**Upcoming New Faculty Appointments**

**Fabien Maldonado, MD** will be joining the division as assistant professor, and join the interventional pulmonary team with Dr. Rickman in July. Dr. Maldonado is a graduate of the Universite de Bourgogne Medical School in Burgundy, France, did his internal medicine residency at Western Reserve Care System-Forum Health, Northeast Ohio University, and completed his PCCM fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN, where he is currently on the faculty.

**Julie Bastarache, MD** is one of five recipients of the NHLBI R01 “Hemoglobin in ARDS: A Novel Mediator Of Aveolar Epithelial Cell Dysfunction.”

**Andrew Nickels, MD** is an allergist that will be joining the division as assistant professor in July. Dr. Nickels is a graduate of the University of TN Memphis HSC. He did his Med/Peds Residency at the University of Chicago, and will be completing his Allergy & Immunology Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in June.

**Shinji Toki, PhD** will be joining the faculty as a Research Instructor of Medicine. Dr. Toki received his PhD from Koichi Medical School in Medical Science and has most recently been a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Stokes Peebles’ lab since 2009. Dr. Toki’s primary research interest is regulation of allergic lung inflammation.

**Jon Kropski, MD** will transition to assistant professor at the completion of his fellowship on July 1st. Jon has called Vanderbilt home throughout medical school, residency and fellowship. Jon was awarded a prestigious Parker B. Francis Fellowship Award, which recognizes promising young investigators in the field of pulmonary disease.

**“Poet MDs” Read at Williamson County Library**

Brenda Butka, MD and Brian Christman, MD are among the Vanderbilt physician poets that will be reading their works at the Williamson County Library on April 13th. The Program, which is free and open to the public, will take place from 6 - 8pm. Other poets reading at the event are Anesthesiologist Doug Hester and Medical Student Irene Mathieu. More information about this can be found [here](#).

**Newly Funded Grants**

**Julie Bastarache, MD**

NHLBI

R01

“Hemoglobin in ARDS: A Novel Mediator Of Aveolar Epithelial Cell Dysfunction”

**Xiangming Ji, PhD**

FAMRI

Young Clinical Scientist Award

“Metabolic reprogramming in patients with COPD”

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**Highlights from April Faculty Meeting**

**Lourdes Estrada, PhD** spoke to the faculty regarding Medical School curriculum changes that have been implemented. The curriculum has completely changed to a new “curriculum 2.0.” In the new curriculum, we are no longer referring to the students’ progress as “year 1,” “year 2” and so on, but as phases. The first phase, which take about 13 months, is the Foundations of Medical Knowledge Phase, and the second phase is the Foundations of Clinical Care phase. The last two years of medical school are the Immersion Phase. Drs. Lourdes Estrada and Bill Cutrer are co-directing the phase. For a copy of the presentation or more information please contact DeAnna Sledge.

The Division will be hosting a reception at this year’s ATS meeting, along with the Pulmonary division at Ohio State University. This will be held on May 17th from 7-10pm at The Clock Tower, located at 1601 Arapahoe St., Denver, CO 80203. Invitations will be sent out soon.

**Dr. Tim Blackwell** was selected as the 2015 Parker B. Francis Lecturer at the ATS meeting this year. The award will be presented at the PBF Reception on Monday, May 18th.

The first Vanderbilt / UAB Pulmonary Research Summit: Focus on Repair Remodeling will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Broadway on June 26th - 27th. Requests for abstracts will be coming soon. Deadline for registration and abstracts will be May 11th. All trainees, laboratory staff, fellows and faculty are encouraged to submit abstracts and attend.

We congratulate **Todd Rice, MD, MsC**, who has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Phase I of the division space renovation has begun in the C corridor.
The genetic basis of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

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Abstract
Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a progressive, systemic lung disease of unknown cause, leading to fibrotic remodeling of the lung interstitium. Several studies have investigated the genetic basis of IPF, but the etiology remains unclear.

Methods
We conducted a meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) for IPF, identifying previously published datasets (n=1,339 cases, n=9,089 controls) and searching for additional studies. We applied a series of genetic association models to explore potential genetic contributors.

Results
We identified 11 SNPs with genome-wide significant association (P<5x10^-8) and a total of 15 SNPs with evidence of association (P<5x10^-6). These SNPs were associated with multiple gene pathways, including lung development, lung fibrosis, and immune response.

Conclusion
Our results suggest that genetic factors play a significant role in the etiology of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Further research is needed to identify specific genetic drivers and their biological mechanisms.

Keywords: idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, genetics, association studies, lung development, lung fibrosis.