

NEPHROLOGY
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION OF NEPHROLOGY



SECTION CHIEF

Wolfgang Winkelmayr,
M.D., M.P.H., ScD

The academic year 2019-2020 was a particularly exciting and successful one for the Section of Nephrology. Our world-class faculty have made outstanding contributions in research and scholarship, education, and clinical care. They have participated in numerous national and international activities and organizations. And our faculty has grown and now includes 34 full-time and part-time faculty. This report lists some of the more tangible products delivered and awards and recognitions received during the 12-month period ending in June 2020. In addition, we have continued to provide top-quality specialized kidney healthcare to our patients at our clinical sites within the Texas Medical Center and beyond. Our faculty group practice continues to excel in patient satisfaction and productivity. Please enjoy and thank you for your interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wolfgang Winkelmayr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Wolfgang C. Winkelmayr, M.D., M.P.H., ScD
Chief, Section of Nephrology
Gordon A. Cain Chair in Nephrology

HIGHLIGHTS

- Recruited 5 new clinical faculty into the section (Drs. Ali, Alvarado, Awan, Holliday, Tucker)
- Several new research grants awarded or started, including 2 new/renewed R01 (Drs. Cheng, Winkelmayr), 1 K23 (Dr. Walther), 1 VA Merit (Dr. Navaneethan), 1 Baylor Medicine Clinical Scholarship Initiative Grant (Dr. Yan), and 1 ASN Research Fellowship Award (Dr. Holliday)
- More than 80 manuscripts published, many in top tier general medicine and subspecialty journals
- Dr. Murthy appointed Medical Director of Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC) Kidney Transplant Program
- Dr. Alvarado launched a new kidney health clinic at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Center of Harris Health
- Dr. Winkelmayr led a global effort toward changing the nomenclature of kidney health terminology, with identical editorials supporting this change in almost 30 general medicine and subspecialty journals.

FACULTY

Section Leadership

- Wolfgang C. Winkelmayr, M.D., Sc.D. Section Chief
- Elizabeth J. Fitzgerald, MPA Section Administrator

Clinical Leadership

- Horacio J. Adroque, M.D. (HMH)
- Venkat Ramanathan, M.D. (Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center [MEDVAMC])
- Sai K. Saridey, M.D. (TCH PfW)
- David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D. (Harris Health)
- Jingyin Yan, M.D., Ph.D. (Baylor Medicine and BSLMC)
- Bhamidipati V.R. Murthy, M.D. (BSLMC Kidney Transplant Medical Director)
- Nila Alvaro (BSLMC McNair Campus, Kidney Health Clinic Manager)

Clinical Fellowship Leadership

- Rajeev Raghavan, M.D. (Program Director)
- Maulin K. Shah, M.D. (Deputy Program Director)
- Linda Johnston (Program Coordinator)

Faculty

Primary

- Horacio J. Adroque, M.D.
- Aggarwal, Nidhi, M.D.
- Medha Airy, M.D.
- Sehrish Ali, D.O.
- Siloe M. Alvarado, M.D.
- Samaya J. Anumudu, M.D.
- Ahmed Arslan Yousuf Awan, M.D.
- Jizhong Cheng, M.D.
- Natasha N. Dave, M.D.
- George Dolson, M.D.
- Garabed Eknoyan, M.D.
- Kevin F. Erickson, M.D.
- Michael W. Holliday, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
- Zhaoyong Hu, M.D.
- Deborah P. Hyink, Ph.D.
- Paul Klotman, M.D.
- Qingtian Li, Ph.D.
- William E. Mitch, M.D.
- Sankar D. Navaneethan, M.D.
- Jingbo Niu, M.D.
- Jenny Szu-Chin Pan, M.D.
- Jose J. Perez, M.D.
- Rajeev Raghavan, M.D.
- Venkat Ramanathan, M.D.
- Sai K. Saridey, M.D.
- Maulin K. Shah, M.D.
- David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.
- Sandhya S. Thomas, M.D.
- Bryan M. Tucker, D.O.
- Chandan Vangala, M.D.
- Carl P. Walther, M.D.
- Jingyin Yan, M.D., Ph.D.
- Liping Zhang, Ph.D.

Adjunct

- Abdul Abdellatif, M.D.
- Farhad Danesh, M.D.

- Stuart Dryer, M.D.
- Stephen Fadem, M.D.
- Jennifer L. Finch, M.D.
- Debbie Geevarghese, M.D.
- Billy R. Gilbert, M.D.
- Charles S. Henry, M.D.
- Luping Huang, M.D.
- Vijay K. Koka, M.D.
- Sreedhar Mandayam, M.D.
- Justin D. Merszei, M.D.
- Juan Olivero, M.D.
- Aashish Pandya, M.D.
- Sarah A. Shearer, M.D.
- Wadi Suki, M.D.
- Katherine Timmins-Vollmers, M.D.
- Edward Weinman, M.D.
- June Yao, M.D.

Distinguished Emeritus

- Garabed Eknayan, M.D.

HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Horacio Adroque, M.D.

- Faculty of the Year Award, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), Section of Nephrology, 2020

Nidhi Aggarwal, M.D.

- Special Recognition, BCM, Section of Nephrology, 2020

Samaya Anumudu, M.D.

- Women of Excellence Award, BCM, 2020
- Scholarship recipient to 2020 RPA Leadership Workshop and Annual Meeting

Ahmed Awan, M.D.

- Power of Professionalism Award, BCM, 2020
- Junior Faculty of the Year Award, BCM, Section of Nephrology, 2020

Kevin Erickson, M.D.

- Selected Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology (FASN)

Sankar Navaneethan, M.D.

- Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Enduring Educational Materials, BCM, June 2019

Jenny Pan, M.D.

- Women of Excellence Award, BCM, 2020
- 3rd place – MEDVAMC Annual Research Poster Competition
- Oral Abstract Travel Award – 2020 Midwest Clinical and Translational Research Meeting

Jose Perez, M.D.

- Selected FASN

Rajeev Raghavan, M.D.

- Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Educational Leadership July 2019

- Graduate, BCM Master Teacher Fellowship Program August 2019

Venkat Ramanathan, M.D.

- VA National Surgery Office's Transplant Surgical Advisory Board member: chosen as the Transplant Nephrologist to represent all VA transplant programs for 3 year term
- Chosen as the subject matter expert in Transplant Nephrology for the VA National Solid-Organ transplant workgroup working on the Electronic Health Record Modernization project for the entire VA system (Cerner Transition for VA nationwide)

Maulin Shah, M.D.

- Distinguished Educator Award, BCM, Section of Nephrology, 2020

David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.

- Awarded medal for outstanding service by the departing CEO of Harris Health, Mr. George Masi.
- Subspecialty Teaching Award for Ben Taub, Resident's choice

Sandhya Thomas, M.D.

- Women of Excellence Award, BCM, 2019

Chandan Vangala, M.D.

- Distinguished Leadership Award, BCM, Section of Nephrology, 2020

Carl Walther, M.D.

- Selected FASN
- Named Top Graded Reviewer by the Annals of Internal Medicine

Jingyin Yan, M.D., Ph.D.

- Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award, Teaching and Evaluation, BCM, 2019
- Selected FASN
- Houstonia Magazine 2020 Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine, 2020

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS OFFICES HELD

Sehrish Ali, DO

- BCM Nephrology Division Wellness Faculty Chair (2019-current)
- Member, American Society of Nephrology
- Member, National Kidney Foundation
- Member, Women in Nephrology

Samaya Anumudu, M.D.

- Vice Chair. Renal Physicians Association Government Affairs Committee
- Medical Director. DaVita Home at the Museum. Houston, TX
- Junior Faculty Intern. American Society of Nephrology Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Standardized Outcomes in Nephrology Coordinating Committee member

- National Kidney Foundation Houston Professional Education Symposium Program Committee member
- Renal Physicians Association Education Committee member
- Nephrology Business Leadership Academic Faculty

Kevin Erickson, M.D.

- FASN, 2020-present
- Member, American Society of Nephrology Public Policy, Quality Committee

Paul Klotman, M.D.

- 98Point6 Medical Advisory Board
- Alkek Foundation Board
- American Securities Executive Council
- Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Deans
- Baylor St. Luke's Health Board
- CHI St. Luke's Health Board
- Greater Houston Health Connect Board
- Greater Houston Partnership Board
- Los Gatos Ltd. Advisory Board
- Texas Medical Center Board
- Tigris Financial Group Ltd. Chairman of the Advisory Board of and Senior Scientific Advisor

Sankar Navaneethan, M.D.

- Member, Scientific Advisory Board, National Kidney Foundation
- Member, American Heart Association EPI and Biostatistics Committee
- Executive Member, Global Renal Exercise Group
- Workgroup Member, Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Management of Diabetes & CKD Guideline Committee

Jose. J Perez, M.D.

- FASN, 2020-present

Maulin Shah, M.D.

- Member, American Society of Nephrology

David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.

- Member, Grant Review Committee, American Society of Nephrology
- Member, Southern Society for Clinical Investigation
- Member, Southern Salt and Water Kidney Club
- Member, ASBMP
- Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Sandhya Thomas, M.D.

- American Society of Nephrology, 2009-present
- FASN, 2015-present
- Gold Humanism Honor Society, 2007-present

Carl Walther, M.D.

- FASN, 2020-present

Wolfgang Winkelmayr, M.D., Sc.D.

- Co-Chair, KDIGO
- FASN

Jingyin Yan, M.D., Ph.D.

- FASN, 2020-present
- Board Member, Alliance of North American Chinese Physicians

Liping Zhang, Ph.D.

- Grant reviewer, 2020 American Diabetes Association Grant Review committee

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Ahmed Awan, M.D.

- Member, International Editorial Board, *Pakistan Journal of Kidney Disease*

Kevin Erickson, M.D.

- Associate Editor: *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*
- Associate Editor: *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*
- Policy Forum Advisory Group Member: *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*
- Editorial Board: *Seminars in Dialysis* & Guest Editor of Special Policy Edition

Sankar Navaneethan, M.D.

- Associate Editor, NephSAP (*Nephrology - Self Assessment Program*)
- Associate Editor, *CardioRenal Medicine*
- Section Editor, *Current Opinion in Nephrology and Hypertension*
- Editorial Board, *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*
- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Nephrology*

Paul Klotman, M.D.

- *Journal of Molecular Medicine*

William Mitch, M.D.

- *Kidney International*
- *Clinical and Experimental Nephrology*
- *Journal of Renal Nutrition*
- *Archives of Clinical Nephrology*

- *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*

Jenny Pan, M.D.

- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Physiology – Renal Physiology*

Rajeev Raghavan, M.D.

- Section Editor, *Clinical Nephrology - Tubulointerstitial Nephritis*

David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.

- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Physiology - Renal Physiology*

Wolfgang Winkelmayr, M.D., Sc.D.

- Associate Editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association*
- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Kidney Disease*
- Editorial Board, *American Journal of Nephrology*
- Editorial Board, *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*
- Editorial Board, *Seminars in Dialysis*
- Policy Forum Advisory Group Member, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*

Liping Zhang, Ph.D.

- Associate Editor, *Journal of Nephrology & Therapeutics*
- Editorial Board, *Austin Diabetes Research*

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sehrish Ali, D.O.

- Quality Improvement Project- Improving Fellowship Paging System (In progress)
- Approved to initiate new renal clinic at the VA Women’s Center with focus on Veteran patients who identify as female (including transgender patients)

Siloe Alvarado, M.D.

- Inaugurated new kidney health clinic at Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Center of Harris Health

Samaya Anumudu, M.D.

- COVID-19-COS project Co-investigator
- Quality Improvement and Innovation Department of Medicine Committee member. BCM
- Fellowship Recruitment Committee member. BCM, Nephrology Section
- Peritoneal Dialysis Rotation Director. Nephrology Fellowship Program, BCM
- BCM, Section of Nephrology
- Health Policy Clinical Pathway Co-Mentor. Nephrology Fellowship Program, BCM
- Business of Nephrology Clinical Pathway Mentor. Nephrology Fellowship Program, BCM

Ahmed Awan, M.D.

- Board Certification in Nephrology

- Apheresis Physician's College at UCSD – Initiated the process of Nephrologists performed PLEX which was approved by pathology department and is awaiting implementation by Chief of Staff at BSLMC
- Started Baylor Nephrology Service at St. Luke's Sugar Land

Jizhong Cheng, M.D.

- Funded R01 from NIH NIDDK
- One paper accepted in Cardiovascular Research
- Submission of a new R01

Rajeev Raghavan, M.D.

- Elected to Faculty Senate, Department of Medicine, July 2019

Bryan Tucker, D.O.

- Adult Nephrology Consultant for the Undiagnosed Disease Network

Carl Walther, M.D.

- Invited participant in the KDIGO Controversies Conference on Optimal Anemia Management in CKD in Barcelona

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Grants

Ahmed Awan, M.D.

- H31612 - Intermittent fasting from dawn to sunset for prevention of metabolic syndrome-induced cancers
- 57978-I - Apoll long-term kidney transplantation outcomes (APOLLO – NIH)

Jizhong Cheng, M.D.

- Interplay between skeletal muscle catabolism and remodeling of arteriovenous fistulae via YAP1/TAZ signaling; NIH NIDDK (R01)

Kevin Erickson, M.D.

- Potential Cost Savings from More Widespread Use of Peritoneal Dialysis; Affordability Cures/Blue Cross Blue Shield

Paul Klotman, M.D.

- Long-Term Consequences of HIV in the Kidney; NIH/NIDDK

Qingtian Li, Ph.D

- Megalin, Mitochondrial Intracrine Signaling and the Kidney; VA/Merit

William Mitch, M.D.

- Protein Metabolism in Experimental Uremia; NIH (R01)
- Mechanisms Underlying Atrial Fibrillation in Chronic Kidney Disease; NIH (R01)

Sankar Navaneethan, M.D.

- Visceral Adiposity and Physical Function in CKD; NIH/NIDDK (R01)
- Prevalence, Management, and Outcomes of Iron Deficiency Anemia in CKD; Keryk Biopharmaceuticals

Jenny Pan, M.D.

- Stanniocalcin-1, Kidney Protection by AMPK; VA/CDA

Rajeev Raghavan, M.D.

- Study of Sparsentan for patients with Primary Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (DUPLEX); Retrophin

David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.

- Megalin, Mitochondrial Intracrine Signaling and the Kidney; VA/Merit

Sandhya Thomas, M.D.

- Chronic Kidney Disease and Impaired Actions of Insulin; VA/CDA

Carl Walther, M.D.

- Understanding Heart Failure Symptoms in CKD: Distinctive Trajectories, Sex Differences, Cardiorenal Phenotypes, and Prediction (NIH)
- The kidney in advanced heart failure and durable mechanical circulatory support: phenotypes, prediction, and pathophysiology. (NIH K23)

Wolfgang Winkelmayr, M.D., Sc.D.

- The Atrial Fibrillation - Factor Identification to Risk Modification Study in CKD/ESRD (NIH R01)
- QT Prolonging Medications and Sudden Cardiac Death among Individuals on Hemodialysis (NIH R01)
- United States Renal Data System Coordinating Center (NIH Contract)

Jingyin Yan, M.D., Ph.D.

- Comparative Outcomes of Kidney Stone Formers with End-Stage Renal Disease in the United States, Scholarly Time FTE allocation initiative from the Department of Internal Medicine (BCM)

Liping Zhang, Ph.D.

- Protein Metabolism in Experimental Uremia; NIH (R01)
- Mechanisms Underlying Atrial Fibrillation in Chronic Kidney Disease; NIH (R01)

Publications

- American Journal of Emergency Medicine (IF 1.911): 1
- American Journal of Kidney Diseases (IF 6.618): 11
- American Journal of Nephrology (IF 9.274): 3
- American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology (IF 3.180): 4

- American Journal of Transplantation (IF 7.338): 1
- Annals of Internal Medicine (IF 21.317): 1
- Antiviral Research (IF 4.101): 1
- Cardiorenal Medicine (IF 1.754): 1
- Cardiovascular Research (IF 8.168): 1
- Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology (IF 8.549): 1
- Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (IF 6.628): 8
- Clinical Kidney Journal (IF 3.388): 1
- Current Eye Research (IF 1.754): 1
- Current Opinion in Nephrology and Hypertension (IF 2.539): 1
- JAMA Network Open (IF 5.032): 1
- Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia and Muscle (IF 9.802): 1
- Journal of Clinical Nephrology and Therapeutics (IF N/A): 1
- Journal of Diabetes and Its Complications (IF 2.740): 1
- Journal of the American College of Cardiology (IF 20.589): 1
- Journal of the American Heart Association (IF 4.605): 1
- Journal of the American Society of Nephrology (IF 9.274): 4
- Kidney International Reports (IF 2.260): 4
- Kidney International (IF 8.945): 7
- Kidney Medicine (IF N/A): 3
- Kidney Research and Clinical Practice (IF 1.670): 1
- Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation (IF 4.53): 4
- Obesity Science and Practice (IF 3.969): 1
- Peritoneal Dialysis International (IF 1.768): 1
- PharmacoEconomics Open (IF 1.453): 1
- PLoS One (IF 2.740): 1
- Scientific Reports (IF 3.998): 3
- Seminars in Dialysis (IF 2.164): 4
- The American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology and Metabolism (IF 3.780): 1
- The Journal of Clinical Investigation (IF 11.864): 1
- The New England Journal of Medicine (IF 74.699): 1
- Transplant International (IF 3.177): 1
- Transplantation (IF 4.743): 2

Books and Book Chapters

Awan A.A.Y., Anumudu S.J., Alghafir E.B., Navaneethan S.D.

- (2020) Integrative Approach in Chronic Kidney Disease. In: Uribarri J., Vassalotti J. (eds) *Nutrition, Fitness, and Mindfulness*. Nutrition and Health. Humana, Cham

Tucker BM.

- Glomerulonephritis (Chapter 95) In Leppert, B., & Kelly, C. R. (Eds.). (2020). *Netter's Integrated Review of Medicine: Pathogenesis to Treatment*. Elsevier Health Sciences

PRESS

Ahmed Awan, M.D.

- Mentioned in BCM newsletter for the Professionalism award and the story behind it

Kevin Erickson, M.D.

- Wrote policy Blogs for BCMs Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy and Rice University's Baker Institute
- Quoted in an article by the American Society of Nephrology Online News entitled, “Baylor College of Medicine publicly endorses Medicare’s proposed rule on Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) Conditions for Coverage” Kidney News
- Interview given was featured in the December 2019 edition of the American Society of Nephrology's Kidney News entitled, "Dialysis Industry Consolidation Continues"

Venkat Ramanathan, M.D.

- Mentioned in the January 2020 Baylor College of Medicine Department of Medicine Newsletter (pages 4-5)

David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.

- Interviewed by the Houston Chronicle about COVID and renal disease (aired on May 8)
- Press Release by BCM for the NEJM publication