Executive Committee - Administrative Team

Tom Hund, PhD  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Director, Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute

Kristin Stanford, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Cell Biology  
Associate Director, Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute  
Associate Director, Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center

Penny Jones  
Administrator, Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute

Izabelle Colvin  
Assistant to the Director, Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute

Alan Bakaletz  
COM-RTS Liaison, Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute

Executive Committee - DHLRI Membership

Emily Bell  
Senior Director of Development

Isabelle Deschenes, PhD  
Professor, Department of Physiology and Cell Biology  
Chair, Department of Physiology and Cell Biology

Dana Glenn  
Director, College of Medicine Grants Management Office

Deanna Golden-Kreutz, PhD  
Senior Director, Center for Clinical Research Management

Jennifer Hargett  
Director, Marketing Communications  
Cancer, Heart, Surgery & Networks  
Comprehensive Cancer Center & Wexner Medical Center

Ayesha Hassan, MD  
Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Interim Director, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Natalia Higuita-Castro, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Jeffrey Horowitz, MD  
Professor, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine  
Director, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

Douglas Lewandowski, PhD  
Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Director of Translational Research, DHLRI

Rama Mallampalli, MD  
Professor, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine  
Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

Michael Martin  
Associate Executive Director, Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital

Ernest Mazzaferr, MD  
Clinical Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Medical Director, Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital  
Interim Co-Director, Heart and Vascular Center

Nahush Mokadam, MD  
Professor, Division of Cardiac Surgery  
Director, Division of Cardiac Surgery

Ana Mora, MD  
Professor, Division of Pulmonary Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine  
Director of Lung Research, DHLRI

Matthew Ringel, MD  
Professor, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism  
Director, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism

Timur Sarac, MD  
Professor, Division of Vascular Surgery  
Director, Division of Vascular Surgery

Bryan Whitson, MD, PhD  
Professor, Division of Cardiac Surgery  
Interim Co-Director, Heart and Vascular Center

Loren E. Wold, PhD  
Professor, Department of Physiology and Cell Biology  
Associate Dean for Research Operations and Compliance, College of Medicine
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COMRTS
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Isabella Hohler
Student Administrative Assistant

Riece Rivera
Student Administrative Assistant

Coming Soon . . .
- Financial Analyst - Dan Maloney
- Front Desk Associate
- Sidney Lauffer - Student Administrative Assistant
Dr. Stanford received her Ph.D. from the University of California-San Diego followed by post-doctoral studies at Harvard Medical School/Joslin Diabetes Center. She started at The Ohio State University in the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology in 2015. Dr. Stanford’s laboratory is focused on investigating the novel molecular mechanisms of exercise that improve metabolic and cardiovascular health. Exercise is a widely accepted modality to decrease blood glucose concentrations in patients with diabetes; even a single session of exercise can lower blood glucose concentrations by stimulating glucose uptake into the skeletal muscles. Exercise also has many additional health benefits, including lowering blood pressure, improving lipid levels and lowering the risk of heart disease. More recently, her lab has become interested in how exercise affects the lipidomic profile in humans and rodents, identifying signaling lipids that play a direct role to improve fatty acid oxidation and cardiac function. Given the profound clinical importance of the metabolic and cardiovascular effects of exercise, there is a great need to understand the underlying molecular mechanisms that mediate these metabolic improvements.
I am pleased to introduce the first of our revamped Fiscal Year (FY) Annual Reports from the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute (DHLRI)! In the ensuing pages, you will find hard metrics and highlights of our success over the previous year (with a focus on FY22), ongoing projects about which we are particularly excited, and our strategic plan for the year and years ahead. In the steady state, we plan to release this report on an annual basis in the autumn shortly after close of the FY. At the outset, I’d like to express my gratitude to our faculty, trainees and staff that propelled our research portfolio to new heights in FY22. Your hard work, dedication, collegiality and brilliance are essential ingredients to DHLRI’s stature as a premiere research institution in Columbus and beyond. I also want to thank the DHLRI Executive Committee, the Ohio State College of Medicine, and the Ross Heart Hospital for their invaluable guidance and support. Finally, a special thanks to our community partners without whom the DHLRI would not be possible.

As I hope will be apparent as you flip through the rest of this report, there was much to celebrate over the past year. We began FY22 by launching an outreach campaign to engage campus leaders as well as the broader community. In this spirit, we hosted several campus leaders over the past year including College of Medicine Dean Carol Bradford, MD, for tours so they could meet with some of our amazing teams and advance a dialogue about how to strengthen partnerships across campus. We also made a concerted effort to enhance our online and social media presence as a way of increasing visibility. In parallel, we initiated regular quarterly reports that are distributed by email and archived on the website. Aside from outreach, another major focus was defining a sustainable growth plan for DHLRI, with an emphasis on the planned opening of the Interdisciplinary Research Facility (IRF) in June 2023. The DHLRI administrative team engaged in countless meetings, pored over floor plans, donned hard hats and safety glasses for site tours, but at the end of the day the invested time has paid dividends in a solid plan for what I know will be an electric research environment on the 5th floor of IRF.

Along these lines, we were delighted to celebrate a transformational $5.5M gift from the William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation that includes support for a named DHLRI research neighborhood in the IRF.

Beyond the planned opening of DHLRI neighborhoods in the IRF, there is much to be excited about in the year ahead. We will build on outreach initiatives launched over the previous year to incorporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a pillar of the DHLRI mission. Our DEI campaign will begin with a 5-part monthly series in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion from which we will pivot quickly to roll out a strategic plan to enhance DEI in DHLRI based on the premise that groundbreaking ideas are drawn from a deep pool of shared experience and perspectives. This conversation is especially important as we look to launch our next phase of growth through partnership with departments/divisions across the College and University.

Areas that we hope to support through aggressive recruiting including foundational therapeutics & drug design, systems biology, stem cell biology, and tissue engineering. At the same time, a major goal for the next year is to expand support for our investigators to write competitive grants, especially large, collaborative grants that leverage our combined expertise.

For me, personally, this report holds special significance as it is the first in my official capacity as Director of the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute. It was a highlight of my career to be chosen to lead this incredible group of investigators, trainees and staff and I look forward to finding new ways to support and grow heart and lung research and education at Ohio State. In his book “The Song of the Cell,” the physician scientist Siddhartha Mukherjee describes the heart as comprised of “citizen cells” imbuing the organ with an unparalleled level of cooperativity and synchrony. This description serves as an apt analogy for the essence of what, in my view, makes the DHLRI, then, is to identify opportunities, provide resources, and ensure the integrity of the infrastructure required to support team science. Of course, we celebrate the individual accomplishments of our investigators but our focus is on ways to leverage each researcher’s skills and efforts into excellence at a larger scale. Returning to our heart analogy, we view each lab as a cell in a larger organ – By working together in a coordinated fashion, I know that we will make great strides in pushing the frontier of heart and lung research with implications for patients in Ohio and beyond!

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Hund, PhD
Director and William D. and Jacquelyn L. Wells Chair
Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute
Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine and Biomedical Engineering
The Ohio State University

Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute
In Review

By every measure, FY22 was a productive one in DHLRI. In this section, we review key metrics related to funding, publications, recruitment, development, education, and outreach. We also provide highlights broken into the following major program areas: Cardiovascular, Pulmonary, and Metabolism. Before we dive into the data, I'd like to draw your attention to one trend in particular. After a small dip in FY21, total NIH research dollars showed a dramatic rebound in FY22, surpassing pre-COVID levels. My interpretation of these numbers is that our investigators did not waste time during the slow down caused by COVID but rather were busy writing grants – and we are now witnessing the fruits of those labors. A round of applause to everyone who despite the stress of running a homeschooling program or caring for sick family members or dealing with illness themselves found the motivation to get that grant or paper out! The expectation is that, going forward, both funding and publications will show a steady upward trend as our lives slowly return to pre-COVID normalcy.

Clinical Trials Management Organization (CTMO)

By the numbers (heart and lung related research):


Development

Notable major gifts to the DHLRI in FY22 include:

- Dorothy M. Davis Foundation - to create a new research chair and sponsor a floor at the new Interdisciplinary Research Facility
- Anonymous gift - to support research on the effects of a ketogenic diet on heart failure
- Anonymous gift - to support the JB Project
- Denny and Cathy DiDonato - to support cardiomyopathy with muscular dystrophy research and genetics research
- Tom and Theresa McGarity - to support IPF research
- The Webb Family - to purchase shared equipment

Equipment Investment

DHLRI added a Flow Cytometer, Flow NanoAnalyzer, ChemiDoc Imagining System, and an additional Emergency Use -80 and -20 to the Shared Equipment List. In addition, in partnership with the College of Medicine, DHLRI purchased a 2-Photon Confocal. Over the past 2 years, an investment of almost $700,000 was made to the DHLRI equipment portfolio.
Funding

Grants of note:

- Sandor Gyorke, PhD (Physiology & Cell Biology) and Jon Davis, PhD (PCB) with Federica Accornero, PhD (PCB), Andriy Belevych, PhD (PCB), Paul Janssen, PhD (PCB), Prez Radwanski, PharmD (Pharmacy), Svetlana Tikunova, PhD (PCB), Sai Veeraraghavan, PhD (Biomedical Engineering) – NIH NHLBI R01, “Regulation and dysregulation of cardiac EC coupling by calmodulin.” $3,834,504 over 5 years

- Vadim Fedorov, PhD (Physiology & Cell Biology) with John Hummel, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), Lon Simonetti, PhD (Cardiovascular Medicine), Bryan Whitson, MD, PhD (Cardiac Surgery), Michael Knopp, MD, PhD (Radiology), Maciej Pietrzak, PhD (Biomedical Informatics) – NIH NHLBI R01, “Targeting the arrhythmogenic sources of human atrial fibrillation.” $3,326,148 over 5 years

- Harpreet Singh, PhD (PCB) and Mahmood Khan, PhD (Emergency Medicine) with Dean Boudoulas, MD – NIH NHLBI R01, “Molecular identity of exosomal BK channels.”

- Lon Simonetti, PhD (Cardiovascular Medicine) with Rizwan Ahmad, PhD (Biomedical Engineering), Juliet Varghese, PhD (BME), Matthew Tong, MD (CVM), Thura Harfi, MD (CVM), Saurabh Rajpal, MD (CVM), Sabrena Noria, MD (Surgery), Ayesha Hasan, MD (CVM), Vedat Yildiz, MS (Biostatistics) – NIH NHLBI R01, “Development and validation of cardiovascular MRI techniques on low-field, ultra-wide bore system to assess patients with severe obesity.” $2,876,936 over 5 years

- Nicholas Funderburg, PhD (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences) and Mark Cameron, PhD (Case Western Reserve University) with Susan Koletar, PhD (Infectious Diseases), Chris Taylor, PhD (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), Ken Riedl, PhD (Food Science and Technology), Thura Harfi, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), Randy Wexler, MD (Family Medicine) – NIH NHLBI R01, “Plaque and blood derived macrophages: a multi-omic assessment of CVD pathogenesis in PLWH.”

- Nicholas Funderburg, PhD (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences) and Mark Cameron, PhD (Case Western Reserve University) with Susan Koletar, PhD (Infectious Diseases), Chris Taylor, PhD (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), Ken Riedl, PhD (Food Science and Technology), Thura Harfi, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), Randy Wexler, MD (Family Medicine) – NIH NHLBI R01, “Molecular identity of exosomal BK channels.”

- William Hsueh, MD (Endocrinology) and Sakima Smith, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine) – NIH NHLBI R01, “Postdoctoral training in cardiometabolic science.”

- Rama Mallampalli, MD (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine) and Ginny Bumgardner, MD, PhD – NIH GM T32 – “Medical Scientist Training Program - The Ohio State University.”

Publications

Publications of Note:


New DHLRI Members

Julia Coleman, MD  
Surgery Fellow  
College of Medicine  
Department of Surgery, Trauma, Critical Care, and Burn

Matthew Gorr, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing

William Grobman, MD  
Professor  
College of Medicine  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Tamar Gur, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Lauren Hassen, MD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Paco Herson, PhD  
Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Neurological Surgery

Joshua Joseph, MD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism

Diaqiang Li, MD, PhD  
Principle Investigator  
Nationwide Children's Hospital Center for Cardiovascular Research

Ann McAlearney, ScD  
Professor  
College of Medicine  
Department of Family and Community Medicine

Isa McClelland, MD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Isla McClelland, MD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Yohannes Mebratu, DVM, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Pulmonary Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

Adam Potter, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Zhengtao Zhang, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine, Division of Cardiac Surgery

Rebecca Vanderpool, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Salvatore Savona, MD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Medicine  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

Lufang Zhou, PhD  
Professor  
College of Medicine, Division of Cardiac Surgery  
College of Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Fellowships and Awards

The DHLRI awarded over $200,000 in fellowships and awards in 2022 ranging from fellowships for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, to grants for students and faculty.

American Heart Association / DHLRI USFP Grant
- Undergraduate Student Research Program
- Awarded to: Lilyah Varghese, Abigail Richardson, Jordan Boyd, Natlie Kellon, and Zaina Kret

JB Summer Fellowship
- Cardiovascular research training for undergraduate and high school students in translational cardiovascular science.
- Awarded to students from: Bowdoin College Case Western, Allegheny College, Ohio State University, Olentangy Liberty High School, Northmont High School, and Upper Arlington High School

Synergy Award
- Spur large-scale collaborative research projects for DHLRI Faculty, Staff, and Trainees in one of the following key strategic growth areas: 1) Prevention research for cardiovascular/pulmonary health; 2) Novel mechanisms for heart failure; 3) Atrial fibrillation and stroke; 4) Women’s cardiovascular/pulmonary health; and 5) Pulmonary fibrosis.
- Awarded to: Drs. Isabelle Deschenes, Prabhakara Nagareddy, and Mauricio Rojas / Ana Mora

TriFit Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
- Post Candidacy fellowship to OSU cardiovascular or pulmonary researchers to enhance post-candidacy training during the academic year.
- Awarded to: Michael Yaeger and Yue Pan

Summer 2022 JB Fellows in front of Ohio Stadium
CLAMS

Columbus Instrument’s Comprehensive Lab Animal Monitoring System (CLAMS) incorporates sub-systems for open circuit calorimetry and activity in an environmental chamber: Oxymax/CLAMS is the one-test solution for simultaneous multi parameter assessment of one to nine mice. Operation of Oxymax/CLAMS and data collection is performed by an integrated program. The resulting secure data sets can be exported to Comma Separated Value (CSV) files and provide the link between Oxymax/CLAMS and your existing data analysis tools.

The CLAMS core is managed by Kristin Stanford, PhD (Associate Professor, Physiology and Cell Biology) and Lisa Baer (Research Scientist). Please contact Lisa Baer (Lisa.Baer@osumc.edu) with any questions.

Interventional Cardiology Cath

The Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute's Interventional Cath Core fosters the development of interventional devices, therapies, and techniques by providing a translational laboratory setting where basic research findings can be developed into clinically relevant treatments for cardiovascular diseases. The Non-GLP core is set up to accommodate a wide variety of interventional cardiac procedures using large animal models. Minimally invasive chronic procedures are permitted in this space. Non-cardiac studies can also benefit from the use of fluoroscopic guidance allowing real time x-ray confirmation during procedures. Orthopedic groups have found it useful for guiding injections into joints. The aide of a contrast agent makes it possible for surgeons to look for leaks following procedures in the GI tract.

The core is equipped with an OEC 9800 mobile C-arm with cardiac package and digitally archived images.

Support equipment include an anesthesia machine, ventilator, basic monitoring equipment (ECG, pressure, pulse Ox), cautery, IV pump and power injector.

The Interventional Cardiology Cath is managed by Matthew Joseph (Matthew.Joseph@osumc.edu).

Small Animal Imaging

The Small Animal Imaging Core (SAIC) at the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute is a comprehensive small animal imaging facility available to investigators at The Ohio State University and other academic and commercial institutions. This facility includes high resolution imaging equipment (MRI, ultrasound, microCT and optical), X-ray irradiator, body composition analyzer, and personnel trained in the operation of each imaging modality and small animal handling procedures, as well as analytical software support for quantitative image analysis. In addition to providing interim animal housing for serial imaging studies, the SAIC also offers on-site suites for surgical procedures, and animal care provided by the University Laboratory Animal Resources. Image reconstruction, multi-modality fusion, quantitative image analysis, high resolution graphics and networking to the facility’s server are also available.

Comprehensive Transplant Center Biorepository

The Comprehensive Transplant Center (CTC) Biorepository provides high-quality, clinically annotated normal and diseased human biospecimens for current and future Ohio State University-affiliated research. Our ultimate goal is to enhance human tissue research and precipitate innovative scientific discovery that will result in improved patient treatments and outcomes.

The CTC Biorepository and its IRB protocols function to facilitate efficient specimen and data access to researchers, lower administrative burdens, increase the patient participation rates and ensure the protection of patients and their data, while serving to stimulate human tissue research at OSU. Our hope is this translates into researchers being more competitive for grants and high impact publications that further moves our research institute toward an era of great scientific growth.
Research Day

DHLRI hosted the 17th Annual Research Day on October 19th, 2022. Organized by Jenifer Bennett, Research Programs Manager, 2022 Research Day Featured 130 posters, talks from exceptional trainees, and a highly distinguished keynote speaker, Joseph Wu, MD, PhD.

Joseph Wu, MD, PhD, the Simon H. Stertzer, MD, Professor of Medicine and Radiology at Stanford University, Director of the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute and President Elect of the American Heart Association. Dr. Wu is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Association for the Advancement of Science among other societies and has pioneered the use of patient specific induced pluripotent stem cells to advance our understanding of cardiovascular disease mechanisms.

DHLRI Research Day Awards

Undergraduate
- Liyah Varghese
- Sahej Bindra
- Erica Dale

Pre-Doctoral
- Casey Beard
- Mahmoud Shalaan
- Sarah Sturgill

Post -Doctoral
- Roland Veress, PhD
- D. Ryan King, PhD
- Drew Nassal, PhD

Clinical Fellow
- Ian Bentley, MD

Research Staff
- Michael Wallace
- Jordan Boyd
- Karisa Meyer

Distinguished Awards
- Kymberly Gowdy, PhD
- Melissa G. Piper Mentor Award
- Dahlia Kenawy, MD
- Distinguished Clinical Fellow / Resident
- Roman Covarrubias, PhD
- Distinguished Basic Research Staff
- Sarah Karow
- Distinguished Clinical Research Staff
- Matt Joseph
- Distinguished Administrative Staff
- Kaitlyn Vitek
- Director’s Award

Of the Year Awards
- Heather Struckman - Pre-Doctoral Scholar of the Year
- Paula Agudelo Garcia, PhD - Post-Doctoral Scholar of the Year

Mentoring Programs

DHLRI for Post-Docs

Dedicated Hearts to ensure academic Learning and Research Independence For Post-Docs

The goal of the DHLRI for Post-Docs program is to provide ‘Guidance and Advice’ to DHLRI post-docs as they move towards academic independence.

Associate post-docs with tenure-track Assistant / Associate Professors (different than their research mentors) to provide career and networking advice.

Advisors will provide academic career advice to post-docs as needed and will track their progress towards research independence as mentees achieve set milestones.

The mentor / mentee relationship will be on an as needed basis, and the post-doc will be able to reach out to their advisor whenever guidance is desired.

Benefits of the program:

- Enhanced motivation
- Increased amenability to post-doctoral grants
- Additional networking opportunities
- Sense of community
- Postdoc recruitment tool (for PIs / DHLRI)
Communication

Twitter

DHLRI launched its Twitter Account in July 2021. Since January 2022, a 70.7% increase in audience growth has been realized with almost 700 followers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impressions</th>
<th>Engagements</th>
<th>Engagement Rate Per Impression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The number of times content was displayed to users. Month over Month – 150,000</td>
<td>The number of times users engaged with content</td>
<td>The number of times users engaged with DHLRI content as a brand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Performance Summary - Metrics Over the 2022 Calendar Year

Website

The newly revitalized DHLRI website is a great source of information for investigators, donors, and members of the general public who are interested in the current events of the DHLRI. Updated quarterly, the new DHLRI website includes membership lists, featured stories and publication, information on upcoming events, and much more.

SharePoint

A new SharePoint site was released in 2022 for all DHLRI PIs. SharePoint is a one-stop shop for on demand administrative assistance. The site includes helpful forms, calendars, links, and more.
Cardiovascular Medicine

Important Highlights

Training Program for Cardiovascular Science - Jill Rafael-Fortney, PhD and Brandon Biesiadecki, PhD successfully renewed the NIH NHLBI T32 program "Training to provide the knowledge, skills, and culture to the next generation of cardiovascular scientists." This exceptional program has already had a tremendous impact to enhance mentoring at OSU with innovative workshops and educational opportunities, including Leadership Skills and Advancement of Women workshops for both men and women, a Clinical Mentorship program, and Career Mentorship program to meet the individualized career goals of trainees.

Advanced Cardiac Imaging - The OSU Wexner Medical Center added a new MRI system to the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Center - The 0.55% MAGENTOM Free.Max - a large bore low magnetic field technology developed by Siemens in collaboration with DHLRI researchers Orlando Simonetti, PhD and Rizwan Ahmad, PhD. The new system with expand imaging access and allow for improved imaging of lungs and patients with implanted devices. In parallel, Simonetti and Yuchi Han, MD acquired funding for a study on the effects of a ketogenic diet on cardiac function in patients with type 2 diabetes and heart failure with preserved ejection fraction. This project is part of a $10 million grant from a U.S Department of Defense program focused on improving the health of military service members, veterans, and the American public.

Maternal Outcomes and Health Disparities - From basic science to public health, maternal health was an important area of research over the past year. Kristin Stanford, PhD and colleagues published innovative studies in the journal Diabetes showing the effects of parental exercise on metabolic health of offspring. In parallel, Laxmi Mehta, MD led an important policy statement from the American Heart Association published in the journal Circulation highlighting the critical role that disparities in social factors like socioeconomic status and access to care play in determining maternal health outcomes. In alignment with the policy statement, Ohio State was part of a large national team that received $20 million from the American Heart Association to form the Health Equity Research Network (HERN) on Disparities in Maternal-Infant Health Outcomes. This project seeks to address social determinants of health identified as factors in maternal outcomes. Ann Scheck McAlearney, ScD (Family Medicine) and William Grobman, MD (Obstetrics and Gynecology) serve as leaders for a project entitled "Better Birth Outcomes and Experiences Through Technology, Education and Reporting (BETTER)" that takes a multipronged approach including technology intervention to target social disparities that have a negative impact on maternal health and outcomes. Dr. Mehta also participates in the network as part of the coordinating team led by investigators at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Honors

- Sakima Smith, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), John Hummel, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine), Vadim Fedorov, PhD were named endowed Chairs thanks to the generosity of the Frick Family.

- Doug Lewandowski, PhD (Endocrinology) was recognized with the 2022 Research Achievement Award from the International Society for Heart Research.

- William Abraham, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine) received the Pioneer Award from the Heart Failure Society of America.

- Laxmi Mehta, MD was inducted into the Mazzaferri-Ellison Society of Master Clinicians and also was named the inaugural faculty director of the Gabbe Health and Well-Being Program.

- Richard Guminia, MD (Cardiovascular Medicine) and Loren Wold, PhD (Surgery) were named Associate Directors of Research in the College of Medicine.

- D. Ryan King, PhD was recognized as the 2022 Postdoctoral Scholar Mentor of the Year from the OSU Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
Collectively, the maturation of PCCS has invigorated the DHLRI and the DOIM with an outstanding core of independently funded investigators with diverse and complementary expertise that provides a strong foundation for growth and training opportunities focused on the lung.

PCCS Investigators Recruited in the Past 5 Years Include:

- **Rama Mallampalli** (Chair of Department of Internal Medicine) - acute lung injury, the ubiquitin proteosome and drug development
- **Jeffrey Horowitz** (Division Director, PCCS) - fibroblast biology and lung fibrosis
- **Laszlo Farkas** - pulmonary endothelial biology, and pulmonary hypertension
- **Kymberly Gowdy** - environmental exposures and lipid mediators in lung immunology and inflammation
- **Ana L. Mora** (Associate Director of Lung Research, DHLRI) - biology of aging, alveolar epithelial cell biology, autophagy, mitochondrial function, lung fibrosis and vascular disease
- **Mauricio Rojas** (Associate Vice Chair of Research, Internal Medicine) - senescence, senolytic drug development, mesenchymal stem/stromal cell biology, fibroblast biology, and ex vivo modeling of lung fibrosis
- **Yohannes Mebratu** - asthma and airway epithelial cell biology and the pathogenic mechanisms of respiratory viral infections

- PCCS grant submission numbers have increased and the research portfolio has grown from $4.3 million in federal funding in 2016, to almost $12 million in 2022
- Division faculty includes 14 investigators with independent NIH R01 (or equivalent) funding.
- These investigators are PI or MPI on 17 R grants, 1 DoD, 3 U grants and components or contact PI of 2 NHLBI Program Project Grants with total research funding of $11.94 million in 2021.
- Additional evidence of maturation of the Division is evident through academic output, indicated by progressive growth in publications from 50 in 2018 to 148 through the end of August 2022. These include manuscripts in high impact journals such as Nature Communication, Nature Chemical Biology, Science Translation Medicine, New England Journal of Medicine, and premiere Journals in Pulmonary Medicine (American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine, Lancet Respiratory, etc.)
Publications of note:
- Bradley D et al., Nat Comm, Interferon gamma mediates the reduction of adipose tissue regulatory T cells in human obesity. PMCID: PMC9509397
- Hernandez-Saavedra et al., Diabetes, Maternal Exercise and Paternal Exercise Induce Distinct Metabolite Signatures in Offspring Tissues. PMCID: PMC9501651
- Joseph JJ et al., Nutr Diab, The association of serum vitamin D with incident diabetes in an African American population. PMCID: PMC9562299
- Joseph JJ et al., JAMA Netw Open, Associations of Cardiometabolic Multimorbidity With All-Cause and Coronary Heart Disease Mortality Among Black Adults in the Jackson Heart Study. PMCID: PMC9597394
- Blaszkiewicz et al., Front Endo, Adipose Tissue Myeloid-Lineage Neuroimmune Cells Express Genes Important for Neural Plasticity and Regulate Adipose Innervation. PMCID: PMC9251313
- Serrano J et al., Biomedicines, Saccharin Stimulates Insulin Secretion Dependent on Sweet Taste Receptor-Induced Activation of PLC Signaling Axis. PMCID: PMC8773316
- Sreejit G et al., Circ, Retention of the NLRP3 Inflammasome-Primed Neutrophils in the Bone Marrow Is Essential for Myocardial Infarction-Induced Granulopoiesis. PMCID: PMC8716427

Grants of note:
Kirsty Townsend - W.M Keck Foundation Award
Kirsty Townsend was awarded a $1.2 million grant from the W.M Keck Foundation for her project titled, "Uncovering the feedback loop between the central nervous system and adipose tissue."

This is the first medical Keck Award granted to the Ohio State University ever, and the first Keck Award overall granted to a researcher at OSU since 1986.

Natalia Higuita-Castro and Daniel Gallego Perez - Gilbert Family Foundation Award
Biomedical Engineering Assistant Professor Natalia Higuita-Castro, PhD along with co-investigator, Daniel Gallego-Perez, PhD received a three-year, $1.2 million grant from the Gilbert Family Foundation to develop next-generation gene therapies to treat neurofibromas.

This is the first Gilbert Family Foundation grant to support Ohio State research and is part of more than $18 million in grants awarded recently as part of the organization’s Gene Therapy Initiative. The private, non-profit foundation aims to accelerate the development of curative therapies that address the underlying genetic abnormalities in neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) patients.

PHAT
In 2022, we launched the Preventative Health of Adipose Tissue (PHAT) Conference. Adipose tissue contributes to the development, and increases the risk of morbidity and mortality, in multiple diseases including obesity, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer’s Disease, and certain cancers. The idea behind this conference is to bring together investigators from different backgrounds to focus on improving adipose tissue health as a central focus to combat disease and promote health.
In Progress

Although the state of the DHLRI is strong as reviewed in the previous section, we’re always looking for ways to improve. Here, we highlight some of the new initiatives from FY22 that we are excited to come to fruition in FY23. Some of these efforts have been introduced earlier in this report – for example, our DEI initiative and planned DHLRI neighborhoods in the IRF. Read on for additional information on these important projects.

I’d like to take a moment however to introduce a new initiative (with additional details below) that involves close collaboration with the College of Medicine Office of Research. Although we had a bumper crop of grants in FY22, securing funding for research project at NIH remains a daunting task with a payline at 15% for R01 research project grants at the National Heart Lung Blood Institute in FY2022. Although the payline is higher for early stage investigators (25% in FY22), they must compete for funding against more established researchers with larger labs, more resources, and name recognition. Critical for our long term success is making sure that our early career faculty have adequate mentoring and formal training in best practices for preparing and submitting their first NIH R01. Furthermore, even seasoned investigators could use a second set of eyes from time to time to improve a proposal. In 2023, keep an eye out for programs on grant writing and review for both early state and established investigators from the DHLRI n collaboration with the CoM Office of Research. These programs will be examples of the kind of partnership we hope to pursue to bolster the research and education infrastructure at OSU for researchers across stages.

Grant Review Committee

The COM/DHLRI Grant Writing Consortium will encompass a large group of offerings designed to assist in the writing of competitive grant applications with an emphasis on NIH. Cohorts will cross all levels, including K to R grants, as well as R01 grants for early, mid, and senior faculty.

A team of funded CoM/ DHLRI faculty, with extensive study section experience will facilitate monthly meetings during a 6-month period. These sessions will include:

- Formal lecture covering a specific section of the grant
- Peer mentor review of a specific section
- Grant reviewing and editing monthly
- Final session: mock study section with an external reviewer with expertise in the specific area of research

Heart Biorepository

The Comprehensive Cardiovascular Biorepository (CCB) has been designed to create a centralized clinical data and biospecimen repository within The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, College of Medicine. The CCB will process, store, and distribute biospecimens for cardiovascular research. Housed in DHLRI space, the CCB allows investigators access to high quality and clinically annotated biospecimens, thus precipitating new translational research, new diagnostics, new therapeutics, quality improvement, and future opportunities for multi-institution collaborative research. Interdisciplinary research will be fueled through such a wealth of available samples, propelling OSU into next-generation research and improved patient outcomes.
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In seeking to lead and serve our faculty, staff, and learners, DHLRI’s new strategic plan will include a leadership initiative dedicated to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Committed to investing in those underserved in biomedical sciences, this new pillar is being kicked off with a 5-part series to further drive the success of our clinical research operations and training.

- **DEI Panel** A panel discussion featuring DEI leadership from OSU and the College of Medicine, moderated by Dr. Thomas Hund.

- **Navigating Difficult DEI Conversations** I just don’t know how to have this conversation. If you have ever had this thought, this workshop is for you. Difficult conversations about DEI range from conceptual to conflict resolution.

- **DEI Foundations** A reset on what Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means for your team.

- **Social Identity 101**: The first step in the social change process is self reflection. The Social Identity 101 workshop offers participants a guided opportunity to dive deeper into understanding their social identities and privileges.

- **Microaggressions 101**: Microaggressions cause harm in every workplace. Yet many of us remain confused about what a microaggression is, how to know if one is happening/has happened, and the numerous ways microaggressions impact others. This workshop offers a deep dive into microaggressions, microaggressive terminology, and the impacts of microaggressions in our everyday lives.

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**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
The Interdisciplinary Research Facility (IRF), located in the heart of the new Innovation District, namely Carmenton, is over 80% complete. The 305,000 square foot facility will serve multiple research disciplines working together, including biomedical, life sciences, engineering and environmental sciences, among others. DHLRI will expand their footprint in the College of Medicine by populating two of the three neighborhoods on the top floor.
As we consider the path forward for the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute, countless opportunities for advancement present themselves. The challenge then becomes how do we prioritize opportunities for investment of resources, namely time and money, to most effectively advance our mission? To guide our strategic planning, the DHLRI Administrative team has rolled out a new mantra, which was unveiled on the front page of this report: CITE, an acronym for our guiding principles of Collaboration, Innovation, Translation and Equity.

I’ve already alluded to the importance of collaboration for our mission in the introduction to this report. We will prioritize investment opportunities that enhance collaboration between groups. New neighborhoods in the Interdisciplinary Research Facility that we’ve referred to throughout this document represent a major opportunity for enhancing collaboration. At the same time, we will continue to invest in state-of-the-art research equipment and core facilities to bolster the research infrastructure for interdisciplinary team research. The ultimate goal with these efforts is to build and support a “Smart Grid” for science that maximizes efficiency and return on investment.

Innovation is the second pillar and highlights the importance of research at the forefront of discovery in generating breakthroughs that lead to the therapies of tomorrow. Over the next year, we plan to unveil a new program area in Advanced Therapeutics & Engineering. Details to come but our hope is that this new program will provide an engine for innovation and discovery within DHLRI and inform our next phase of growth.

Finally, at the DHLRI we firmly believe that we can’t have CITE without Equity, which in this context is shorthand for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). A safe environment for the open and constructive exchange of ideas is the foundation upon which success is built. As addressed in the introduction, our approach in this space will be to first take an inventory of our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for growth. This exercise will inform the definition of an action plan with the emphasis on action and accountability. The inventory phase begins this month with our new monthly DEI workshop series, which will help define the marching orders for the DHLRI DEI Committee. My expectation is that, with guidance from the DEI committee, the DHLRI will lead innovation in this area just as we push the frontiers of biomedical research.

In closing, it’s my distinct pleasure to welcome you to a new year in the DHLRI! We are at a unique juncture in our history with tremendous opportunity to reach our full potential in the pursuit of breakthroughs that we hope will ultimately improve patient care in Ohio and around the world. I invite you to join us on the journey!
We were very excited that the heart failure therapy research of Shyam Bansal, PhD (Physiology and Cell Biology) and team was recently featured in the Time Magazine Future of Medicine Issue. Dr. Bansal and collaborators developed a novel drug that targets a specific population of T cells to modulate immune response and improve cardiac function in heart failure. Critical experiments in support of this innovative project were performed on shared equipment purchased by DHLRI and available for use by any of our investigators. The team has demonstrated efficacy in animal models of disease with the hope that this approach will ultimately prove efficacious in humans.
DHLRI Membership

Anesthesiology
Mark Gerhardt, PhD

Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology
Arthur Burghes, PhD
Nicholas Funderburg, PhD
George Kyriazis, PhD
Kamal Mehta, PhD
Kirk Mykytyn, PhD

Biomedical Engineering
Rizwan Ahmad, PhD
Daniel Gallego-Perez, PhD
Samir Ghadiali, PhD
Keith Gooch, PhD
Natalia Higuina-Castro, PhD
Mark Ruegsegger, PhD
Rengasayee Veeraraghavan, PhD
Seth Weinberg, PhD
Yi Zhao, PhD

Biomedical Sciences | Microbial Infection and Immunity
Amal Amer, MD, PhD

Center for Biostatistics
Stanley Lemeshow, PhD

Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
Jeffrey Chalmers, PhD
Andre Palmer

Chemistry and Biochemistry
Vicki Wysocki, PhD

Dentistry
John Sheridan, PhD

Electrical Engineering
Lee Potter, PhD

Emergency Medicine
Srikanth Garikipati, PhD
Mahmood Khan, MPPharm., Ph

Epidemiology
Amy Ferketich, PhD

Family and Community Medicine
TM Adesanya, MD, PhD
Randell Wexler, MD

Food Science & Technology
Ahmed Yousef, PhD

Health & Rehabilitation Services | Medical Sciences Division
Mireia Guerau, PharmD, PhD

Human Nutrition
Martha Belury, PhD
Ouliana Ziouzenkova, MD

Internal Medicine | Cardiovascular Medicine
William Abraham, MD
Umair Ahmad, MD
Talal Attar, MD
Ralph Augustini, MD
Cindy Baker, MD
Baliga Ragavendra, MD
Michelle Ballinger, MD
Salman Bhatti, MD
Philip Binkley, MD
Indra Bole, MD
Konstantinos Boudoulas
Vincent Brinkman, MD
Pricilla Correa-Jaque, MD
Curt Daniels, MD
Emile Daoud, MD
Steven Dean, MD
Michael Donnelly, MD
Beth Foreman, MD
Veronica Franco, MD
Katarzyna Gil, MD
Arnold Good, MD
Richard Gumina, MD, PhD
Garrie Haas, MD
Yuchi Han, MD
Thura Harfi, MD
Ayesha Hasan, MD
Lauren Hassen, MD
Mahmoud Houmsse, MD

Internal Medicine | Endocrinology, Diabetes, & Metabolism
Andrew Carley, PhD
Joshua Joseph, MD
Willa Hsueh, MD
Doug Lewandowski, PhD

Internal Medicine | Human Genetics
Liz Jordan, MS, LGC
Daniel Kinnamon, PhD
Raymond Hershberger, MD

Internal Medicine | Microbiology
Daniel Wozniak, PhD

William Houser, MD
John Hummel, MD
Thomas Hund, PhD
Rami Kahwash, MD
Steven Kalbfleisch, MD
Arsad Karcic, MD
Tapan Kundu, MD
John Larry, MD
Lauren Lastinger, MD
Scott Lilly, MD
Jim Liu, MD
Doug Magorien, MD
Raymond Magorien, MD
Unni Marar, MD
Ernest Mazzaferrri, MD
Isla McClelland, MD
Laxmi Mehta, MD
Wesley Milks, MD
Toshimasa Okabe, MD
David Orsini, MD
Vaiibhav Patel, MD
Adam Potter, MD
Ben Romer, MD
James Ryan, MD
Salvatore Savona, MD
Orlando Simonetti, PhD
Sakima Smith, MD
Gbemiga Sofowora, MD
Matthew Tong, MD
Ajay Vallakati, MD
Rebecca Vanderpool, MD
Ascott Visovatti, MD
Raul Weiss, MD
Karolina Zareba, MD
Internal Medicine | Nephrology
Daniel Birmingham, PhD
Nicholas Ferrell, PhD
Todd Pesavento, MD
Brad Rovin, MD

Internal Medicine | Pulmonary Critical Care & Sleep Medicine
Emily Amin, MD
Megan Ballinger, PhD
Joseph Bednash, MD
Nitin Bhatt, MD
Lawrence Chan, DO
John Christman, MD
Megan Conroy, MD
Avraham Cooper, MD
Sangwoon Chung, PhD
Elliott Crouser, MD
Phillip Diaz, MD
Ryan Donald, MD
Joshua Englert, MD
Vincent Esguerra, MD
Matthew Exline, MD
Laszlo Farkas, MD
Lynn Fussner, MD
Christian Ghattas, MBCh
Lauren Goodman, MD
Kymberly Gowdy, PhD
Derrick Herman, MD
Kevin Ho, MD
Steven Hoffinger, MD
Jeffrey Horowitz, MD
Jennica Johns, MD
Manjula Karpurapu, PhD
Meena Khan, MD
James Londino, PhD
Matthew Long, PhD
Ulysses Magalang, MD
Rama Mallampalli, MD
Yohannes Mebratu, PhD
Ana Mora, MD
Sindhu Mukku, MD
Ali Naeem, MD
Richard Nho, PhD
David Nunley, MD
Stella Ogake, MBCh
Jasleen Pannu, MBBS
Sonal Pannu, MD

Internal Medicine | Rheumatology and Immunology
Latha Ganesan, PhD

Microbial Infection and Immunity
Adriana Forero, PhD
Emily Hemann, PhD

Neurological Surgery
Paco Herson, PhD
Kristy Townsend, PhD

Neuroscience
Phillip Popovich, PhD

Nursing
Matthew Gorr, PhD
Loren Wold, PhD

Pediatrics | Nationwide Children's Hospital
Vidu Garg, MD
John Gunn, PhD
Mark Hall, MD
Brenda Lilly, PhD
Leif Nelin, MD
Mingtao Zhao, DVM, PhD

Pharmacy
Cynthia Carnes, PharmD, PhD
Prezemyslaw Radwanski, PharmD, PhD

Physiology & Cell Biology
Federica Accornero, PhD
Xun Ai, MD
Shyam Bansal, PhD
Kedryn Baskin, PhD
Brandon Biesiadecki, PhD
Krishna Chinthalapudi, PhD
Jonathan Davis, PhD
Isabelle Deschenes, PhD
Vadim Fedorov, PhD
Jidong Fu, MD, PhD
Sandro Gyorke, PhD
Sarah Heissler, PhD
Paul Janssen, PhD
Sara Koenig, PhD
Beth Lee, PhD
Christoph Lepper, PhD
Peter Mohler, PhD
Jill Rafael-Fortney, PhD
Harpreet Singh, PhD
Kristin Stanford, PhD
Matthew Stratton, PhD
Nuo Sun, PhD
Dmitry Terentyev, PhD
Noah Weisleder, PhD
Jing Zhao, MD, PhD
Yutong Zhao, MD, PhD
Mark Ziolo, PhD

Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
Tamar Gur, MD, PhD

Radiology
Arunark Kolipaka, PhD
Michael Knopp, MD, PhD

Cardiac Surgery
Mona El Refaey, PhD
Pei-Hui Lin, PhD
Prabhakara Nagareddy, PhD
Bryan Whitson, MD, PhD
Lufang Zhou, PhD
Hua Zhu, PhD

Transplant Surgery
Ginny Bumgardner, MD, PhD

Vascular Diseases and Surgery
Bryan Tillman, MD, PhD

Veterinary Biosciences
Estelle Cormet-Boyaka, PhD
Celebrating Over 20 Years of Research at the DHLRI

2022
- Thomas J. Hund, PhD is named Director of DHLRI
- DHLRI received a $5.5 million gift from the Dorothy M. Davis Foundation to support to create a new research chair and sponsor a floor in the new Interdisciplinary Research Facility

2021
- At the forefront of the global COVID-19 response, DHLRI continued to play an active role in fighting COVID-19. Repurposing lab space for COVID testing, countless numbers of samples from around the State were processed.
- Personnel volunteered to create almost 400,000 virus transport media (VTM) tubes which were used throughout Ohio and nationwide.
- DHLRI administration assists in the herculean effort to help process public vaccinations for those 80 and older.

2020
- DHLRI celebrates their 20th Anniversary, virtually. With the increase in COVID positivity, the event was held through Zoom.

2019
- Joe and Linda Chlapaty make a $15 million commitment to further A Fib research.

2018
- The 35,000 sf Bob and Corrine Frick Center for Heart Failure and Arrhythmia is opened; the first-of-its kind center in the nation.

2017
- The DHLRI expands adding 6 additional sites with a total space footprint of >200,000 square feet.
- Philanthropic support grows 90% since 2013.
- Thomas J. Hund, PhD named Associate Director of DHLRI.

2016
- DHLRI encompasses over 700 faculty, staff and trainees from nine different colleges and 26 departments/division. Over 680 grants are submitted – an increase of over 430% from 2010.
- 500 articles on basic and translational research appear in top-tier journals, spanning subjects from molecules to humans resulting in more than 200 clinical research trials in cardiovascular and pulmonary medicine.

2013
- TriFit challenge begins with event proceeds going directly to DHLRI for research into early detection of heart disease.

2012
- DHLRI expands to over 600 faculty, staff and trainees.
- Connor Senn Memorial Soccer Match and Symposium on Sudden Cardiac Death; proceeds benefitting DHLRI. (raised over quarter million dollars over past 2 decades)
2011
- Peter J. Mohler, PhD is hired as Director.

2010
- The Ohio State cardiac research tissue program is started, providing diseased and healthy human heart tissue for researchers, with over 200 human hearts procured to date.

2007
- Dr. Thomas Ryan joined the Ohio State University Heart Center on July 1, 2007 as director. He is also the John G. and Jeanne Bonnet McCoy Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and holds appointments as professor of internal medicine and physician-scientist leader for the Medical Center’s heart signature program – which unites the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute and the Ross Heart Hospital under one leader.

2005
- For first time, OSU heart and lung programs are ranked among “America’s Best by U.S. News and World Report’s Hospitals list.

2003
- A DHLRI OSURF satellite office is established in the DHLRI.

2002
- The OSU Department of Surgery and the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute host the first conference in the United States to address the potential role of oxygen in wound care. This international conference focuses on oxygen sensing, oxidant signaling, oxygen therapeutics, gene therapy, angiogenesis, inflammation and clinical care.
- Jay Zweier, MD, PhD is hired as Director.
- Broke ground on the Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital, clinical arm of the HVC and direct partner in DHLRI research and translational care

2001
- The OSU Heart & Lung Research Institute is renamed Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute, as approved by the Board of Trustees upon receiving a $1,000,000 endowment and $10 million gift!

2000
- The OSU Heart & Lung Research Institute opens its doors to a 96,000 square foot free-standing building,... one of the largest and most comprehensive Institutes/centers at The Ohio State University and dedicated Institutes in the country devoted to cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal and metabolic disease.