos Michelakis** in 2023. TRIF grants support new investigators, allowing them to generate the preliminary data needed to apply for larger national and international grants. To complement TRIF, the Research team developed a new CIHR internal review process geared to young investigators that not only reviews applications, but provides background information on the grants, and feedback and mentorship.

The Research team actively works towards a strong research culture in the Department and is responsible for the **Me2 Majumdar Research & Quality Improvement Day** and the **Ballermann Translational Research Fellowship Award**. "These recognize that trainees are the future of the research enterprise," says Dr. Sutendra.

*Canada Research Chair in Cardio-Oncology and Molecular Medicine **Dr. Gopinath Sutendra** and **Dr. Evangelos Michelakis** are Professors in the Division of Cardiology.*



Fraulein Morales

“The department’s clinical faculty is a big group, almost twice the size of tenured faculty,” says Clinical Faculty Program Director **Fraulein Morales.**

Clinical faculty comprise physicians who are not in tenured track positions. They are either paid a salary through the Academic Medicine and Health Services Program (AMHSP) or are fee-for-service physicians who practise in the community and in the Edmonton Zone’s five hospitals.

Fostering Clinical Faculty

One of Dr. Morales' roles is overseeing promotions, merit increases, and teaching stipends related to clinical faculty contributions to the education, clinical, research, and administrative pillars of the department.

She chairs the department-level clinical evaluation committee and represents the department at the faculty-level promotions committee. She also ensures that any faculty or department-mandated changes in the promotions criteria are communicated to clinical faculty.

Promotions are approved in May and celebrated at the Department of Medicine's celebration dinner in June. "This year we have 26 applications for promotion," says Dr. Morales. "To put it in context, that's the biggest of any department in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry."

Most of the clinical teaching conducted for the department is delivered by clinical faculty. "I'm so grateful to the department for recognizing our contributions," says Dr. Morales. "If you look at the annual teaching awards, it's mostly clinical faculty winning them." Several AMHSP faculty are also in education leadership positions in the department and faculty.

Within the hospital, Dr. Morales oversees efforts to improve clinical service and care. With ongoing patient volumes overwhelming hospitals, two initiatives are helping physicians manage the strain. The first, launched in April 2025, is the **Acute Care Addiction Recovery Program** (ACARP) at the University Hospital, which guides physicians treating addictions. Previously, ACARP was available only at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and through Alberta Health Services' General Internal Medicine (GIM) Referral, Access, Advice, Placement, Information & Destination Rapid (RAAPID) phone service.

The second is a GIM zonal approach to managing the patient load and, consequently, addressing physician wellbeing. "Over the holidays we reached 180 per cent over our bed base, so we had to use other divisions' and departments' bed allocations," says Dr. Morales. "When that happens, we can't admit any more patients, but neither can the other four hospitals because they are in the same situation."

The GIM leads at the five hospitals quickly implemented a **2-2-1-1-1 system** that took some of the pressure off an overwhelmed hospital but protected the other four hospitals from the same experience. "When we all need to divert patients, the two biggest hospitals take two patients in turn, then the three smaller hospitals take one patient in turn, and the pattern is repeated," says Dr. Morales.

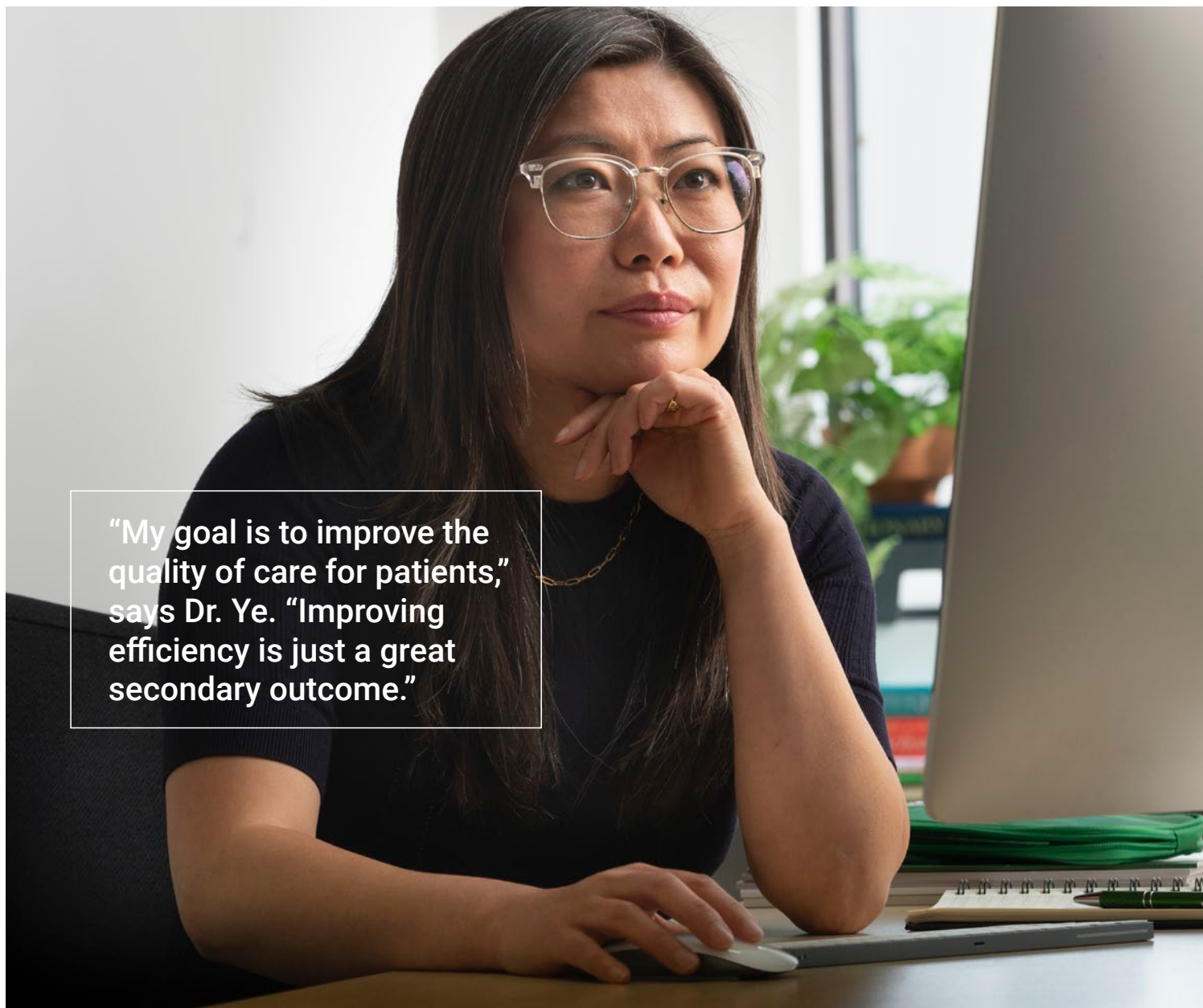
The GIM leads also extended physician admitting privileges across all hospitals, enabling physicians to work at any overwhelmed hospital. The third decision by the group was to assign a single physician in the Zone to manage calls from RAAPID, allowing their colleagues to attend to patients without interruption.

"By working as a zone, we feel that there's support, that we aren't alone in solving problems," says Dr. Morales. "With no new resources, the system has survived because of the altruism of doctors."

Dr. Morales also sits on the UAH's **Joint Practice Committee** (JPC), a group that aligns the department's clinical and administrative responsibilities within the hospital. Composed of clinical and administrative hospital staff, as well as clinical leads who are the department's division directors, the JPC is the place to discuss clinical issues across all areas of the hospital and to flag any problems to the department.

"The JPC keeps us all aware of what's going on in the hospital as things are happening, and helps us find solutions together," says Dr. Morales.

Dr. Fraulein Morales is Clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine's Division of General Internal Medicine.



"My goal is to improve the quality of care for patients," says Dr. Ye. "Improving efficiency is just a great secondary outcome."

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly embedded in medicine, from visible applications such as charting in primary care to behind-the-scenes tools designed to improve a patient's healthcare journey.

Carrie Ye, a rheumatologist and AI researcher, leads several initiatives using AI to tackle challenges in both research and clinical care. While many of her projects are ongoing, she has already used AI to answer clinical questions that could not be addressed with traditional data.

"I specialize in osteoporosis, and I wanted to know the impact of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI), the newest class of medications for cancer, on bone density in my cancer patients," Dr. Ye says. Because immunotherapy is generally used for late-stage cancer, patients typically do not get bone density scans. She used her cancer patients' trimonthly computed tomography scans and applied machine learning to extract bone density readings. These scans showed reduced bone density after immunotherapy in a subset of ICI users, suggesting an opportunity for preventive treatments.

Department of Medicine

LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH



RE- SEA- RCH



Dr. Carrie Ye and Dr. Ross Mitchell

With funding from the Arthritis Society Canada, Dr. Ye began extracting the 20,000 rheumatology referrals stored in Connect Care.

It took extensive work to develop and validate an automated de-identification pathway that is accurate and keeps patient information safe.

One of Dr. Ye's major projects is the development of an AI-powered rheumatology triage model in Alberta. The shortage of rheumatologists in the province has resulted in long wait times. "Some people are getting damage to their joints, to their internal organs while waiting," says Dr. Ye. "It's so important that we select those patients that really need to be seen early."

Rheumatologists at the University of Alberta and College Plaza sites have long used an existing triage system housed with Alberta Health Services' Connect Care, creating a rich data source. However, adapting that data for AI has been challenging. Referrals arrive in many forms, from hand-written letters to pdf documents, and each rheumatologist triages differently.

With funding from the Arthritis Society Canada, **Dr. Ye**, working alongside colleagues **Drs. Ross Mitchell** and **Mohamed Abdalla** and graduate student **Kiana Aghakasiri**, extracted 20,000 rheumatology referrals stored in Connect Care. It took extensive work to develop and validate an automated de-identification pathway that is accurate and keeps patient information safe.

"It's going to take training and testing of numerous machine learning models and model architectures to get a product that aligns with human triage priorities," Dr. Ye says. "We're already getting promising results, as a recent training of a lightweight AI model showed that we could achieve performance that was 20% better than human triage." Future steps include integrating images of patients' joints directly into prediction models.

Another of Dr. Ye's AI projects, the CIHR-funded ChatRheum, aims to improve the accuracy of large language models (LLMs) to improve patient access to reliable information in rheumatology. Led by graduate student **Mohammad Tavakoli**, by limiting the sources of information from which ChatRheum can draw its answers, they hope to make this technology safer for patients to use, while reducing the energy expenditure of LLM (Learning Language Models) chatbots. ChatRheum is currently being tested by another graduate student, **Juel Chowdhury**.

Dr. Ye supports other AI initiatives, including a triage project in Hematology and Nephrology. A collaboration with the University of Calgary rheumatology group means the AI Rheumatology Triage model can be tested at an external validation site. "We're going to test the model there to see how portable it is," Dr. Ye says.

"My goal is to improve the quality of care for patients," says Dr. Ye. "Improving efficiency is just a great secondary outcome."



***Dr. Carrie Ye** is Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatology. In 2025, she won the Canadian Institute of Health Research's Early Career Researcher in Cancer Award. She also received the Alberta Medical Association (Rheumatology Section) "Publication of the Year" award.*

***Dr. Ross Mitchell** is Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine; Fellow with the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute; and CIFAR Canada AI Chair.*

Department of Medicine

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Anna Oswald has always been drawn to teaching. From coaching gymnastics in high school and university to serving as chief resident in internal medicine, education has been a constant thread in her life. Even when as chief resident she was fielding complaints from both faculty and residents, teaching remained the highlight, “The happy part of my day, every day, was when I got to sit down and teach medical students,” says Dr. Oswald. “I always looked forward to it, and it was something I wanted to incorporate into my academic career.”

Now a rheumatologist and director of Competency-based Medical Education (CBME) in the Postgraduate Medical Education Office in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, the scope of **Dr. Oswald’s** activities has broadened considerably.



"Through workshops and support, the goal is constructive, actionable feedback that helps residents improve. We want the residents to get better and want this to be a constructive experience."

EDUC- ATION

“We’ve been able to do some really good work showing that this system identifies residents in difficulty sooner, so we can address the issues and support the resident.”

“My job, specifically, is to support residency training programs that are putting in place this curricular structure of competency-based education,” Dr. Oswald says. “We have 58 programs, and over the past decade we’ve incorporated CBE in nearly all of them.”

Implementing CBE has required far more than curriculum change. “We built a whole system of faculty development to prepare the programs and the faculty members,” says **Dr. Oswald**. Her team developed a new electronic portfolio system to capture and review feedback, and to provide a bird’s-eye view for continuous quality improvement (CQI). They also created policies to guide CBE implementation, established governance structures, and developed a comprehensive communications strategy.

Beyond initial implementation, **Dr. Oswald’s** role includes regularly incorporating national revisions and updates, onboarding new program directors, and providing ongoing faculty development, particularly for assessment competence committee chairs. This includes training using mock resident cases to help faculty learn how to find, interpret, and use data on the CBE system.

Dr. Oswald singles out CQI as central to sustaining CBE. “We conduct quality reviews of how the programs are functioning,” she says. “We observe and give feedback on their competence committees, and we watch different program level metrics and give them feedback on those.”

Feedback also lies at the heart of the individual resident-faculty relationship in CBE, though this has required a cultural shift. In the past, faculty were hesitant to give feedback, concerned that it would affect their teaching evaluations, and residents felt vulnerable and feared being penalized. In some cases, months or years passed before a resident received meaningful feedback.

“A lot of it is trust-building and skill-building and confidence around what can sometimes be difficult conversations,” says **Dr. Oswald**, which the CBE program tackles through workshops and other supportive initiatives. The goal is constructive, actionable feedback that helps residents improve. “We want the residents to get better, and we want this to be a constructive experience.”

As **Dr. Oswald** notes, CBE support is as much about change management as it is about education. Transparent review processes and shared learning across programs have helped keep residents on track. “We’ve been able to do some really good work showing that this system identifies residents in difficulty sooner, so we can address the issues and support the resident,” she says.

“It’s very satisfying to know that you have really helped serve the community,” says **Dr. Oswald**, who has received several awards for her achievements. “The people that we help prepare go out and serve Albertans, and to me, that’s really important.”



(L-R) **Drs. Alicia Strand, Anna Oswald and Alison Clifford**

Dr. Anna Oswald is Professor in the Division of Rheumatology. Her awards include several Teacher of the Year awards from the U of A Medical Students' Association, the Stephen Aaron Teacher of the Year Award from the Division of Rheumatology, the U of A's McCalla Professorship, and the Canadian Rheumatology Association's Distinguished Teacher-Educator Award.

Dr. Alicia Strand is Assistant Clinical Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine; Associate Program Director for the Core Internal Medicine Program; and Assistant Director of Competency-based Medical implementation for postgraduate programs.

Dr. Alison Clifford is Associate Professor in the Division of Rheumatology and Competence Committee Chair.



"My international work gave me some background and insight into EDI, discrimination, and racism and quite naturally led to my passion for the area."

When she went into medicine, **Lindsay Bridgland's** goal was to work internationally. She did three placements in Tanzania through **Academics Without Borders**, helping to build a new general internal medicine program.

Then life shifted: she started a family, COVID-19 halted travel, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) rose to prominence after the murder of George Floyd. Dr. Bridgland became deeply involved in EDI education and practice.

"My international work gave me some background and insight into EDI, discrimination, and racism and quite naturally led to my passion for the area," Dr. Bridgland says. "I was able to work with a variety of populations and people from different backgrounds while I was at home."

Department of Medicine

LEADERSHIP

IN ACCESS, COMMUNITY
& BELONGING

ACCESS
COMM-
UNITY
BELONG-
ING

“One of the most rewarding things is when people have a shift of understanding,” says Dr. Bridgland.

Six years later, in a markedly changed political and social landscape, EDI has become increasingly polarizing.

“When we talk about equity, we are focused on the fact that some people face more barriers than others.

However, some groups feel that the discussion of equity devalues the hard work they have put in to get where they are in life, or that addressing equity will take away something from them,” says **Dr. Bridgland**. “In medicine, what we’re trying to do is recognize barriers that were previously not accounted for, for both physicians and patients.”

To address these perceptions, the University of Alberta adopted a reframed approach called Access, Community and Belonging (ACB).

Under **Dr. Bridgland’s** leadership as director of ACB for the Department of Medicine, efforts to build a culture of belonging, acceptance, and understanding have gained steady traction. Working with a committee of colleagues, she is advancing several initiatives. One focuses on how the medical school and residency programs select trainees, particularly the emphasis on activities such as volunteerism.

“We’re trying to open up the process a bit more,” she says. “For example, if you have to work outside of medical school or residency, you’re not going to have time to volunteer, but that doesn’t mean you lack skills. You may have more life experience that could make you a better doctor.”

To support program directors in recognizing unconscious bias in the trainee selection process, **Dr. Bridgland** co-developed an educational video called **Equity Quest**, which can be found on the [Department of Medicine ACB website](#), along with other resources.



(L-R) ACB committee members **Drs. Monty Ghosh, Lindsay Bridgland, and Ashley Whidden.**

Another major project is a collaborative study with **Monty Ghosh** (Division of General Internal Medicine) examining bias and discrimination experienced by international medical school graduates (IMG). “If I had trained in the Caribbean, I would be an IMG, but I’m white so I would assimilate into the population that people expect of doctors,” Dr. Bridgland says. “But people of colour, even those trained in Canada, often face biases that they are inferior doctors and not as competent.” A survey for the study will be distributed through the Alberta Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association.

Dr. Bridgland’s ACB work has led to strong connections across campus and nationally. “It’s very easy to work in silos, so brainstorming with others and moving things forward together has been wonderful,” she says. She serves as vice-chair of the National EDI Community of Practice for departments of medicine.

“One of the most rewarding things is when people have a shift of understanding,” Dr. Bridgland says. “They say they’ve learned something or that we’ve helped them get where they want to be.” She gives the example of mentoring a new committee member to moderate a

Medicine Grand Rounds panel called [Leadership Is For Everyone](#). “She did a wonderful job and really ran with the opportunity,” she says. “That type of sponsorship is really gratifying.”

Dr. Lindsay Bridgland is Associate Clinical Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine.

Dr. Monty Ghosh is Associate Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine.

Dr. Ashley Whidden is Assistant Clinical Professor in the Division of Pulmonary Medicine.



“Community engagement is central to all stages of each project, including information gathering, interpretation of findings, and knowledge translation.”

Dr. Sangita Sharma

Sangita Sharma, a renowned global health researcher who holds a Canada Research Chair in Population Health, is principal investigator on several projects working with Indigenous communities in Arctic Canada. Her co-lead on the projects is **Fariba Kolahdooz**, who also has decades of experience in global health. Dr. Kolahdooz is Executive Director of the Indigenous and Global Health Research Group (IGHRG) in the Department of Medicine, which Dr. Sharma founded and leads.

The two researchers, along with PhD candidate **Se Lim Jang**, are an Edmonton-based contingent for Northern community-based health projects. They partner with remote communities spread out across the Arctic, many accessible only by flight, that range in size from fewer than 100 to over 20,000 people.

“We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Northern community members and to have been welcomed into a Northern way of life,” says **Dr. Kohladooz**.

Department of Medicine

LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS



BUILDING ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNER- SHIPS



Many communities, however, experience significant health disparities and challenges in accessing safe drinking water, affordable and nutritious food, appropriate housing, and health-care services. Rates of preventable diseases, including cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, remain high and are closely related to lifestyle changes associated with colonial practices and their lasting impacts.

For example, cancer screening awareness is key, but limited culturally appropriate screening information creates a knowledge gap in communities, meaning cancer detection often occurs too late. For many people, medical care means traveling to cities and being separated from friends and family for months at a time.

Conducting research in a culturally appropriate manner requires listening and learning. **Dr. Kolahdooz** describes her first trip to a community in Northwest Territories many years ago for a cancer-related project.

"First, we invited community members to attend a feast to discuss the cancer project; however, attendance was small," she says. "We stayed in the community and engaged with many people, discussing what cancer is, learning the appropriate way to explain cancer and its risks, and sharing why the work was being undertaken."

The following week, the researchers invited community members to another feast. This time, many people attended. "It's really about being present in the community, becoming part of the community, and learning from the community, its rich culture, strong support systems, and the profound wisdom of the Elders," says Dr. Kolahdooz.

That initial engagement ultimately led to the community naming the project **Goba**, meaning "light of the horizon," and to the establishment of a community-led group focused on cancer awareness, screening, and prevention. Community engagement is central to all stages of each project, including information gathering, interpretation of findings, and knowledge translation.

Over the past 20 years, the IGHRG team has trained multiple community members in research. "We are honoured and proud to support capacity building within communities," says **Dr. Kolahdooz**. "That's the impact of projects that stay within the community for years."

The project's success led to a follow-up project in response to the community's needs for culturally relevant cancer education materials. The research team produced 11 community-informed videos on cancer prevention and screening, supporting knowledge-sharing and awareness.

"In the past decade, we have pivoted to include qualitative data, because that can give a deeper understanding of a situation," says **Se Lim Jang**. "Qualitative data provide stories of lived experiences and make a bigger impact by complementing the numbers to inform meaningful changes in health-care policy and programs."



Se Lim Jang

“What is most rewarding is seeing how research leads to tangible improvements and policy and program changes that directly benefit Indigenous communities.”

The current projects build on many that have taken place over the decades that **Drs. Sharma** and **Kolahdooz** have been working in the Arctic. They address topics that are community priorities, ranging from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to vaccine hesitancy, youth and older adults' health, and maternal health.

“Each project has specific objectives, but ultimately our team and the Indigenous community organizations work as a single, unified effort within the communities,” says **Dr. Kolahdooz**. “What is most rewarding is seeing how research leads to tangible improvements and policy and program changes that directly benefit Indigenous communities.”



Dr. Fariba Kolahdooz

Dr. Sangita Sharma is Professor in the Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism.

Dr. Fariba Kolahdooz is Executive Director of the Indigenous and Global Health Research Group (IGHRG) in the Department of Medicine.

Se Lim Jang is a PhD candidate in the Department of Medicine.



Division Directors Department of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

2025 DIVISIONAL LEADERSHIP



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15

1. Michelle Graham, Cardiology

2. Robert Gniadecki, Dermatology

3. Terra Arnason, Endocrinology & Metabolism

4. Clarence Wong, Gastroenterology

5. Jennifer Ringrose, General Internal Medicine

6. Adrian Wagg, Geriatric Medicine

7. Marlene Hamilton, Hematology

8. Stephanie Smith, Infectious Diseases

9. Jacques Romney, Nephrology (Interim)
10. Penny Smyth, Neurology

11. Denyse Richardson, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

12. Sebastian Straube, Preventive Medicine

13. Giovanni Ferrara, Pulmonary Medicine

14. Steven Katz, Rheumatology (until Sept 30, 2025)

15. Stephanie Keeling, Rheumatology (Interim – as of Oct 1, 2025)



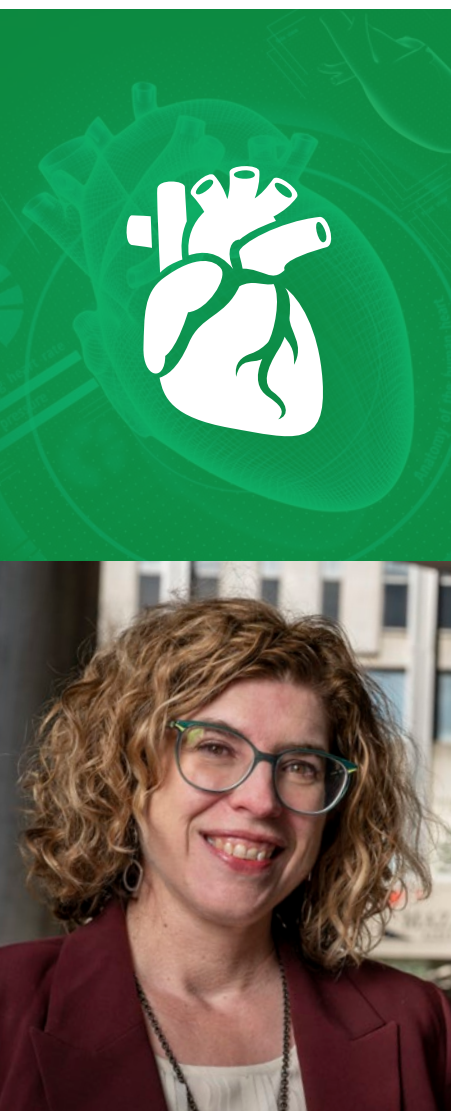
Cardiology

“Our programs have been fully accredited for eight years,” says Division Director **Michelle Graham**. “In addition to our residency program, these include three areas of focused competency: interventional cardiology, adult congenital heart disease, and echocardiography.”

These areas were reflected in the recruitment last year of three physicians: interventional cardiologist **Pishoy Gouda**, adult congenital heart disease specialist and echocardiographer **Dave Javier**, and interventional echocardiographer **Brian Chiang**.

Among the division’s many collaborations is an innovative clinical partnership with **Bryan Dicken**, a pediatric general surgeon. Dr. Dicken performs a complex, keyhole surgical procedure known as sympathomimectomy therapy. The procedure helps young patients with certain types of inherited arrhythmias. More recently, cardiologists have discovered that it is also useful for controlling coronary artery vasospasm, in some cases allowing patients to come off their medications.

The cardiogenic shock team is a highly collaborative group comprising division members and numerous other medical specialists. Cardiogenic shock can occur after myocardial infarction as well as in cases of severe heart failure or acute myocarditis. “When there’s a patient in cardiogenic shock, the multidisciplinary shock team can be quickly assembled on a call and decide the best treatment options within minutes,” says Dr. Graham.



Dr. Michelle Graham

Director, Division of Cardiology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

Another collaborative innovation is the implementation of the **TEER Program** at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute. The program uses the MitraClip device to provide a transcatheter edge-to-edge repair for mitral valves for the control of mitral valve regurgitation. The program involves several cardiac subspecialists working together to perform the procedure. Division member **Kevin Baine**y reported the team's findings in "Efficacy and Safety of Transcatheter Mitral Valve Edge-to-Edge Repair with a MitraClip Device in Real-World Canadian Practice," of which he was co-author, which was published in *CJC Open*.

Canada Research Chair in Cardio-Oncology and Molecular Medicine **Gopinath Sutendra** leads a research team that discovered a biomarker and a mechanism involved in chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity. Their research was published in *Nature Communications* and featured on the University of Alberta website and in Folio.

Several division members were honoured with awards. **Padma Kaul** [see cameo] was appointed Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Women and Children's Cardio-Metabolic Health. **Dr. Graham** won the May Cohen Award for Women Mentors from the Canadian Medical Association. **Anoop Mathew** received the FoMD Annual Award for Excellence in Mentoring. **Gavin Oudit** and **Sean McMurtry** were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal. PhD student **Saymon Tejay** won the Ballermann Translational Research Fellowship Award, and **Angie Wiltzen**, division administrative support staff, won the J. Charles (Chuck) Morrison Award for exceptional service.

Graduate Students 13

Residents (Adult Cardiology) 17

Fellows 12

Clinics 26

Dr. Padma Kaul



Padma Kaul is internationally recognized for her pioneering population health research, particularly on the effects of cardiovascular disease and diabetes on women and children's health. In 2025, Dr. Kaul received a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Women and Children's Cardiometabolic Health. She holds the Heart & Stroke Foundation Chair in Cardiovascular Research and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chair in Sex and Gender Science and is co-director of the Canadian VIGOUR Centre. Her use of administrative health data and artificial intelligence in her research aims to improve health-care decision-making, implement system improvements, and develop a learning health system.

Dr. Haran Yogasundaram

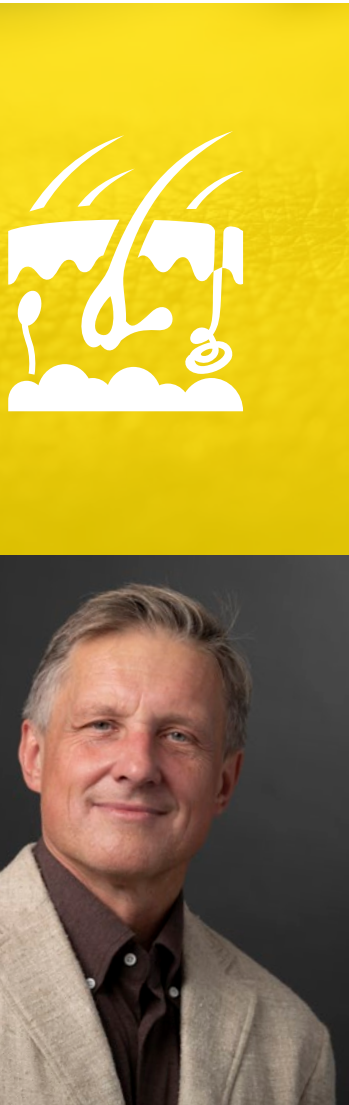


Haran Yogasundaram is a cardiac electrophysiologist who holds a master's degree in translational medicine from the University of Alberta. Dr. Yogasundaram's clinical specialties include device implantation and complex ablation procedures. Following his electrophysiology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, he developed a specific clinical and research focus on ventricular tachycardia (VT) ablation. He is involved with the Cardiology Residency Program committee as Rotation Review Lead. Dr. Yogasundaram serves as an associate editor for the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology Open* and has 43 peer-reviewed publications.

Dermatology

One of the highlights of 2025 for the Division of Dermatology was the cross-appointment of **Ivan Litvinov**, an academic dermatologist at McGill University, as Adjunct Assistant Professor. “Dr. Litvinov will be setting the foundations for Indigenous dermatological health in Alberta,” says Division Director **Robert Gniadecki**.

Dr. Litvinov received a CIHR Project Scheme grant to implement a research project focusing on ten treatable skin diseases in Indigenous communities in Nunavik, Quebec, and Treaties 6, 7 and 8 Nations in Alberta. Dr. Litvinov notes that there is a high prevalence of skin diseases such as eczema, rosacea, and psoriasis in Indigenous communities, yet treatments are not easily accessible due to a lack of, and limited access to, established care in remote communities. His aim is to co-develop dermatologic care with Indigenous communities to meet their specific needs.



Dr. Robert Gniadecki

*Director, Division of Dermatology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta*

For several years, Dr. Gniadecki has been pursuing the expansion of the division's specialties to include inflammatory disease and allergy. As a result, in 2025, **Ana-Maria Bosonea** [see cameo], a clinical immunologist and allergist, was recruited to the division. "Allergy sits comfortably across medical specialties, and allergists need to work with colleagues in different divisions," Dr. Gniadecki says. "Skin diseases often have systemic implications, for example, patients with allergies who also have asthma. Having an allergist working side-by-side with us helps us see conditions from a different perspective and improves our treatment of diseases such as eczema, which is sharply increasing in the population."

John Elliott retired from the division in 2025 and was awarded the title of professor emeritus. Dr. Elliott's patch testing clinic is now run by **Eunice Chow** [see cameo].

Dr. Gniadecki was lead author on "Negative Impact of Comorbidities on All-cause Mortality of Patients with Psoriasis Is Partially Alleviated by Biologic Treatment: A Real-world Case-control Study" in *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. The paper was presented at the American Academy of Dermatology meeting and was nominated as one of the most influential papers of the year. Division members published 31 other papers in 2025.

Dr. Chow was co-author on "A Canadian Consensus on Androgenetic Alopecia: Approach and Management" in *Journal of Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery*.

Mark Wang, a master's student in Dr. Gniadecki's lab, was lead author on "Transcriptomic Skin Niches in Systemic Sclerosis Underpin a Role for Mitochondrial Dysfunction" in the *British Journal of Dermatology*. Mark was awarded more than \$46,000 in research support in 2025 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship, and an Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship.

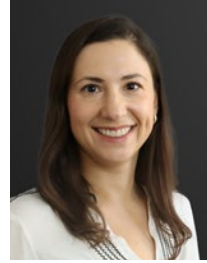
Graduate Students 3

Residents 12

Postdoctoral Scholars 1

Multidisciplinary/Specialized Clinics 8

Dr. Ana-Maria Bosonea



Allergist and immunologist **Ana-Maria Bosonea** was appointed to the division in 2025. Dr. Bosonea works with **Dr. Eunice Chow** in the Patch Testing Clinic for contact dermatitis. Together they are developing a delayed severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions (SCAR) clinic and introducing new testing methods. She also runs an Urticaria and Mast Cell Disorders clinic for patients with severe atopy and is part of the Rare Blood Disorders Clinic seeing patients with immunodeficiencies. She is involved in developing and expanding Perioperative Anaphylaxis Testing in Edmonton and Calgary. Her recruitment has led to the establishment of a new fellowship program in dermato-immunology.

Dr. Eunice Chow



Clinical Professor **Eunice Chow** leads the University Dermatology Patch Testing Clinic, a tertiary referral service providing targeted assessment for complex allergic contact dermatitis and co-leads the multidisciplinary melanoma clinic for high-risk patients. Her practice includes medical hair disorders, pigmented lesions, and general dermatology. She is actively involved in undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing medical education. In 2025, Dr. Chow published research identifying system gaps in severe cutaneous drug reaction management, informing shared-care pathways and standardized in-patient practices. She also led implementation of risk-based skin cancer screening triage for heart and lung transplant recipients, improving prioritization, access, and clinic workflow.

Endocrinology and Metabolism



“Diabetes is the biggest challenge in endocrinology,” says Division Director **Terra Arnason**. “The patient volume is immense, and the complexity of the need is so great that we’ve had to really focus on what we do well.” The diabetes clinic supports patients with complex insulin needs including those on insulin pumps, by integrating the latest in research, technology, and clinical care.

That care may now have a powerful new tool. Teplizumab, a new drug approved in Canada in 2025, delays the onset of Type 1 diabetes if administered in the early stages of the disease. The division is in the process of developing a centre of excellence to manage eligible patients with Teplizumab.

Dr. Terra Arnason

Director, Division of
Endocrinology and Metabolism
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

Drs. Arnason and Anna Lam, with project initiator and lead **Rahima Bhanji** (Gastroenterology), are developing the first-ever practice guidelines for a new multidisciplinary post-liver transplant cardio-metabolic risk reduction clinic. As the University of Alberta is a leading solid organ transplant centre in Canada, the guidelines could also serve in other areas of transplant care.

Rukia Swaleh leads endocrinology care at the Indigenous Diabetes Clinic at Royal Alexandra Hospital, as well as at the Maskwacis Diabetes Clinic in Maskwacis, Alberta.

In **Dr. Arnason's** lab, PhD candidate **Marina Beshara** is studying longevity with a yeast model of human progeria disease, a rare genetic disease of rapid aging that kills people by their early twenties. **Hana Eldessoky** in **Toru Tatenos** [see cameo] lab is studying signalling pathways within pituitary tumours that may serve as targets for novel therapies. In his thesis, **Jamie Boisvenue**, graduated PhD student of **Rose Yeung** and **Peter Senior**, reported on the lived experiences of type 1 diabetes to inform clinical quality improvement.

High-impact publications by division members include "Targeting Autophagy for Pituitary Tumors" in *Cancers* by lead author **Dr. Tatenos**; "Sequential Islet Transplants for Type 1 Diabetes Are Not Associated with Sustained or Cumulative Increases in Hepatic Portal Venous Pressure" in *PLoS One* by senior author **Dr. Senior** and co-author **Dr. Lam**; and "Exploring the Mechanisms of How Excess Androgens Adversely Impact Lipid Metabolism in Women with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome" in *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* by co-author **Mahua Ghosh** [see cameo].

Dr. Ghosh was awarded the 2025 Killam Annual Professorship and the Department of Medicine's Cooperation, Collaboration and Teamwork Award.

Dr. Tatenos was named the MedEd Clinical Teacher of the Year. Three distinguished division members were also honoured: **Andrea Opgenorth** received the MedEd Lifetime Achievement Award, **Donald Morrish** the CSEM's 2025 Dr. Robert Volpé Distinguished Service Award, and **Richard Lewanczuk** received honourable mention for the Dr. Peter B. R. Allen Lifetime Achievement in Health Award. The division welcomed new recruit **Sola Mansour**.

Looking ahead, the implementation of the division's recently completed five-year strategic plan, which emphasizes patient-centred integrated care and innovation in clinical leadership, research, and education, will be a hallmark achievement of 2026.

Graduate Students 5

Residents 5

Postdoctoral Scholars 2

Multidisciplinary/Specialized Clinics 9

Dr. Toru Tatenos



Clinician-scientist **Toru Tatenos** is the Academic Lead of the Pituitary Program at the University of Alberta. He is internationally recognized for his molecular research and clinical expertise in pituitary tumours and the management of Cushing's disease. He was a co-recipient of major Canadian Institutes of Health Research funding to investigate the underlying cellular mechanisms of tumorigenesis, resulting in several new publications. He is the site lead for two national clinical trials. Dr. Tatenos is also an award-winning educator who re-established a pituitary clinic, along with a new multidisciplinary pituitary team, which serves as a training site for subspecialty residents.

Dr. Mahua Ghosh



Mahua Ghosh's commitment to academic excellence and equitable access to care is reflected in the innovative education and knowledge mobilization initiatives she leads. As Program Director of the Endocrinology Residency Program at the University of Alberta for over a decade, Dr. Ghosh has influenced endocrinology training nationally. She championed integrating triage and virtual consultation competencies into RCPSC accredited programs, preparing trainees to deliver high-quality specialty care remotely. Dr. Ghosh has led system-level improvements for underserved populations, including individuals with polycystic ovary syndrome. Her leadership was recognized with the 2025–26 Killam Professorship and the 2026 CAME Merit Award.

Gastroenterology

“The biggest accomplishment for the division and for the province is our GI Central Access Triage (GI CAT),” says Division Director **Clarence Wong**. “We’ve moved all referrals to a single central number, which not only guarantees patients are assessed and prioritized fairly, but also provides us with valuable data.”

GI CAT uses a single provincial guideline pathway for patient assessment that yields clear numbers about patient numbers, as many as 5000 referrals a month, as well as patient follow-up and wait times.

For Dr. Wong and his colleagues, it’s been a major, collaborative ten-year project with big wins. “This changes the way that we deliver service,” he says. “And it gives us robust data that we can share with decision-makers that’s backed up by appropriate triaging.” Dr. Wong predicts that other GI specialties, including hepatology and inflammatory bowel care, will be integrated into GI CAT in the future.



Dr. Clarence Wong

*Director, Division of Gastroenterology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta*

Dr. Wong points out that fatty liver disease and liver cancer are on the rise because of high rates of obesity. **Mang Ma** [see cameo], a member of the Liver Unit, is widely recognized for his pioneering research and care for people living with chronic liver disease. Fellow Hepatologist **Carlos Moctezuma Velazquez** is collaborating with oncology, radiology, and surgery to develop standardized treatment approaches for liver cancer, ensuring that patients receive consistent, evidence-based care regardless of where they are admitted.

Division member **Karen Wong** is developing methods to extract research and clinical care data from Connect Care, the province's electronic medical system. Dr. Wong's work is supported by funding from Connect Care and Epic.

Among the innovations in clinical care in gastroenterology is Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM), a program in which **Dr. Wong** received training from Japanese endoscopists. The POEM approach is much less invasive than traditional esophageal surgery. In collaboration with Surgery, he uses cryotherapy for a day-surgery procedure called endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) to remove tumours from the esophagus using an endoscope. Before POEM, patients required esophagectomies, a gruelling operation to remove the esophagus.

Division members' publications include PhD student **Lisa Laforce-van Lierop** lead-authored paper, with senior author **Frank Hoentjen** [see cameo], "Incidental Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Is Surveillance and Treatment Needed?" in *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*. In addition to her research, **Dr. Laforce-van Lierop** has organized teaching rounds for residents and graduate students.

One of the division's newest members, **Heather Armstrong**, conducts interdisciplinary research aimed at developing a prediction tool to support personalized dietary approaches for people living with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and cancer, based on their unique microbiomes. She co-won a \$10 million Weston Family Foundation Award with a colleague at the University of Ottawa and is piloting the tool at seven sites across Canada. **Jennifer Jin**, **Noreen Singh** and **David Yang** also joined the division.

Graduate Students 19

Postdoctoral Scholars 11

Residents 10

Multidisciplinary/Specialized Clinics 10

Dr. Mang Ma



Mang Ma's clinical research interest is metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD). Severe forms of MASLD can lead to cirrhosis and may indicate other conditions, including cardiovascular disease. Dr. Ma is a member of the Liver Unit, which implemented the first provincial care pathway for MASLD, improving wait times for people needing consultation with a hepatologist. His numerous awards for education, research, and clinical professionalism include the Alberta Society of Gastroenterology's Distinguished Educator Award, the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver Education Excellence Award, and the Dr. Richard Fedorak Memorial Award in Professionalism.

Dr. Frank Hoentjen



Clinical-scientist **Frank Hoentjen's** research group focuses on the increased risk of colorectal cancer in people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). He is leading a national randomized controlled trial implementing artificial intelligence to detect polyps. He also founded a large international consortium to achieve a better understanding of high-risk colon cancer profiles within IBD. Dr. Hoentjen created a zonal IBD network and also founded virtual rounds with the Red Deer gastroenterology group to support the management of complex patients and improve local IBD care. He is chair of the medical advisory board for the national patient organization, Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

General Internal Medicine (GIM)

“The most noteworthy accomplishment in 2025 was the successful accreditation,” says Division Director **Jennifer Ringrose**. “That achievement was made possible by the contributions of so many people in our division.”

Dr. Ringrose notes that the cohesiveness of the GIM team is essential as they face a dramatic increase in volume and acuity of patients. “The Zone has innovated in so many ways,” she says. “For example, **Neeja Bakshi** has created a consult service in Fort Saskatchewan as a way to bring specialist care closer to patients.” Another innovation is the role of a centralized GIM physician who liaises with the Referral, Access, Advice, Placement, Information & Destination (RAAPID) North service to help determine if or where patients should be transferred.

Division members have multiple and far-reaching collaborations. **Darren Lau**, supported by PRIHS funding, works with colleagues in the School of Public Health and the OKAKI Diabetes Virtual Care Clinic to manage cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure through a digital care model. The model will be introduced in 12 First Nations communities over the next three years. **Monty Ghosh**, in partnership with the Department of Psychiatry, uses machine learning to predict opioid overdoses using data from the National Overdose Response Service phone lines and from wastewater data.



Dr. Jennifer Ringrose

Director, Division of
General Internal Medicine (GIM)
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

Among **Mohamed Abdalla's** [see cameo] many projects involving artificial intelligence is his collaboration with **Carrie Ye** in Rheumatology on a patient-facing chatbot and GIM referral triaging. The GIM obstetrical medicine group collaborates with obstetrics and maternal fetal medicine groups in in-patient wards and outpatient clinics. **Lindsay Bridgland** [see profile] is collaborating with surgery, pediatrics, and family medicine on the CaRMS selection processes.

Selected publications by division members include "Network Analysis of Extraintestinal Manifestations and Associated Autoimmune Disorders in Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, by co-senior author **Ross Mitchell** in *npj Digital Medicine*; "Relaxation-optimized Correlation Spectroscopy ROCSY for Assigning 1H or 13C Spin Systems in Large Proteins" by senior author **Peter Hwang** in *Journal of Magnetic Resonance*; and "Not What the Doctor Ordered: Surveying LLM-based De-identification and Quantifying Clinical Information Loss" by senior author **Dr. Abdalla**, division co-author **Dr. Mitchell**, and Dr. Abdalla's student **Kiana Aghakasiri** in *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*.

Divisional honours received include the 2025 Governor General's Innovation Award and the 2025 Community Based Research Canada Excellence in Community-Campus Research Award to **Dr. Ghosh**; The Canadian Association for Medical Education Certificate of Merit to **Cheryl Goldstein**, and the Canadian Society for Internal Medicine Award for Distinguished Service in GIM to **Finlay McAlister**.

Arnav Agarwal and **Tammy Bungard** were welcomed to the division in 2025.

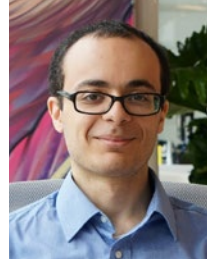
Patricia Buckle retired from the Grey Nuns Hospital. The division mourns the loss of **Heidi Choi**, who worked at the University Hospital. Both leave a legacy of many grateful patients and colleagues.

Graduate Students 32

GIM Residents 17

Multidisciplinary/Specialty Clinics 9

Dr. Mohamed Abdalla



Mohamed Abdalla is co-PI of the Precision Health Artificial Intelligence Research (PHAIR) Lab with **Ross Mitchell**. His projects use artificial intelligence (AI) to address pain points faced by healthcare providers and researchers. Last year, Dr. Abdalla helped implement de-identification methods for Alberta Health Services data, enabling the use of "safe" data for research projects. He is also involved in projects leveraging clinical texts such as AI triaging for referrals, automating patient frailty measurement from clinical records, and patient matching for clinical trials. His work opens the door to solving persistent health-care challenges using AI that current resources cannot address.

Dr. Alicia Strand



Alicia Strand is a clinician and medical education leader. As Assistant Director of CBME Implementation for postgraduate programs at the University of Alberta, Dr. Strand designs and conducts competence committee review processes that received Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada recognition as leading practices and innovation. She is also Associate Program Director of Assessment for the Core Internal Medicine residency program where she realigned their exams and programmatic assessment plan for accreditation in 2025. Dr. Strand was awarded the J Alan Gilbert Chair in Health Professions Education grant for studying Transition to Practice curricula across postgraduate programs.

Geriatric Medicine

“We’re developing an expedited care pathway for dementia diagnosis and treatment,” says Division Director **Adrian Wagg**, noting that earlier diagnosis and treatment potentially delay disease progression and improve quality of life.

Dr. Wagg and colleague **Holly Symonds-Brown** (Faculty of Nursing) were awarded \$1.5 million from the University Hospital Foundation and Primary Care Alberta to develop the new care pathway in partnership with families and care providers. The eventual goal is to spread the pathway provincially, integrate and standardize patient referrals and care, and include social prescribing.

Dr. Wagg also collaborates with **Sangita Sharma** (Endocrinology & Metabolism Division) on two projects, one in the Northwest Territories and the other in Edmonton, that promote patient self-advocacy and identify health care barriers in communities. A second research project with Carole Estabrooks (Faculty of Nursing) aims to improve the quality of care for older residents of nursing homes.

Another initiative expands on a program developed several years ago by **Drs. Wagg** and **Rachel Khadaroo** (Surgery) called the Elder-friendly Approaches to the Surgical Environment (EASE). Pre-operative care for older adults is now also addressed through a Complex Perioperative Assessment Clinic. So far, the clinic has seen more than 100 patients being considered for transplantation at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and University of Alberta Hospital sites.



Dr. Adrian Wagg

Director, Division of Geriatric Medicine
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

While dementia is often in the news, **Dr. Wagg** [see cameo] also has a long-standing focus on a health condition less frequently talked about: continence. A recent project involves testing technology in nursing homes. “The device sends a signal to the care provider when the continence pad needs to be changed, allowing care to be delivered more efficiently and promptly,” says Dr. Wagg. “This saves caregivers time and reduces both patient sleep disruption and the number of products used.”

PhD candidate **Olawunmi Olagundoye** and MSc candidate **Simran Panesar** are contributing to continence research. Ms. Olagundoye is developing a self-management plan for older men with urinary incontinence (UI), and Ms. Panesar is studying cultural attitudes to UI in older Sikh women. MSc student **Sarah Maat** is looking at evidence-informed interventions for dementia memory care.

High impact publications by division members include “Exploring the Priorities of Older Adults in Managing Urinary Incontinence: A Patient-Oriented Research Approach” by senior author **Dr. Wagg** and co-author **Saima Rajabali** in *Canadian Geriatrics Journal*; “The Clinical Advantages of Making Our Hospitals Older Adult Friendly” in the *Canadian Journal of Cardiology* by lead author **Dr. Wagg**; and “Interventions Supporting the Translation of Gerontological Evidence into Practice to Optimize Functional Outcomes for Hospitalized Older Adults: A Scoping Review,” co-authored by **Dr. Wagg**, in *PLoS One*.

Troy Harkness won the Department of Medicine’s Translational Research Award. **Darryl Rolfson** [see cameo] won the University of Alberta Innovation Award for the Edmonton Frail Scale, and **Dr. Wagg**, **Diana Rucker**, and **Frances Carr** were awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in Undergraduate Medical Education-Geriatrics.

Graduate Students 8

Research Staff 4

Multidisciplinary/Specialized Clinics 9

Dr. Adrian Wagg



Professor of Healthy Aging and Division Director **Adrian Wagg** has devoted his three-decade career to improving areas of medicine that are often overlooked: the care of medically complex older adults in nursing homes and of people living with incontinence. He is recognized internationally for his expertise in continence research, teaching, and clinical care, and for raising awareness of healthy aging and quality improvement in the care of older adults. Dr. Wagg has ongoing collaborations locally and internationally, including a partnership with Optima Living to advance research, care, and quality of life for people living with dementia and their families.

Dr. Darryl Rolfson



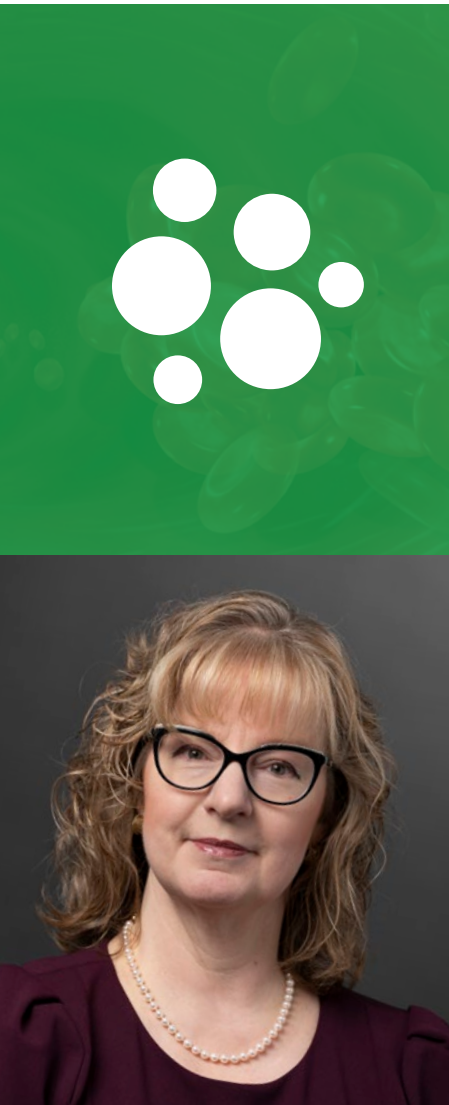
Award-winning medical educator and innovator **Darryl Rolfson** led the development of the Edmonton Frail Scale used in primary and hospital care. As Associate Dean, MD Program, Dr. Rolfson promoted several advances in undergraduate medical education, including the establishment of a generalist Northern Alberta Medical Program in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Launched in 2025 with 30 medical student positions, the program was developed in partnership with the Wāpanachakos Indigenous Health Program and Indigenous groups throughout northern Alberta. The Grande Prairie model is part of a larger expansion of medical education delivery into rural and regional settings in Northern and Central Alberta.

Hematology

“We have a record number of residents in Hematology right now, and we received full accreditation in the fall Royal College Accreditation,” says Division Director **Marlene Hamilton**. “We’re also very excited about the research projects we’re embarking on, thanks to the Marshall Eliuk Research Competition.”

More than \$500,000 from the Marshall Eliuk Fund was awarded to four divisional researchers: **Joseph Brandwein**, **Nadia Jahroudi**, **Cynthia Wu**, and **Jennifer Croden**. Dr. Croden, recruited in 2025, is the newest member of the division. Her clinical research focuses on acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and creation of an Alberta AML database. Dr. Wu’s research project involves working with **Dr. Carrie Ye** [see profile] from Rheumatology in using AI to manage hematology triage.

A strong emphasis on education and research help fuel clinical excellence in patient care as do the division’s collegial culture. At the same time, rising patient volumes remain a critical challenge for the division, as space and staff resources on the Hematology ward at the University of Alberta Hospital have not increased.



Dr. Marlene Hamilton

Director, Division of Hematology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

"We are deeply invested in our patients as a division," says Dr. Hamilton. "Everybody contributes to their care, and applying our different perspectives gives patients the best chance of receiving the most appropriate treatment."

Keeping updated on the latest in global research advances is also approached as a divisional responsibility. The American Society of Hematology (ASH) meets each December in the United States, but not all division members are able to attend. "We always hold a division-wide ASH update in February, presented by division members in their area of interest," says Dr. Hamilton. "For example, Dr. Croden attended ASH and will present on AML, her area of expertise."

Selected publications by division members include "A Real-World Evaluation of Frontline Treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia with Azacitidine plus Venetoclax" in *Clinical Lymphoma, Myeloma and Leukemia* by lead author **Dr. Brandwein**, senior author **Peng Wang**, and division co-authors **Drs. Hamilton, David Page, Elena Liew, Mark Hnatiuk**, and **Daniel Sawler**; "Rationale and Design of APOLLO: A Personalized Rehabilitation Program in Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplantation" in *BMC Cancer* by co-authors **Drs. Brandwein, Liew, Wu, Sawler, Hamilton, Nancy Zhu, Lisa Wang**, and **Minakshi Taparia**; and "Predictors of Diagnostic Delays and Loss to Follow-up in Women with von Willebrand Disease: A Single-center Retrospective Cohort Study" in *Research and Practice in Thrombosis and Haemostasis* by senior author **Hao Wei (Linda) Sun**.

Andrei Fagarasanu won both the UGME Teacher and PGME Teacher of the Year at the Royal Alexandra Hospital from the Department of Medicine.

Graduate Students 1

Residents 5

Multidisciplinary/Specialist Clinics 9

Dr. Nadia Jahroudi



Nadia Jahroudi's research focuses on the regulation of an adhesive blood clotting factor, von Willebrand factor (VWF), which mediates the primary steps in hemostasis and thrombosis. Normally, the cells lining blood vessels and platelets produce VWF, which facilitates platelet adhesion to vessel walls in response to injury. Dr. Jahroudi's laboratory seeks to characterize the full range of VWF expression, including responses to irradiation, hypoxia, and aging, and to determine how these factors affect cell function. Another area of study examines the role of VWF in cancers such as osteosarcoma and glioma, and how cancer cells use VWF to metastasize.

Dr. Monika Oliver



Monika Oliver is a local expert in paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) and a principal investigator on several clinical trials. Dr. Oliver's expertise encompasses other complement-mediated disorders including atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome. She is an apheresis co-lead at the University of Alberta Hospital and holds an appointment with the Cross Cancer Institute's Division of Apheresis and Cellular Therapy. A celebrated medical educator, she has delivered numerous Grand Rounds to several divisions within the Department of Medicine. In the past year, she presented at the Canadian Conference on Myelodysplastic Syndromes and Acute Myeloid Leukemia and at the Canadian Society of Nephrology.

Infectious Diseases



Dr. Stephanie Smith

Director, Division of Infectious Diseases
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

The recent tuberculosis outbreak in Edmonton's inner city is something **Stephanie Smith** is keeping an eye on, not only as the Infectious Diseases (ID) Division Director but also in her role as director of Infection Control for the Edmonton Zone. "Transmission centres around the shelter system, but we want to help identify patients who may be infected, including those in our hospitals," Dr. Smith says.

Tuberculosis is not the only disease on the rise among Edmonton's most vulnerable. *Bartonella*, an infectious disease spread by body lice, was first associated with trench fever during the First World War and is now emerging in urban centres as a disease of extreme poverty. In 2024, it was identified in several organ transplant recipients in Edmonton. "*Bartonella* can cause a wide spectrum of infections, including infections of the heart valves, bones, and lungs," says Dr. Smith. The patients, who were promptly treated, had received organs from deceased donors who had been unhoused.

Viral hepatitis is another disease that occurs disproportionately in vulnerable populations. Currently both the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Division of Gastroenterology have hepatitis clinics and are seeing similar patient populations. The two divisions are working to amalgamate these clinics and create a single central triage for hepatitis care. "With central triage we will have equity in referrals and the efficient use of staff and resources," says Dr. Smith.

The division's *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia program means that anyone admitted to hospital with this serious infection is seen by an ID specialist, even in remote and rural hospitals without specialists on site. Dr. Smith notes "this infection has a high mortality rate, and the evidence shows that involvement of an ID physician results in equitable access and better outcomes for patients."

Holly Huang, provincial head of antimicrobial stewardship, is ensuring that every hospital in the province has, or is developing, an antimicrobial stewardship program.

A top publication in the division was "Donor-derived *Bartonellosis* in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients from Unhoused Donors in Alberta" in the *American Journal of Transplantation* by lead author **Dima Kabbani** [see cameo] and senior author **Karen Doucette**. A second publication, "The Impact of Colonization by Multidrug Resistant Bacteria on Graft Survival, Risk of Infection, and Mortality in Recipients of Solid Organ Transplant: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis," appeared in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, by senior author **Dr. Kabbani**.

A third high impact publication was "Evolutionary Origins of the Lysosome-related Organelle Sorting Machinery Reveal Ancient Homology in Post-endosome Trafficking Pathways," published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, by senior author **Joel Dacks**.

Dr. Dacks was awarded the Department of Medicine's Basic Science Publication Award and **Justin Chen** was named Subspecialty Teacher of the Year. The division recruited **Leyla Asadi** as assistant professor.

Graduate Students 7

Residents 4

Postdoctoral Scholar 1

Multidisciplinary/Specialized Clinics 6

Dr. Dima Kabbani



Infectious disease specialist **Dima Kabbani** conducts clinical research in the epidemiology and outcomes of infections in transplant patients. Her research on donor-derived *bartonellosis* resulted in a landmark publication and led to local changes in screening and antimicrobial prophylaxis practices to prevent ongoing transmission of this serious infection. Dr. Kabbani co-leads the multicentre prospective TREAT COVID study, involving nearly 1000 transplant recipients and caregivers, which is funded by multiple donors including the University Hospital Foundation and Health Canada. She serves with two national organizations focused on transplantation safety and advocacy and is the fellowship program director for Transplant Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Vanessa Meier-Stephenson



Clinician scientist **Vanessa Meier-Stephenson's** research interests include chronic viral hepatitis and virus-host pathogenesis. In her laboratory, Dr. Meier-Stephenson and her team develop innovative strategies to target chronic hepatitis B and D viruses, leveraging clinical and viral features. A highlight of Dr. Meier-Stephenson's work is the completion of a Phase 1 Group A Streptococcus vaccine study, which is awaiting publication. She is also collaborating with **Sir Michael Houghton** and group, who are preparing for an upcoming Phase 1 hepatitis C virus (HCV) vaccine study, a next-generation Canadian-made and Canadian-tested HCV vaccine.

Nephrology

“It has been a year of many exciting and positive changes,” says Interim Division Director Jacques Romney.

Division members worked together to revise in-patient hospital service, to make clinical service and teaching more manageable.

The new Service 3 non-teaching service allowed for fewer in-patients on the main Service 1 teaching service. Separating the urgent clinics for ambulatory referrals from the nephrology in-patient consult service also enhanced teaching and education for the nephrology subspecialty residents and rotating core internal medicine residents.

“**Stephanie Thompson** [see cameo] revived and revised an academic educational round called Kidneys Matter Most and renamed it Nephrology at Noon (NAN),” says Dr. Romney. “Regular NAN meetings are used for case presentations and for divisional business, fostering in-depth discussion of issues, such as revising the in-patient service.”

Dr. Jacques Romney

*Interim Director, Division of Nephrology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta*

The division welcomed **William (Bill) Fissell** as the new division director in January 2026. **James Kiberd** and **Lavanya Bathini** were recruited to the division in 2025. **Ainslie Eberhart** took on the leadership of the Nephrology Residency Program, in time for successful accreditation in October 2025. **Mark Courtney**, former Residency Program Director, was appointed medical director of Alberta Kidney North.

Division members who published high-impact papers include **Sofia Ahmed**, co-author of "Advancing Gender Equity to Improve Kidney Care for Women: A Patient Perspective" in *Nature Reviews Nephrology*; **Sara Davison**, senior author of "Kidney Supportive Care: Every Nephrologist's Business" in *Kidney Int*; and **Philip Halloran**, co-corresponding author on "Effect of Felzartamab on the Molecular Phenotype of Antibody-mediated Rejection in Kidney Transplant Biopsies" in *Nature Medicine*.

Spearheaded by **Dr. Davison**, the division was also fortunate to obtain research funding from Amgen that was used to support an internal process for grant funding.

Awards won by division members include the 2024 Killam Annual Professorship and the 2025 Distinguished Researcher Award from the American Society of Nephrology awarded to **Aminu Bello**; the King Charles III Coronation Medal awarded to **Brenda Hemmelgarn**; the Canadian Society of Nephrology Distinguished Service Award presented to **Kailish Jindal**; a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Kidney Supportive Care and a Fellowship in the Canadian Academy Health Sciences awarded to **Dr. Davison**; the U of A Department of Medicine Translational Research Publication Award awarded to **Dr. Ahmed**; and the UGME Block of the Year awarded to the division by the U of A Medical Students Association.

Graduate Students 4
Postdoctoral Scholars 4
Residents 8
Multidisciplinary/Specialty Clinics 4

Dr. Stephanie Thompson



Clinical scientist **Stephanie Thompson** is the physician lead of one of the few rehabilitation programs in Canada for people with kidney disease. Dr. Thompson uses exercise both to identify the causes of common symptoms of exercise intolerance and to support kidney disease rehabilitation. A decade ago, she introduced a patient exercise program in an Edmonton dialysis unit, which improved physical function and dialysis-related symptoms such as leg cramping and restless leg syndrome. The popular program is now part of Alberta Kidney Care North. Dr. Thompson co-founded Global Renal Exercise Network (GREX) to advance research and implementation of kidney rehabilitation worldwide.

Dr. Elena Barbir



Nephrologist **Elena Barbir** is one of only three clinicians in North America trained in both kidney transplant and onco-nephrology. This emerging field combines nephrology, hematology, oncology, and immunology, and is particularly relevant for the transplant population, which is at high risk of developing cancer. Since her recruitment in 2024, Dr. Barbir has established an onco-nephrology clinic at the University of Alberta and is developing several referral and care pathways to better integrate and expedite care for transplant and kidney disease patients. She serves on the Myeloma tumour board and has published on onco-nephrology tips with colleagues at the Mayo Clinic.

Neurology

“We’ve had many new people join the division, and that’s been truly revitalizing,” says Division Director **Penny Smyth**. “The influx of youthful energy and brilliance has changed the dynamics of our division and neuroscience rounds with fresh perspectives.”

Former Neurology residents and fellows **Rezan Ashayeriahmadabad, Radhika Kandangot, Sabrina Poonja, Nathan Chu, Brendan Putko, Marta Villa Lopez, and Stephen Joza** are among the new hires. Established community neurologists **Bashir Brebesh** and **James Scozzafava** were appointed as clinical faculty.

Collaboration is essential to Neurology and has led to the development of niche areas of specialization among some of the new faculty members. **Dr. Poonja**, a neurologist with training in ophthalmology, is the only neuro-ophthalmologist with this background in Edmonton and is cross-appointed with the Department of Ophthalmology in a newly created position.

Dr. Joza is an AMHSP hire who works closely with the Pulmonary Medicine Division’s Sleep Group and with the Neurology Division’s Movement Disorders Clinic to focus on early markers for neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s.

Dr. Penny Smyth

Director, Division of Neurology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta



Other collaborations include a provincial initiative to streamline referrals, starting with the urgent neuro and stroke prevention clinics and the creation of a satellite urgent neuro and stroke prevention clinic at the Sturgeon Hospital, which involved hiring the site's first neurologist. Three division members, **Imran Jivraj**, **Alberto Galvez**, and **Liz Wilcox**, were named adjuncts to Neurology from Ophthalmology and Critical Care Medicine, respectively.

The division's Parkinson and Movement Disorder Program formed a collaboration with **Tejas Sankar** from Neurosurgery and **Joyce Lee**, co-director of the Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence, to advance research and education initiatives. Several Neurology programs also partnered with the Medical Physics program to conduct research in novel imaging.

High impact publications by division members include "Smaller Cingulate Grey Matter Mediates the Association between Dual-task Gait and Incident Dementia," published in *Brain* by senior author **Richard Camicioli**; "Acute Blood Pressure Lowering and Risk of Ischemic Lesions on MRI after Intracerebral Hemorrhage," published in *JAMA Neurol* by co-authors **Brian Buck**, **Mahesh Kate**, and **Ashfaq Shuaib**; and "Neurological Complications of Orthopoxvirus Infections: Neurotropism and Neurovirulence," published in *Brain* by senior author **Chris Power**.

Several division members were recognized with awards. **Grayson Beecher** received the American Academy of Neurology AB Baker Teacher Recognition Award. **Janis Miyasaki** [see cameo] received the American Academy of Neurology President's Award for Service to the Profession and the Movement Disorders Research Award for Lifetime Achievement, as well as the King Charles III Coronation Medal and the Thomas J. Marrie Mentorship Award. **Sanjay Kalra**, **Ashfaq Shuaib**, and **Wendy Johnston** were also recipients of the King Charles III Coronation medal.

Graduate Students 15

Residents 30

Postdoctoral Scholars 9

Multidisciplinary/Specialty clinics 11

Dr. Janis Miyasaki



Two decades ago, **Janis Miyasaki** pioneered neuropalliative care in Canada for people with neurodegenerative diseases. She has since helped establish the neuropalliative care subspecialty in U.S. academic centres and in hospital settings across Asia. Funded by national and international agencies, Dr. Miyasaki received the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) President's Award for Service to the field of Neurology, as well as the AAN Movement Disorders Research Award. She was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her service to the Parkinson's community in Canada and internationally. Dr. Miyasaki is publishing a book on neuropalliative care with Oxford University Press.

Dr. Glen Jickling



Clinician scientist and stroke neurologist **Glen Jickling** focuses on understanding the role of immune blood cells in cerebral blood flow, blood clot properties, and the microvasculature of the brain. In 2025, Dr. Jickling received Genome Canada funding for a project that advances his research on genomics and immunobiology into new strategies to assess, diagnose, and prevent stroke. In collaboration with the international stroke community and world experts at the University of Alberta, the project will involve assessing the genomes of 3200 stroke patients. His stroke research program also provides a translational research training environment for learners at all levels.

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Division Director **Denyse Richardson**, recruited in 2025, is a well-recognized scholar of clinical education and innovation and an advocate of collaborative, relationship-centred care. “The practice of physiatry is very much interprofessional and interdisciplinary,” Dr. Richardson says, “and our division exemplifies this.”

Ming Chan is part of the Canadian Peripheral Nerve Research Collaborative involving several universities in Canada and the United States. **Raj Thiara** works with the Neuropsychiatry group to extend mental health services for people with brain injuries. **Monica Gorassini** collaborates with the Division of Neurology and Faculty of Kinesiology on a bench research project on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. In her role as Preclerkship Director, **Jaime Yu** was one of several UGME leaders who played a significant role in the implementation and launch of the Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP), the new distributed site of the University of Alberta MD Program in Grande Prairie.



Dr. Denyse Richardson

Director, Division of
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

Adalberto (Beto) Loyola-Sanchez [see cameo] is President of the Latin American Medical Association of Rehabilitation's Disability Committee. **Chester Ho** is the Spinal Cord Injury Research Chair and leads the Neuro-Rehabilitation Innovation Centre. Supported by CIHR funding, Drs. Loyola-Sanchez and Ho are creating a community-driven provincial model of equitably accessed rehabilitation care for people with spinal cord injury.

A high note for the division in 2025 was the \$24 million New Frontiers in Research grant awarded to Co-PIs **Vivian Mushahwar**, **Jacqueline Hebert**, and **Drs. Ho** and **Loyola-Sanchez** [see cameo], for their project "Co-designing a Smartwear Revolution: Augmenting Mobility, Independence, and Ability through Transformative Clothing Technology."

High impact divisional publications include "Exploring the Impact of Myoelectric Prosthesis Controllers on Visuomotor Behavior" in the *Journal of NeuroEngineering and Rehabilitation* by senior author **Dr. Hebert** and co-authors including **Patrick Pilarski**. Dr. Pilarski co-leads the BLINC lab team, which uses machine learning to develop advanced controllers for an arm prosthesis, including a system that placed eighth in an assistive technologies international competition.

Dr. Mushahwar co-authored "Electrode Stimulation Parameter Modifications Elicit Differential Glial Cell Responses in Vitro over a Short 4-h Timecourse," published in *Biomaterials*. **Lalith Satkunam** was lead author and **Dr. Yu** a co-author on "Post-Stroke Spasticity Treatment: A Retrospective Cohort Study from Alberta, Canada," published in the *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences*.

Dr. Satkunam won first place for best recorded lecture from the 13th Comprehensive Review Course in PM&R. **Dhiren Naidu** [see cameo] was named team physician representative for the 2026 Milan Olympics. **Azita Zahirihsini**, a postdoctoral scholar with **Dr. Ho**, won the Paul Man Award, and **Ahmed Shehata**, a former postdoctoral scholar with **Dr. Hebert**, was awarded a Canada Research Chair. **Nikala Bochinski**, a master's student with **Dr. Chan**, won the University of Alberta Plastic Surgery's Outstanding Student Basic Science Award.

In addition to **Dr. Richardson**, the division welcomed **Eve Boissonnault**. **Mario Dipersio** retired in 2025.

Graduate Students 28

Postdoctoral Scholars 3

Clinical Fellows 1

Residents 14

Clinics 14

Dr. Adalberto Loyola-Sanchez



Adalberto Loyola-Sanchez's research and clinical interests focus on community-based rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities living in underserved communities. Dr. Loyola-Sanchez's extensive research projects in Canada and Latin America aim to promote awareness of, access to, and participation in rehabilitation programs. A recently completed consultation with researchers and physiatrists in Latin America redefined community-based rehabilitation and its implementation and aims to update the World Health Organization's Community-Based Rehabilitation definition. He cares for patients in the Glenrose Hospital's Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Program and in community settings. He also co-leads the Social Justice Working Group for the SMARTwear Revolution NFRF grant.

Dr. Dhiren Naidu



Dhiren Naidu's career focuses on health and safety in professional sport, and on ensuring physician input in this area. Dr. Naidu is Medical Director and Head Team Physician for the Edmonton Elks and the Edmonton Oilers, Chief Medical Officer for the Canadian Football League (CFL), and President of the National Hockey League (NHL) Team Physicians Society. He is a member of concussion committees for the National Football League, NHL, and CFL, and co-authored the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool, published by the Concussion in Sport Group. Dr. Naidu was named an NHL team physician for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics.

Preventive Medicine



Dr. Sebastian Straube

Director, Division of Preventive Medicine
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

“We have too few occupational medicine specialists in Canada,” says Division of Preventive Medicine Director, **Dr. Sebastian Straube**. This structural shortage of physicians specializing in work-related injuries and illnesses is an issue the Division of Preventive Medicine addresses with a distance learning course: the **Foundation Course in Occupational Medicine**.

“We are now offering the Foundation Course across Canada and also—through our collaboration with Talee Arriyadah Institute in Saudi Arabia—in the Middle East, where our course has attracted some interest,” says Dr. Straube.

Recent publications by division members include “Fitness-to-work Considerations in the Paradigmatic Pain Condition of Headache Disorder,” with co-author **Ellina Lytvyak** and corresponding author **Dr. Straube**, published in *The Journal of Headache Pain*. “Because headaches feature prominently in working-age populations,” says Dr. Straube, “we’ve developed a framework to assess fitness to work in people with headache.”

A second paper, "Evaluating the Efficacy of Telehealth-based Treatments for Depression in Adults: A Rapid Review and Meta-analysis," in the *Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation*, was co-authored by **Dr. Lytvyak** and **Quentin Durand-Moreau** [see cameo], with **Dr. Straube** as corresponding author. The paper assesses the value of telehealth in enabling people in remote areas to access mental health support.

A third publication, first-authored by **Dr. Lytvyak**, was "PSC-specific Prognostic Scores Associated with Graft Loss and Overall Mortality in Recurrent PSC after Liver Transplantation," published in *Digest of Liver Disorders*.

Dr. Straube was awarded the 2025 Medal for Distinguished Service by the Alberta Medical Association and the 2024 Meritorious Service Award by the Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada. He also shared a prize at the 2024 Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada conference for the poster "Towards a National Canadian Standard for Psychiatric IMEs."

Residents 14

4 (Occupational Medicine)

10 (Public Health and Preventive Medicine)

Specialized Clinics 3

Dr. Quentin Durand-Moreau



Quentin Durand-Moreau's interests include work-related mental health issues, work-related impacts of COVID-19, and medical education. In 2025, Dr. Durand-Moreau published his third book, *Job Stress Revisited*, and eight peer-reviewed papers. Internationally recognized, he has presented at the Global Initiative for Safety, Health and Wellbeing in Osaka, Japan; co-chaired the Scientific Committee for the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) conference held in Vietnam; and is a board member of ICOH. He contributed to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's implementation of the Competence by Design model and has developed an elective on job stress for medical learners.

Dr. Alexander Doroshenko



Alexander Doroshenko is a clinician with Provincial Tuberculosis Services and the Children's Environmental Health Clinic, an adjunct professor in the School of Public Health, and a Medical Officer of Health with Primary and Preventive Health Services Alberta. Dr. Doroshenko's research focuses on tuberculosis epidemiology and transmission, the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on Alberta's tuberculosis program performance, and the province's vaccine safety surveillance program. He also advises the province on vaccine safety policy. His vaccine-preventable diseases graduate course is offered through the School of Public Health. In 2025, he helped transition the Public Health and Preventive Medicine residency program to Competency by Design.

Pulmonary Medicine



Dr. Giovanni Ferrara

Director, Division of Pulmonary Medicine
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta

“Division members published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers last year,” says Division Director **Giovanni Ferrara**. “Our ability to sustain high-impact research and education while managing unprecedented clinical burdens was our most noteworthy achievement in 2025.”

Several collaborations in the division involving other departments, faculties, community institutions, and national and international bodies are resulting in new treatments and improved patient care. Dr. Ferrara highlights the work of **Adil Adatia** [see cameo] on the life-threatening condition angioedema, which has led to the Angioedema Clinic becoming the first fully certified Angioedema Center of Reference and Excellence in Canada.

Another recent collaboration is with cardiothoracic surgeons in the thromboendarterectomy program. Previously only performed in Toronto, thromboendarterectomies involve surgically removing blood clot scars in lung arteries. “This is very high-risk surgery, and it is critical that patients are stratified correctly before they are operated on,” says Dr. Ferrara. “**Drs. Rhea Varughese** and **Jason Weatherald** work closely with surgeons to select patients and ensure successful post-surgical care.”

Drs. Varughese and **Weatherald** were among the division members who contributed to several high-impact publications. These include “Exploring the Temporal Relationship between Stigma, Disease Manifestations, and Health Outcomes in Post COVID 19 Condition: A Longitudinal Descriptive Study” in *The Lancet*, by first and corresponding author **Ronald Damant** and **Giovanni Ferrara**, and division co-authors **Grace Lam**, **Maeve Smith**, **Dr. Weatherald**, **Cheryl Laratta**, and **Michael Stickland**; “Future Treatment Paradigms in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: A Personal View from Physicians, Health Authorities, and Patients” in *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* by co-author **Dr. Weatherald**; and “Molecular Biopsy Features Associated with Baseline Lung Allograft Dysfunction in a Multicenter International Cohort” in *JHLT* by division co-authors **Alim Hirji** and **Justin Weinkauf**, and last and corresponding author **Kieran Halloran**.

Physicians **Jenny Lu-Song**, **Ishrat Gill**, and **Jalal Moolji** joined the division in 2025 in new roles. Several division members received national research funding, including **Paul Forsythe**, **Dr. Halloran**, **Dr. Weatherald**, and **Richard Long**. The recipient of a CIHR Indigenous Health grant, **Dr. Long** works with Inuit communities in Nunavik to ensure that Inuit knowledge and leadership guides tuberculosis care.

Drs. Hirji and **Damant** received University Hospital Foundation funding to expand a telemonitoring program. **Harissios Vliagoftis** won the Department of Medicine’s Translational Research Implementation Fund award. Two trainees in the division, PhD students **Andrew Brotto** and **Kostiantyn Dmytriiev**, received Killam post-graduate awards. PhD student **Hazel Marriott** won the Best Clinical Research Oral Presentation at the Me2 Majumdar Research and QI Day.

Graduate Students 8
Postdoctoral Scholars 4
Residents 6
Multidisciplinary Clinics 8
Specialty Clinics 7

Dr. Adil Adatia



Adil Adatia was a principal investigator on a global Phase 3 study of hereditary angioedema, a rare genetic disease characterized by severe swelling. During the study, Dr. Adatia was the first in Canada to treat a patient with angioedema using CRISPR–Cas9 gene-editing therapy, which has the potential to provide long-term remission. He is the coordinating investigator for a pediatric trial of an oral angioedema medication and presented data from the trial at the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. He also completed a pilot study on initiating biologic therapy in patients with severe asthma to reduce rehospitalization rates.

Dr. Chrystal Chan



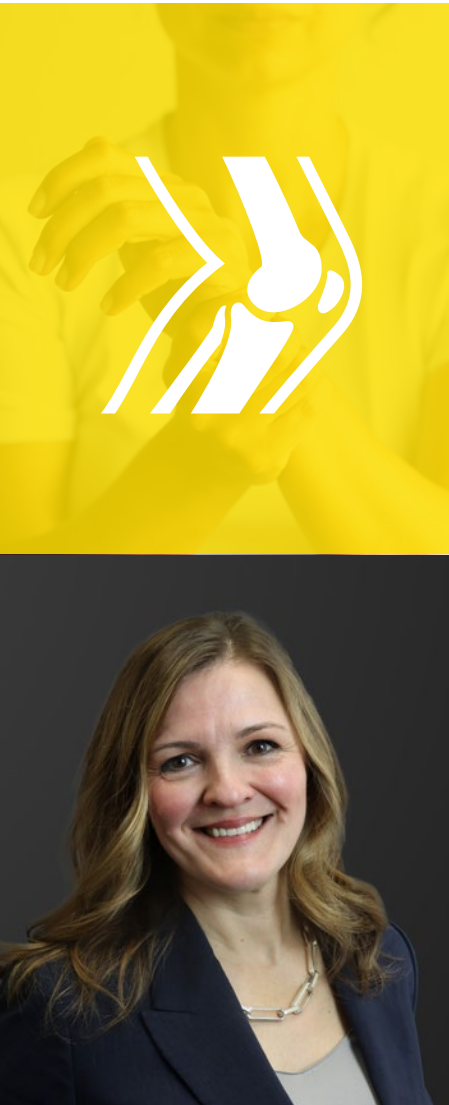
Assistant Clinical Professor **Chrystal Chan** joined the Division in 2021 and is an interventional pulmonary medicine specialist. Since her recruitment, Dr. Chan has introduced several minimally invasive procedures, including bronchoscopic mycetoma removal and transbronchial cryobiopsy. She is also the co-founder and Medical Director of the Edmonton Sarcoidosis Program and is collaborating with colleagues across Canada on a national sarcoidosis registry. In medical education, she serves as the MCQ/OSCE Director for the internal medicine clerkship and as Associate Program Director for the respirology training program.

Rheumatology

“One of our stellar programs integrates allied health professionals into our rheumatology clinics,” says Interim Division Director **Stephanie Keeling**. “By working with a multidisciplinary approach, we have capacity to better manage a patient’s disease as well as their other medical conditions.”

To triage patients, the clinics use an algorithm-based treatment process, implemented by **Dr. Keeling** along with colleagues **Walter Maksymowych** and **Steven Katz** (who left the division in 2025). The allied health professionals in the clinic, who have completed special arthritis care training, then help manage stable patients, allowing new and urgent patients faster access to care.

Another collaboration that **Dr. Keeling** highlights is the Lupus Clinic of Northern Alberta (LUNA), which she established nearly a decade ago. “Lupus is an under-recognized disease mainly affecting females, including large numbers of marginalized, BIPOC, or Indigenous populations,” she says. “There’s been an explosion of new lupus drugs coming out, which we want to ensure are available to Albertans.”



Dr. Stephanie Keeling

*Interim Director, Division of Rheumatology
Department of Medicine
Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
College of Health Sciences
University of Alberta*

The steady growth of LUNA means **Dr. Keeling** and her colleague **Justin Smith**, newly recruited to the division, can participate in clinical trials for these new lupus treatments. **Dr. Smith** was lead author and **Dr. Keeling** senior author on “Identifying the State of Mental Health Care in Canadian Adults With Systemic Lupus Erythematosus” in *Journal of Rheumatology*.

Several other collaborations in the division include that of **Mo Osman** and **Robert Gniadecki** (Dermatology) who have discovered a new biomarker for scleroderma. **Dr. Osman** [see cameo] was senior author on “Severe Fatigue Is Associated with Diminished Lung Function and Elevated Galectin-9 Levels in Early Systemic Sclerosis” in *Frontiers in Immunology*.

Carrie Ye [see profile] collaborates with Endocrinology, GIM, and allied health professionals in the multidisciplinary Glucocorticoid-Induced Osteoporosis Clinic. **Dr. Ye** was senior author on an award-winning publication, “Chronicity of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor-Associated Inflammatory Arthritis After Immunotherapy Discontinuation: Results from the Canadian Research Group of Rheumatology,” in *Immuno-Oncology Database*.

The division welcomed new recruit **Whitney Hung** in 2025. **Dr. Hung** works with pediatric rheumatologist **Tara McGrath** to transition pediatric patients to adulthood. She is also re-establishing the Northwest Territories Clinic to care for underserved, remote, and Indigenous communities.

Several division members won awards in 2025, among them **Alison Clifford**, who was the Alberta Medical Association Rheumatology Division’s Educator of the Year; **Dr. Katz**, who received the Canadian Rheumatology Practice Reflection Silver Award; and **Dr. Keeling**, who was awarded the Residency Program Teacher of the Year.

Graduate Students 4

Postdoctoral Scholars 2

Residents 3

Multidisciplinary/Specialized Clinics 3

Dr. Mohamed Osman



Clinician scientist **Mohamed Osman** leads the University of Alberta’s systemic sclerosis (SSc) translational clinic. Dr. Osman’s research team aims to delineate the link between genomic instability and disease progression, including investigating how a sugar modification found in severe SSc promotes fibrosis. They also focus on mechanisms contributing to fatigue in SSc, post-acute COVID syndrome, and other inflammatory diseases. In a world first, the team has shown that biomarkers associated with inflammation and fibrosis in patients with SSc and chronic fatigue may contribute to increased disease progression. This research has led to conference presentations and publications in major medical journals.

Dr. Dylan Johnson



Dylan Johnson’s interest in complex autoimmune diseases began at the University of Toronto, where he completed a PhD in this area. After completing his medical training, Dr. Johnson was recruited to the University of Alberta in 2024. He provides general rheumatology care and runs a specialized rheumatology immuno-oncology clinic to manage the autoimmune side effects of cancer immunotherapy. He also participates in clinical research in rheumatology immuno-oncology. Dr. Johnson is passionate about teaching medical learners and was honoured with the Discovery Learning Preceptor of the Year Award in his first year on faculty.



Funding & Stats Department Of Medicine

ENDOWED FUNDS AND CHAIRS

FUND NAME	PRINCIPAL VALUE MARCH 31, 2025
AstraZeneca Chair in Asthma Research	\$3,001,204.88
Brown WF Lecture Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	\$50,681.92
CVC Endow Cardiovascular Sci	\$5,000,000.00
Cars-Rheumatic Disease	\$14,544.05
Department of Medicine Endowment	\$1,000,000.00
Dr GD Brown Mem Training Award	\$131,107.98
Edwards AM Lecture Clinical Education	\$110,568.07
Gastrointestinal Visionary	\$115,962.53
Henri M. Toupin Chair in Neurological Sciences	\$1,414,281.96
King EG Memorial Endowment	\$165,779.10
Majumdar S Me2 Legacy Endow	\$126,255.10
Medicine Grad Research Endowment	\$284,726.74
Preiksaitis Publication Endowment	\$50,000.00
Royal Canadian Legion Kidney Research	\$405,269.24
Taylor G Lectureship Endowment	\$67,789.05
TOTAL	\$11,938,170.62

OTHER ENDOWMENTS	PRINCIPAL VALUE MARCH 31, 2025
Alberta Health Services Chair in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health	\$2,500,485.41
Alberta Health Services Chair in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Health	\$2,500,485.41
Alberta Health Services Chair in Cardiac Sciences	\$1,500,376.75
Alberta Health Services Chair in Health Informatics	\$3,200,133.45
Brad Mates E Drive Research Fund	\$779,769.22
Dr. Charles A. Allard Chair in Diabetes Research	\$3,000,812.06
Kidney Health Research Chair – Translational Research & Health Outcomes	\$8,299,578.15
Glaxosmith Kline Chair Air Infl	\$1,393,792.87
Heart & Stroke Chair in Cardiovascular Research	\$1,562,650.12
Henri M. Toupin Chair in Neurology	\$2,389,739.91
Henri M. Toupin Chair in Neurocognitive Disorders	\$2,389,964.97
Nephrology Research Endowment	\$2,029,535.18
Spinal Cord Injury Chair	\$3,044,484.67
Tripartite Chair in Occupational Health	\$573,428.50
University of Alberta Chair in Sex and Gender	\$2,751,420.00
TOTAL	\$37,916,656.67

2025 CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

Sara Davison, Nephrology	Tier 1, Chair in Kidney Supportive Care
Glen Jickling, Neurology	Tier 2, Chair in Genomics and Genetics of Stroke
Padma Kaul, Cardiology	Tier 1, Chair in Maternal – Child Health and Well-being
Jason Plemel, Neurology	Tier 2, Chair in Glial Neuroimmunology
Sangita Sharma, Endocrinology & Metabolism	Tier 1, Chair in Population Health
Gopinath Sutendra, Cardiology	Tier 2, Chair in Cardio-Oncology and Molecular Medicine

CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH CHAIR

Padma Kaul, Cardiology	CIHR Women and Children's Cardio-Metabolic Health Chair
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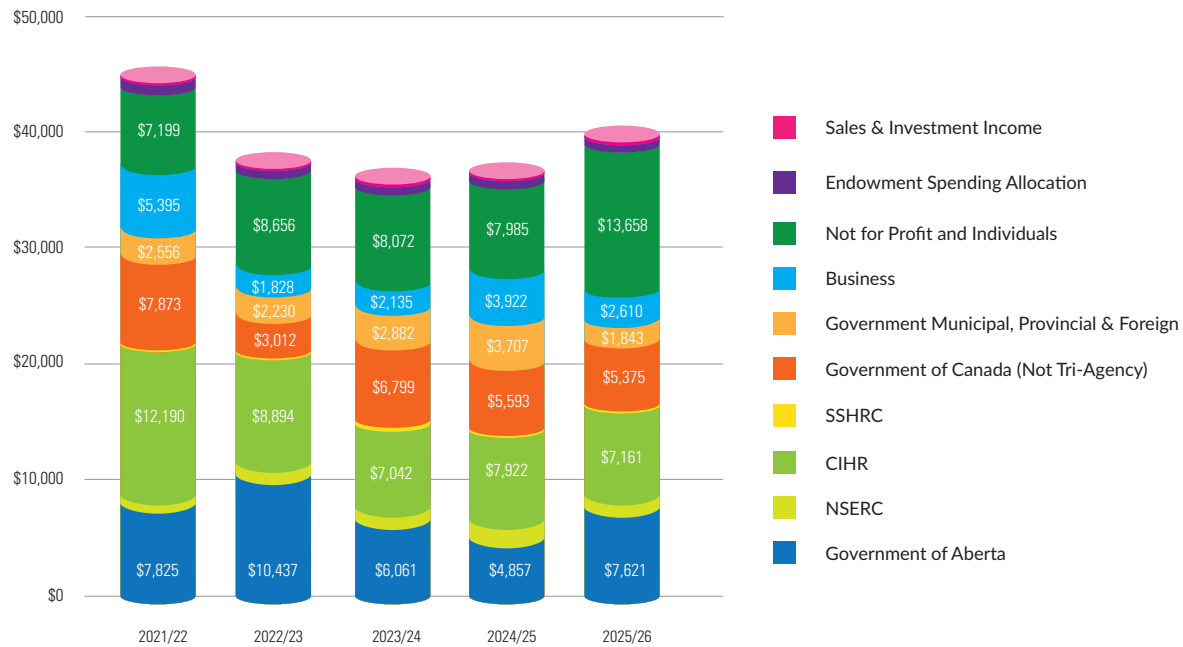
RESEARCH FUNDING

AB Enterprise and Advanced Education
 AB Health
 AB Innovates
 Alberta Health Services
 Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute
 Alberta Medical Association
 Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 ALS Society of Canada
 Alzheimer Society of Alberta & NWT
 Alzheimer Society of Canada
 AMGEN Inc.
 Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
 Assessment of Spondyloarthritis Int Soc
 Associated Medical Services Inc.
 Asthma Canada
 AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
 Bausch Health Companies Inc.
 Bayer Inc.
 Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
 Brain Canada Foundation
 Branch Out Neurological Foundation
 Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada
 Canada Foundation For Innovation
 Canada Research Chairs
 Canada's Drug Agency
 Canadian Heart Function Alliance
 Canadian Institutes of Health Research
 CDN Business – Various
 Cdn Inst for Military and Vet Health Res
 CHDI Foundation Inc.
 CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN)
 CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal
 Critical Path Institute
 Crohn's and Colitis Canada
 CSL Behring
 Ctr Hospitalier de l'Univ Montreal(CHUM)
 CurePSP, Inc.
 Cytokinetics, Inc.
 Diabetes Canada
 Duke University
 Economic Development and Trade
 Eli Lilly and Company
 Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
 Epineuron Technologies Inc.

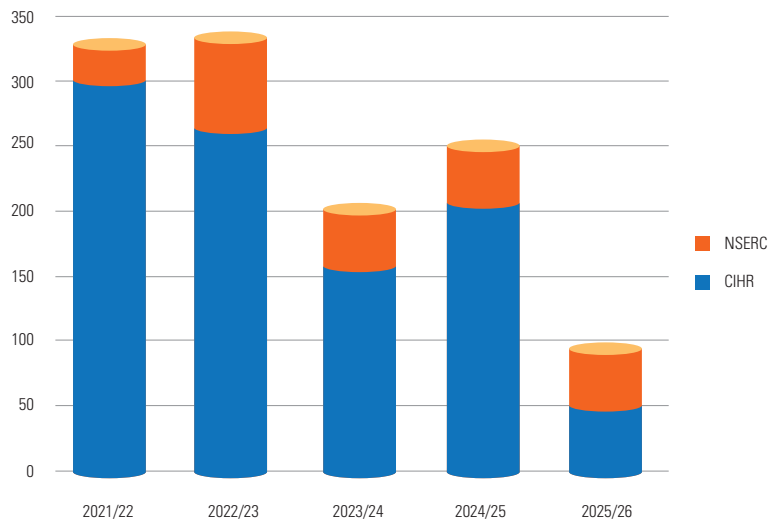
Essity Hygiene and Health AB
 Genome Alberta
 Genome Canada
 Glenrose Reh Hospital Foundation
 Government of Nunavut
 Grenfell Ministries
 Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation
 Health Data Research Network Canada
 Heart & Stroke Foundation Canada
 Hoffmann-La Roche
 Immunovant Sciences GmbH
 Indiana University
 Individual Donors
 Infinite Biomedical Technologies
 International Brotherhood of Boilermaker
 Ionis Pharmaceuticals Inc.
 Ipsen Biopharmaceutica Can Inc.
 Janssen Inc.
 Kidney Foundation of Canada
 Lawson Health Research Institute
 Lupus Canada
 Lupus Therapeutics, LLC
 McGill University Health Centre
 McMaster University
 Medibyt Ltd.
 Merck Canada Inc.
 Merz Pharma GmbH & Co KGaA
 MITACS Inc.
 Montreal Heart Institute
 MSI Foundation
 Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
 Northwestern University
 Nova Scotia Health Authority
 Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada
 Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.
 NSERC
 Otsuka Canada Pharmaceutical Inc
 Ottawa Heart Institute Research Corp
 Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
 Parkinson Canada
 Parkinson's Foundation
 Pfizer Canada ULC
 Pierre Fabre Eczema Foundation
 Praespero - An Autoimmune Research Fund

Praxis Spinal Cord Institute
 Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.
 Sanofi Genzyme, Sanofi-Aventis Can Inc
 Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
 Scleroderma Foundation
 Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc.
 Tanabe Pharma Canada, Inc.
 Target ALS Foundation, Inc.
 The Arthritis Society
 The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation
 The George Institute for Global Health
 The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation
 The Sir Mortimer B. Davis JGH
 Tri-agency Inst Programs Secretariat
 UCB Pharma
 United Therapeutics
 Unity Health Toronto
 University Health Network
 University Hospital Foundation
 University of British Columbia
 University of Calgary
 University of California
 University of Cincinnati
 University of Gothenburg
 University of Manitoba
 University of Queensland
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Rochester
 University of Saskatchewan
 University of Western Ontario
 Viatrix Canada
 Weston Family Foundation
 Workers Compensation Board of Alberta

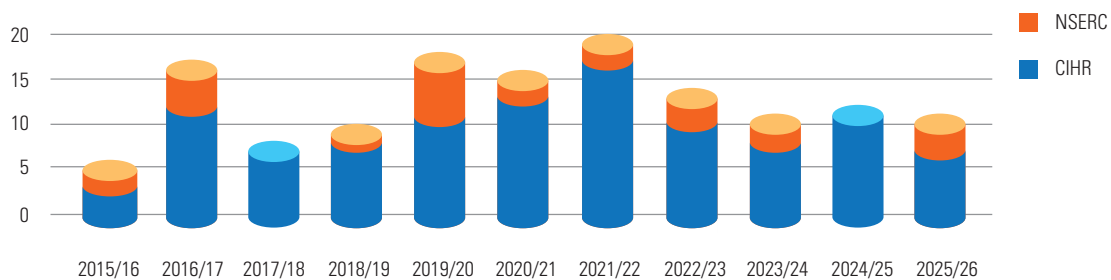
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE RESEARCH REVENUE (\$THOUSANDS)



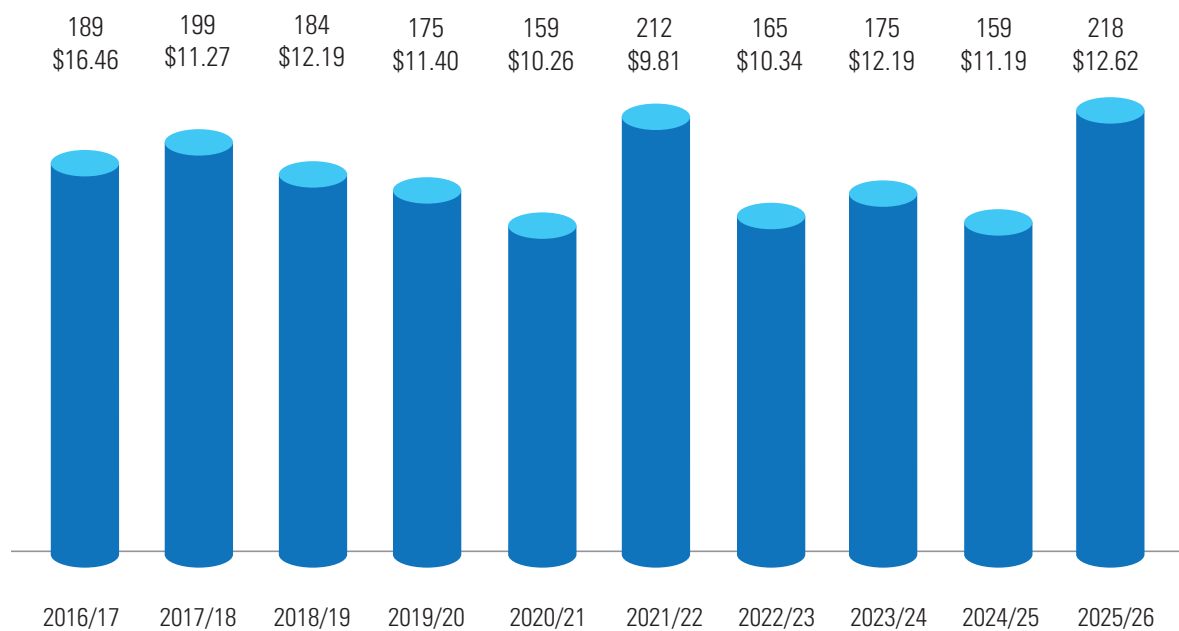
CIHR & NSERC GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (\$THOUSANDS)



CIHR & NSERC OPERATING GRANTS (NEWLY AWARDED PER FISCAL YEAR)

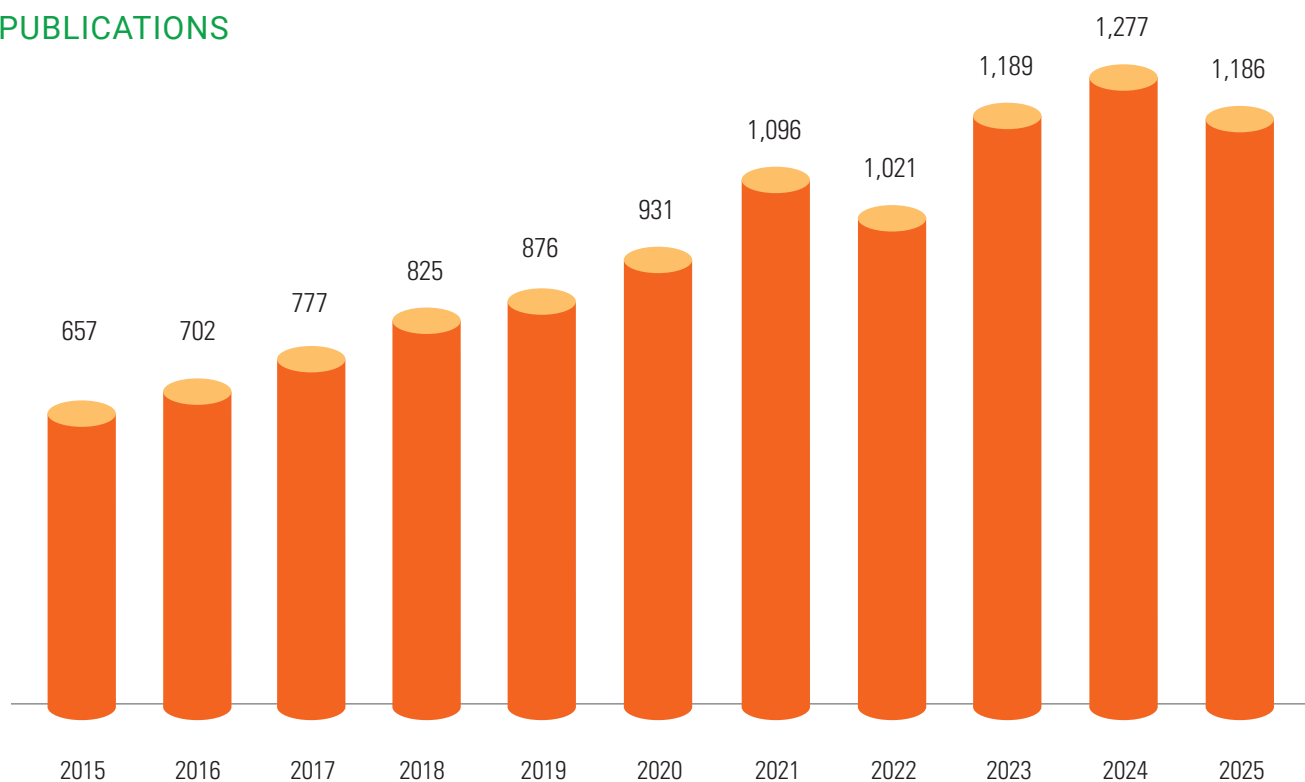


CLINICAL TRIALS FUNDING (NEW CLINICAL STARTS/YEAR – INCOME/YEAR \$MILLIONS)



**Does not include deposits to U of A accounts.*

PUBLICATIONS



GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMARY 2025

Total Enrolled as of End 2025	102
Total Graduate Students Admitted in 2025	32
MSc	19
MSc (TM)	3
PhD	10
MSc Program	52
Of Which MSc (TM)	10
Non-degree Graduate Student	1
PhD Program	49
Visiting & Qualifying Graduate Students	0
Total Convocated Graduate Students in 2025	30
Active Postdoctoral Scholars	40

RECRUITMENT & ATTRITION SUMMARY

		RECRUITMENT				TOTAL		ATTRITION				TOTAL	
		Male		Female				Male		Female			
		AMHSP	FFS	AMHSP	FFS			AMHSP	FFS	AMHSP	FFS		
2010/11		2	6	6	9	23		1	0	0	1	2	
2011/12		2	14	1	12	29		5	1	8	4	18	
2012/13		3	2	3	1	9		3	4	6	4	17	
2013/14		4	0	2	1	7		2	3	3	1	9	
2014/15		6	2	4	7	19		10	0	2	0	12	
2015/16		9	5	11	8	33		5	3	2	3	13	
2016/17		3	11	5	6	25		1	0	1	7	9	
2017/18		8	17	3	10	38		2	5	4	6	17	
2018/19		4	14	1	6	25		6	0	3	1	10	
2019/20		2	13	3	5	23		4	1	4	0	9	
2020/21		2	6	2	13	23		4	2	2	1	9	
2021/22		3	9	0	9	21		8	2	6	3	19	
2022/23		2	13	5	6	26		5	5	0	2	12	
2024/25		7	10	9	7	33		4	0	0	0	4	

NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT IN 2025

Heather Armstrong, Gastroenterology, Associate Professor
 Arnab Agarwal, Geriatric Medicine, Assistant Professor
 Leyla Asadi, Infectious Diseases, Assistant Professor
 Lavanya Bathini, Nephrology, Assistant Professor
 Eve Boissonnault, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Assistant Professor
 Ana-Maria Bosonea, Dermatology, Clinical Lecturer
 Jennifer Croden, Hematology, Assistant Professor
 Daniel Fok, Neurology, Assistant Clinical Professor
 Pishoy Gouda, Cardiology, Assistant Professor
 Jennifer Hung, Rheumatology, Clinical Lecturer
 Jennifer Jin, Gastroenterology, Associate Professor
 Radhika Kadangot, Neurology, Assistant Clinical Professor
 Jalal Moolji, Pulmonary Medicine, Assistant Professor
 Denyse Richardson, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Professor
 Noreen Singh, Gastroenterology, Assistant Clinical Professor
 Justin Smith, Rheumatology, Assistant Professor
 David Yang, Gastroenterology, Assistant Professor

LEFT THE DEPARTMENT IN 2025

Wasif Hussain, Neurology
 Steven Katz, Rheumatology

RETIREMENTS IN 2025

Wayne Tymchak, Cardiology
 Shane Kimber, Cardiology
 Doris Kurtz, Medical Education

ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Paul Forsythe, Pulmonary Medicine

PROFESSOR

Sergio Zepeda-Gomez, Gastroenterology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Rahima Bhanji, Gastroenterology
 Quentin Durand-Moreau, Preventive Medicine
 Anna Lam, Endocrinology & Metabolism
 Adalberto Loyola-Sanchez, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 Carrie Ye, Rheumatology

CLINICAL PROMOTIONS

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COVER



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