

Autumn 2022

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute

Welcome -

I'd like to start this Quarter's update with a note of sincere thanks. It was an honor to be named director of the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute effective July 1 after serving as interim director for the previous year. I am very grateful for the opportunity to lead such a distinguished group of investigators, trainees and staff. I thank each and every one of you for your dedication, creativity and collegial spirit. I especially want to acknowledge the hardworking **DHLRI Administrative Staff** led by **Penny Jones**, whose tireless efforts are essential to the success of our mission. I'm excited about working with all of you to expand the impact of our collective research, education and service activities. Of course, this work couldn't be done without support from the College of Medicine, the Ross Heart Hospital, and our generous friends in the community, including the **William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis, and William C. Davis Foundation** whose recent transformational \$5.5M gift will create an endowed research chair, and support a research neighborhood in the new Interdisciplinary Research Facility.

CITE

We've introduced a new acronym among the Administrative team to keep us focused on how we will advance our goal of expanding research impact - **CITE** - Collaboration, Innovation, Translation and Equity. You will hear us talk often about the principles of CITE going forward, but for this newsletter I wanted to take a moment to elaborate on why Equity is so important for our mission and the meaningful action we plan to take within DHLRI. First, let me clarify that Equity here is shorthand for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, (DEI) which are essential ingredients to creating a safe environment for the open and constructive exchange of ideas. Support for DEI is not only the right thing to do, but I would argue is inextricably linked to science, a discipline that operates on the open and rigorous vetting of ideas with no individual endowed with privileged access to the truth. In this spirit, within DHLRI we believe that the most innovative and impactful ideas are those drawn from a deep pool of shared experience and perspectives. Put another way, it's difficult to have confidence that proper vetting of the entire "idea state space" has been conducted if everyone around the table looks the same, thinks the same, or draws from the same life experiences. At the same time, if we have a diverse representation in our organization, but individuals don't feel included or safe to express their ideas, we are more likely to arrive at a pedestrian (or even damaging) result.



Wells Foundation visit to DHLRI, August 2022

So, what can DHLRI do to bolster DEI and strengthen the organization in a meaningful way? Undoubtedly, the path forward will take unexpected turns but we will begin by taking inventory of the current state of affairs with an honest assessment of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for growth. Next, we will define a strategy for improvement with concrete, measurable goals. Finally, and most importantly, we will execute the plan with regular assessment to hold ourselves accountable. As we begin our work, we are excited to announce a **new monthly DEI workshop series** in partnership with the College of Medicine and the University Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The morning series of five (in-person) 2-hour workshops will begin in January 2023 to which each lab should anticipate selecting at least one representative to attend. The series will culminate in the launch of a **new DEI Committee** within DHLRI with the charge of working with leadership to define a strategic plan for the organization with measurable goals. Although we will take time at the beginning of our initiative for thoughtful discussion and reflection, it will be critical for the effort to rapidly go beyond words so we can take concrete steps to bolster DEI at DHLRI and OSU. Thank you in advance for your participation in this critical endeavor - we will only be successful together! With that, it's time to celebrate some of your many accomplishments over the past Quarter!

-Thomas Hund, PhD
Director, Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute



Kudos-

Vadim Fedorov, PhD, Sakima Smith, MD, MPH, and John Hummel, MD

Congratulations to **Vadim Fedorov, PhD** [Physiology & Cell Biology (PCB)], **John Hummel, MD** [Cardiovascular Medicine (CV Med)] and **Sakima Smith, MD, MPH** (CV Med) who were honored with endowed Chairs in July thanks to the generosity of the Frick Family. Double kudos to **Dr. Smith** who was also recently awarded a new NIH NHLBI R01 to pursue his exciting research in cardio-oncology!

Anasuya Sarkar, PhD [Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine (PCCS)] was also awarded a new NIH NHLBI R01. **Orlando Simonetti, PhD** (CV Med), **Yuchi Han, MD** (CV Med) and collaborators received 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.

Daniel Gallego-Perez, PhD (Biomedical Engineering/Cardiac Surgery) and collaborators were awarded a 4-year \$3.1 million grant from the US Department of Defense. **Shyam Bansal, PhD** (PCB) was awarded an 'Accelerator Award' from the Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship to continue development of a new drug to slow progression of heart failure.

Prabhakara Nagareddy, PhD (Cardiac Surgery) won the "Oral Communication Award" for best oral presentation at the 15th annual World Congress on Inflammation 2022 in Rome, Italy.

Laxmi Mehta, MD (CV Med) and **Philip Diaz, MD** (PCCS) were inducted into the Mazzaferri-Ellison Society of Master Clinicians. **Dr. Mehta** also was named the inaugural faculty director of the Gabbe Health and Well-Being Program.



Anasuya Sarkar, PhD

Trainee Kudos -

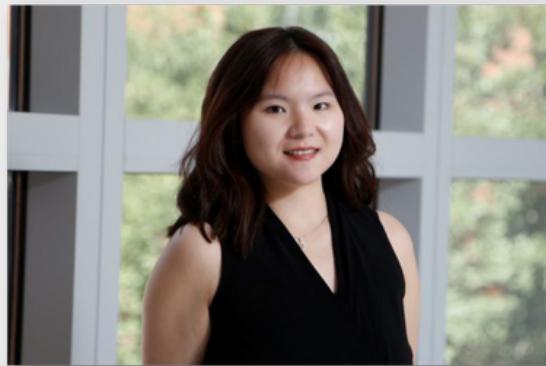


DHLRI group photo at the 2022 TriFit Challenge

Kudos to everyone who participated in the TriFit event in July, which concluded with donations to the DHLRI totaling \$17,500. Proceeds benefited two pre-doctoral fellowships to **Yue Pan** (Simonetti lab) for her project titled, "Prospective Respiration Tracking for Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging using Pilot Tone and Machine Learning" and **Michael Yaeger** (Gowdy lab) for his project titled, "Docosahexaenoic Acid Activates PPAR γ in Alveolar Macrophages to Protect the Lungs from Ozone-Induced Injury and Increase Resolution from Injury."



We are especially happy for all our trainees who received pre- or post-doctoral fellowship awards, including: **Elisa Felix-Soriano, PhD** (Kristin Stanford lab), **Louisa Mezache** (Veeraraghavan lab), **Miguel Lopez Perez** (Weisleder lab).



Yue Pan - Simonetti Lab



Michael Yaeger - Gowdy Lab

Transitions -

DHLRI is pleased to welcome new investigator **Yohannes Mebratu, PhD** (PCCS), who joined us in August from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. His lab is located on DHLRI 3 and studies the molecular and cell biology of lung disease. We also welcome new members **Salvatore Savona, MD** (CV Med), **Lauren Hassen, MD, MPH** (CV Med) and **Katarzyna Gil, MD** (CV Med).

Happenings -

We can't wait for DHLRI Research Day on Wednesday, October 19 from 9am - 3pm! The day's activities will be in person beginning on the 1st floor of the Biomedical Research Tower with poster presentations, short talks, and lunch followed by the keynote and local talks being in DHLRI 170. Encourage your lab members to submit abstracts by Friday, September 23, 2022 at 5pm. The 2022 DHLRI Research Day Keynote Speaker will be Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD. Dr. Wu is the president of the American Heart Association and Director of the Cardiovascular Institute and Simon H. Stertzer, MD, Professor and Professor of Radiology at Stanford University. His research focuses on the biological mechanisms of patient-specific and disease-specific induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to understand mechanisms of cardiovascular disease, accelerate drug discovery, develop "clinical trials in a dish" technology, and implement precision medicine for cardiovascular patients. A full day itinerary and additional details regarding poster printing to come. Please contact Jenifer Bennett at Jenifer.Bennett@osumc.edu with any questions.

Research in Progress meetings resumed in August, and will take place every Friday in DHLRI 170 from 12-1pm. Please join us for great science and light refreshments!

October is Lung Month! Stay tuned for more details regarding celebratory activites.

DHLRI will be co-hosting the 35th annual meeting of the Ohio Physiological Society on October 8, 2022. The keynote speaker will be Aruni Bhatnagar, PhD, FAHA, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Environmental Medicine at the University of Louisville. Abstracts are currently being accepted on the Ohio Physiological Society website. The deadline for submission is September 12, 2022 at 5PM.

Dorothy M. Davis Heart & Lung Research Institute RESEARCH DAY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD



October 19, 2022

1:00pm – 2:00pm

**Davis Heart and Lung
Research Institute
Room 170**

Poster Session Begins at 9:00am

"Stem Cells & Genomics for Precision Medicine"

Director, Stanford Cardiovascular Institute
Simon H. Stertzer, MD, Professor of Medicine and Radiology
Stanford University School of Medicine
President, American Heart Association



**Webb Family
Cardiovascular Research Symposium**

Finally, DHLRI membership had over 25 participants at the American Heart Association Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Scientific Sessions 2022 held in Chicago in July! Lorien Salyer (Biesiadecki Lab) scored in the top 10% of abstracts and was invited by the AHA to present in the Best of AHA Specialty Conferences at the AHA Scientific Sessions.



DHLRI members at AHA BCVS 2022

Contact Us

DHLRI Quarterly Newsletters are edited by Izabelle Colvin. Please reach out to Izabelle.Colvin@osumc.edu if there is something you would like added to the next newsletter (photos are appreciated).

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