To develop and enhance the academic environment for women faculty and trainees through networking, mentorship, professional development, and advocacy.

Meet Dr. Halina Brukner

Dean for Medical Education of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Halina Brukner, MD, has been named Dean for Medical Education of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. She has been serving as interim dean since July 1, 2018. Dr. Brukner is an experienced and accomplished member of the faculty, and has held a host of leadership positions both within the medical school as well as the Department of Medicine (DOM) since joining the institution in 1985. She completed her medical school education at New York University School of Medicine and her residency in internal medicine at the University of Chicago. In 1986, she was appointed as the medicine clerkship director, a position she held for 13 years.

In 2004, she took on the role of the Associate Dean for Medical School Education where she guided the implementation of a new curriculum — The Pritzker Initiative: A Curriculum for the 21st Century. As Associate Dean, Dr. Brukner oversaw all aspects of curricular and academic issues in the medical school. She also served as the founding Director of the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators, implemented in 2005, to support and promote research, innovation, and scholarship in medical education at the University of Chicago. Dr. Brukner has not only contributed to the University of Chicago through her educational leadership, but through her role as Director of the University of Chicago Primary Care Group (1995-1999), Vice Chair of the DOM (1999-2004), and more recently as Co-Chair of the Committee on Appointments and Promotions (2014-2018).

As Dean for Medical Education, Dr. Brukner will continue to oversee the continuum of medical education, including the Pritzker School of Medicine, graduate medical education, continuing medical education and medical simulation, and will oversee the process of reaccreditation of the medical school by the LCME coming up in the fall of 2020. The editors of Women at the Forefront spoke with Dr. Brukner about her academic path.
HALINA BRUKNER, CONTINUED

WF: What helped you develop leadership skills and be named to leadership positions throughout your career?

HB: I feel lucky to be at an institution that has supported my career and given me opportunities for growth in leadership at the same institution, which was great for both my personal and professional life. I have had both male and female mentors and colleagues who played a significant role in my career development. Dr. Arthur Rubenstein started me down a path to a career in medical education by seeing my potential to help lead the medicine clerkship, which I did for 13 years. He also gave me the opportunity to learn about clinical practice management as Director of what became the Primary Care Group. Dr. Harvey Golomb introduced me to the intricacies of running a large department and interacting with multiple constituencies when he appointed me as Vice Chair of the DOM. I was also responsible for faculty affairs and the appointment and promotion process in the department. Dr. Holly Humphrey, whom I had known since our residency training recruited me to become Associate Dean for Medical School Education, which I have enjoyed for 14 years. All of these opportunities built skills and experiences that were useful in subsequent positions.

WF: What advice do you have for women faculty in the Department of Medicine?

The phrase that is often used when coaching women in academic medicine is "When to say No," I would flip that to say "When to say Yes": a more positive approach toward potential opportunities that may be available. The thought process here would be "How can I do it" as opposed to "Why should I do it." Frequently it is difficult to fully appreciate the opportunity until and unless you try to open it up. Another important piece of advice would be to have multiple mentors who can provide guidance in various aspects of developing a career. One mentor might be a resource making career choices, and a different mentor can help navigate work-life balance, and a final mentor might foster administrative opportunities and skills. Formal programs in leadership can be very useful in developing a career in academia. For instance, the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) early or mid-career development conferences are excellent. ELAM (Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine) is a program I participated in in 1999-2000. Although some of the material did not seem relevant at the time, the general and specific skills that are taught (e.g., learned how to read budgets) turned out to be a very valuable, and the opportunity to interact with women facing similar challenges was wonderful.

WF: What is your vision for Pritzker School of Medicine over the next few years?

The Pritzker School of Medicine was in a great shape when I took over its leadership. Our students are an amazingly diverse group of individuals whose academic excellence and commitment to patients and communities is so impressive. My goal is to maintain and grow this school in the increasingly more competitive environment for the top applicants, while fostering innovation and excellence in all aspects of the educational learning environment. We also have an accreditation visit by the LCME coming up in October 2020, which our team has already been working toward for over a year, and will be an institution-wide effort in the coming year or two.

THE EDITORS

WOMEN IN THE NEWS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

BHAKTI K. PATEL, MD
Assistant Professor, Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care

Bhakti K. Patel, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care in the Department of Medicine. She is a proud product of Chicago Public Schools and attended medical school at the University of Michigan. She returned to Chicago for her internal medicine residency, chief residency, and pulmonary/critical care fellowship training at the University of Chicago. Dr. Patel attends in the Medical Intensive Care Unit and Procedure Service and also serves as an associate program director of the Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship Program. She has distinguished herself as a clinical trialist focused on mitigating the complications of invasive mechanical ventilation. Her overall hypothesis is that many ICU complications are perpetuated by current standard care practices and that choosing mobility over immobility, mental animation over sedation, and spontaneous versus controlled respiration will improve outcomes. Her research career is built on this "less is more" approach to inform investigational trials and in parallel apply translational science to understand the biological mechanisms behind these interventions to broaden their applications to all patients. This approach has inspired her investigations of helmet ventilation in acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and early mobilization in mechanically ventilated patients. Her clinical trial of helmet noninvasive ventilation was recognized as among the top three clinical research achievements of 2016 and was awarded the Distinguished Clinical Research Achievement Award by the Clinical Research Forum. Dr. Patel is also the recipient of a Parker B. Fellowship Career Development Award and under the mentorship of Drs. Gokhan Mutlu and John P. Kress, she is investigating the mechanisms which underlie the development of ICU-acquired neuromuscular weakness.

On a national and international level, she has been an invited speaker at the American Thoracic Society meetings and the Lung and Diaphragm-Protective Ventilation Consensus Group. She is also active in medical education as an invited lecturer for the CHEST critical care board review and Pritzker School of Medicine’s Clinical Pathophysiology & Therapeutics course. She spends her free time learning new recipes, feeding her friends/family, and practicing yoga.
**Trainee Spotlight**

**DR. SWATI RAO**

**SWATI RAO, MD**<br>**Fellow, Section of Cardiology**

Dr. Rao attended the University of Utah where she received her bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. After graduation, she spent time studying the plays Shakespeare at the University of Cambridge and then accepted an internship as a research engineer for Siemens Corporation. After travel and dabbling in the corporate sector, she returned to Salt Lake City where she completed medical school at the University of Utah, and completed her internal medicine residency at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. She is currently a first year cardiology fellow interested in the intersection of imaging in cardiac electrophysiology to improve procedural planning and clinical outcomes.

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**Gastroenterology Women Faculty Host Inaugural “Women in Digestive Diseases Symposium”**

The women faculty of the Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition hosted an inaugural symposium, “Women in Digestive Diseases: At the Forefront” on March 9, 2019. This conference was focused on the diagnosis and management of specific gastrointestinal and liver diseases that afflict women differently than men and discussed challenges and strategies to overcome the barriers that women physicians, advanced practice practitioners and trainees face as they navigate their career paths. The conference provided free child care and was a resounding success, with oversold seats and standing room only. Next year’s conference is slated to be on March 14, 2020.

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**New Faculty**

**MICHELLE LEMELMAN, MD**

**Assistant Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism)**

Dr. Lemelman received her MD at the University of Miami School of Medicine followed by her residency in pediatrics and fellowship training pediatric endocrinology at the University of Chicago. She has a particular interest in pediatric thyroid disease and thyroid cancers as well as pediatric diabetes, including monogenic and neonatal diabetes. Dr. Lemelman’s research during fellowship training focused on the neurocognitive outcomes in K-ATP channel-related monogenic diabetes in children.

**XUANYAO LIU, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Medicine (Genetic Medicine)**

Dr. Liu received her PhD in population genetics at the National University of Singapore and completed her postdoctoral fellowship training at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. Prior to joining the Department of Medicine she served as a research assistant professor in the Department of Human Genetics. Her main research interest is to develop statistical methods for understanding the genetics and evolution of complex traits.
AMITA SINGH, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology/Oncology)  

Dr. Singh received her MD at Northwestern University followed by internal residency, chief residency and preventive cardiology fellowship training at New York University Langone Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital Center. In 2013 she arrived at the University of Chicago for additional cardiovascular disease and advanced cardiac imaging fellowship training. Dr. Singh is a non-invasive cardiologist with experience in diagnostic and structural echocardiography, as well as with advanced imaging modalities of cardiac CT and cardiac MRI in diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Her research interests focus on the study of novel imaging techniques within cardiac imaging to improve the accuracy and diagnosis of common cardiac conditions. More specifically, she has focused on newer methods for analysis of diastolic function with echocardiography, and cardiac MRI imaging in patients with cardiac devices.

RECENT PROMOTIONS

Promoted to the rank of Professor

Jeanne Farnan, MD (Hospital Medicine)

Promoted to the rank of Associate Professor

Emily Landon, MD (Infectious Diseases & Global Health)  
Neda Laiteerapong, MD (General Internal Medicine)  
Tamar Polonsky, MD (Cardiology)  
Shannon Martin, MD (Hospital Medicine)  
Arshiya Baig, MD (General Internal Medicine)

NEW APPOINTMENTS: DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Halina Brukner, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Dean for Medical Education  
Sonali Smith, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - Interim Chief, Section of Hematology/Oncology  
Hedy Kindler, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - Associate Vice Chair for Clinical Research  
Sonia Kupfer, MD (Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) - Associate Director, Physician Scientist Development Program (PSDP)

HONORS AND AWARDS

National/Regional Appointments/Elections, Honors, and Awards

Marisa Alegre (Rheumatology) - 2019 Basic Science Established Investigator Award from the American Association of Transplantation  
Michelle Josephson (Nephrology) - 2019 Mentoring Award from the American Association of Transplantation  
Mengie Chen, PhD (Genetic Medicine) - 2019 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship  
Sonia Kupfer, MD (Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) - Young Investigator Award in Clinical Science from the American Gastroenterological Society  
Michelle Josephson, MD (Nephrology) - 2019 American Society of Transplantation Mentoring Award  
Michelle Le Beau, PhD (Hematology/Oncology) - Elected to the American Cancer Society’s Board of Directors  
Elizabeth Murphy, MD (Hospital Medicine) - Elected fellow, Society of Hospital Medicine  
Funmi Olopade, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - 2019 Winner of the Ron Ross Award for the 7th International PacRim Breast and Prostate Cancer meeting (South Australia)  
Amber Pincavage, MD (General Internal Medicine) - 2019 CDIM Educational Research Award  
Valerie Press, MD (General Internal Medicine) - 2019 ATS Assembly on BSHSR Early Career Achievement Award  
Sonali Smith, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - Elected as Fellow, American Society of Clinical Oncology; Chair-Elect of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Lymphoma Research Foundation
Monica Vela, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Recipient of the 2019 Latino Medical Students Association Phil DeChavez Mentor of the Year Award.

Tamara Vokes, MD (Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism) - Selected by the Endocrine Society for the Women in Endocrinology 2019 collection in celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2019 for her paper entitled “Recombinant Human Parathyroid Hormone Effect on Health-Related Quality of Life in Adults With Chronic Hypoparathyroidism”, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, Vol. 103, Issue 2, February, 2018

2019 Chicago Top Doctors:
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition: Carol Semrad, MD; Helen Te, MD
Geriatric Medicine: Stacie Levine, MD
Hematology/Oncology: Wendy Stock, MD; Suzanne Conzen, MD; Gini Fleming, MD; Hedy Kindler, MD; Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD; Jyoti Patel, MD; Sonali Smith, MD

INSTITUTIONAL/DEPARTMENTAL HONORS/AWARDS

2019 Janet D. Rowley Research Day Abstract Winners

Lucy Godley, MD, PhD (Hematology/Oncology) - Elected to the Council of the University Senate
Yu Ying He, PhD (Dermatology) - Elected to the 2019 Faculty Advisory Committee: Slate B Basic Biological Research (Alternate)
Valerie Press, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Fellow of the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators
Monica Vela, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Recipient of the 2019 University of Chicago Diversity Leadership Award; Elected to the 2019 Faculty Advisory Committee: Slate A Patient Care; 2019 PSOM Favorite Faculty

Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence

Rita Rossi Foulkes, MD (General Internal Medicine) Named as a Senior Faculty Scholar
Mim Ari, MD (General Internal Medicine) – Named as Junior Associate Scholar

2019 Janet D. Rowley Research Day Abstract Winners

Lauren Gleason, MD (Geriatrics/Palliative Medicine) - Best Abstract (Clinical Research) -- “Timed Up and Go Screening in the Emergency Department”
Adriana Olson, MD (Emergency Medicine) - Best Abstract (Health Services Research) - The Correlation of Emergency Medicine Residents’ Grit and Achievement”
Susan Sam, MD (Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism) - Best Abstract (Translational Research) - “Impact of Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Sleep Duration on Glucose Tolerance and Beta-Cell Function in Adults with Prediabetes or Untreated Type 2 Diabetes”

Department of Medicine Awards

Mary Hammes, DO (Nephrology) - Productivity Award (Procedures)
Nicole Stankus, MD (Nephrology) - Overall Clinical Activity (Productivity) Award

2019 Chicago Top Doctors:
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition: Carol Semrad, MD; Helen Te, MD
Geriatric Medicine: Stacie Levine, MD
Hematology/Oncology: Wendy Stock, MD; Suzanne Conzen, MD; Gini Fleming, MD; Hedy Kindler, MD; Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD; Jyoti Patel, MD; Sonali Smith, MD

2019 Chicago Top Doctors: Helen Te, MD (Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) - Faculty Clinician Peer Role Model Award

Tamar Polonsky, MD (Cardiology) - Clinical Service Award
Keme Carter, MD (Emergency Medicine) - Clinical Teacher of the Year Award
Sonali Smith, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - Patient Satisfaction Award
Kamala Cotts, MD (GIM) - Medical Resident Teaching Award
Wendy Stock, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - Medical Resident Teaching Award
Megan Huisingsh Scheetz, MD (Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine) - Leif B. Sorensen Faculty Research Award
Neda Laiteerapong, MD (GIM) - Leif B. Sorensen Faculty Research Award
Kamala Cotts, MD (GIM) - Diversity Award

Biological Sciences Division Awards

Vineet Arora, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Francis Straus Mentorship Award
Anne Hong, MD (Retired) - Gold Key Award
Shannon Martin, MD (Hospital Medicine) - Distinguished Educator/Mentor Clinical Sciences Award
Kathleen Mullane, DO (Infectious Diseases & Global Health) - Distinguished Clinician (Senior Award)
Mai Pho, MD (Infectious Diseases & Global Health) - Distinguished Leader in Community Service & Advocacy (Junior Award)
Rita Rossi Foulkes, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Distinguished Leader in Community Service & Advocacy (Senior Award)
Valerie Press, MD (General Internal Medicine) - Distinguished Leader in Program Innovation (Junior Award)
Helen Te, MD (Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) - Faculty Clinician Peer Role Model Award
NEW GRANTS

Pritzker School of Medicine Awards

Keme Carter, MD (Emergency Medicine); Jeanne Farnan, MD (Hospital Medicine); Wei Wei Lee, MD (General Internal Medicine) and Monica Vela, MD (General Internal Medicine) - 2019 Favorite Faculty Awardees

Valerie Press, MD (General Internal Medicine) - John D. Arnold Mentorship Award

Anindita Basu, PhD (Genetic Medicine) - New NIH R21 entitled “Novel Microfluidic Platform to Profile Host-Pathogen Interaction under Controlled Infection and Single Cell Resolution

Mengjie Chen, PhD (Genetic Medicine) - New NIH R01 entitled “Collaborative Research: Advanced statistical Methods for Single Cell RNA Sequencing Studies”

Manami Hara, PhD (Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism) - New NIH R01 entitled “Heterogeneity of the Human Pancreas”

Yu Ying He, PhD (Dermatology) - New NIH R01 entitled “The Mechanistic Role of METTL14 in UVB-Induced Skin Tumorigenesis”

Hedy Kindler, MD (Hematology/Oncology) - New NIH UG1 entitled “National Clinical Trials Network Lead”

Sonia Kupfer, MD (Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) - New NIH R21 entitled “Host Environment Interactions in Colorectal Cancer Disparities”

Moira McNulty, MD (Infectious Diseases & Global Health) – New NIH K23 entitled “Implementation Science to Strengthen the Integrated Care Continuum in Getting to Zero Contexts

Mai Pho, MD (Infectious Diseases & Global Health) - New NIH UG3 entitled “Ending Transmission of HIV, HCV, and STDs and Overdose in Rural Communities of People who Inject Drugs (ETHIC)”

Anne Sperling, PhD (Pulmonary/Critical Care) - New NIH R21 entitled “Microbial Effects on Acute Lung Injury”

Kate Thompson, MD (Geriatrics) - Renewal of a HRSA grant entitled “Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program”

Rosie Wu, PhD (Cardiology) - New NIH R01 entitled “A Novel Regulator of Cardiac Vascular Endothelial Barrier Function in Heart Failure”

GENDER MATTERS…STILL

Analysis of Gender Equity in Leadership of Physician-Focused Medical Specialty Societies, 2008-2017

Julie K. Silver, MD Reem Ghalib, MD Julie A. Poorman, PhD Dana Al-Assi, BS Sareh Parangi, MD Hansa Bhargava, MD Sasha K. Shillcutt, MD


The underrepresentation of women in leadership roles in academic medicine is well documented, but little is known about women in leadership roles of professional medical societies. This study aimed to examine the demographics of individuals in leadership roles in medical societies.

The authors conducted a cross-sectional study of data from selected major medical societies. They identified the largest and/or most influential society in 43 specialty groupings, and excluded four combined pediatric specialty groupings as physicians in these groups generally belonged to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Thus, a total of 39 specialty societies were examined. The primary outcome measures were years of presidential leadership attributed to men and women. They collected data for a 10-year period, and verified gender via publicly available online profiles. The authors then compared the percentage of women among society presidents to the percentage of women in active practice, to try to determine underrepresentation or overrepresentation of women in society presidential leadership roles.

During the time period of the study (2008-2017), the percentage of women serving as society presidents for all of the 39 societies examined was 17.4% of years (68 of 390 years) compared to men serving 82.6% of years (322 of 390 years). There was variability between societies. 10 of the 39 societies examined had 0 of 10 years with women presidential leaders. The data on women presidents from each society was compared to the number of women among active physicians in each specialty group in 2015 (the only year for which workforce data was available). 10 societies had equitable or better representation of women in presidential leadership roles compared to women among active physicians in the specialty, while 29 societies had gaps or negative differences between the percentage of society presidents who were women and percentage of women among active physicians in the specialty.

The authors concluded that they found underrepresentation of women in presidential leadership roles of medical societies. They write that this study illustrates a challenge to the achievement of gender equity in medicine, and suspect that barriers to equitable representation in societies may have affected this gap. They also note the importance of the role of society leadership in academic advancement, and that society leaders may exert a considerable amount of influence over organizations and specialties. This study is limited as it only covers selected societies and does not include data on internal selection processes for leaders. However, with this study the authors encourage societies to examine and mitigate disparities in the inclusion and support of members and to share challenges and successful strategies for doing so.
The Balancing Act: How Do Women Balance Academic Success With Home and Personal Life? What Advice Would Women Give Other Women?

Mary Hammes, DO (Nephrology)
The Balancing Act: Clinician, Educator, Wife and Mother

Professional Accomplishments
Mary Hammes is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Medical Director of Woodlawn DaVita Dialysis. She has been on faculty since 1995 with a unique long term experience with ESRD hemodialysis patients, following a cohort of in-center hemodialysis patients longitudinally for over 25 years. These patients are the base for numerous studies which have helped improve various aspects of their care. She has been a PI from 2011-2018 on an NIH funded project that has enabled an understanding of the research process and the commitment it entails.

Work-Life Balance
My work life balance comes to me through exercise, mainly through long distance running. I have been an avid runner since my college years. I have come to know myself very well, what works and what doesn’t, for example I clearly know I excel at slow long distance. Exercise provides solitude in the often hectic urban environment we face at University of Chicago. I start my day with a run, finding peace in the early morning hours as the sun comes up, I sort and prioritize all that I need to do. I have had struggles, injuries and endure pain, but these are times when I slow down and redirect my goals. Vacations with my family, including my husband and two young adults, are active adventures such as: biking, backpacking, hiking, and fishing.

Advice to Women Faculty and Trainees
Take advantage of all the University of Chicago has to offer. We work at a leading research institution with unlimited resources. My advice is: Parallelize your approach. Instead of a step wise approach, I find it best to work on different aspects of a project at one time, they will complement each other when the project comes to completion. Always have a backup plan. Focus and Commit. Research is not easy. It is however, incredibly rewarding especially when you add to a discovery that you know will help patients. Be fearless and accept a challenge. Don’t be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and fail. This only makes you stronger.

Growing the Pipeline: Trainees & Students

Women in the Pipeline: Spring 2019
By: Athalia Pyzer, Maria Maldonado, Rebeca Ortiz-Worthington

While significant progress has been made in realizing sex and gender equity in healthcare in the last several decades, women still remain disadvantaged with respect to their healthcare interactions and their clinical outcomes. We are just starting to break down the entrenched male-centric biopsychosocial constructs that our medical profession has built and perpetuated for centuries, and in doing so we are beginning to recognize the importance of sex specific factors in contributing to our knowledge and our care of our patients and of ourselves.
During our “Women in Medicine” Morning Report given on February 12, 2019 in the Internal Medicine Residency Program, we gave a brief overview of the historical context and sources of sex-related bias and inequity in prescribing for women. We discussed some of the implications of these biases on adverse events and treatment efficacy. We introduced our proposed cycle of sex-related bias (See Figure) which may be used as a framework to recognize the sources of bias and inequity in prescribing for women, to understand the implications of these biases on adverse events and efficacy, and as a tool to devise the practical steps we can take to mitigate bias and improve outcomes for women. We highlighted the following points: the process of submitting adverse events to the FDA; the utilization of the FDA clinical trials toolkit, which supports the recruitment of diverse clinical trial participants; sex-related differences in presentation and pathophysiology of diseases when teaching medical students, residents and fellows; and lastly, a reminder to ask about the financial toxicity of medicines when prescribing to women. This Morning Report prompted much discussion, led by our visiting discussant Dr. Eileen Reynolds, Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

UPCOMING DOM WOMEN’S COMMITTEE EVENTS

2. Professional Development Event, October 25, 2019, from noon – 1pm, Emma Levine, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago, Booth School of Business
3. Women’s Committee Grand Rounds, February 4, 2020, Dr. Reshma Jagsi, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine at the University of Michigan.