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# COLLABORATIONS

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine  
FACULTY *and* STAFF NEWSLETTER • FALL 2017

Inaugural  
Issue

## FACULTY/STAFF TRANSITIONS

**Kara Brien** is serving as academic program manager I in clinical education.

**Mirela Burca** is the career counselor for third- and fourth-year D.O. students.

**Nicola Cooper** is serving as Department of Rural and Underserved Medicine administrative assistant.

**Hilda De Gaetano, D.O.**, was named senior assistant dean.

**Pamela Moran-Walcutt, D.O.**, serves as the new director of the Employee Health and Wellness Center.

**Maritza Portillo** is serving as administrative coordinator III under the director of administrative services.

**Jonatan Salazar** was promoted to the position of administrative coordinator II in the Department of EMS Education and Training.

**Jill Wallace-Ross, D.O.**, was appointed assistant dean of clinical affairs for osteopathic medical education.

### New Hires

**Annisah Ishmael, Ed.D.**, is serving as the director of clinical education/faculty.

## FOND FAREWELL TO ELLIOT SKLAR

On October 3, the college organized a farewell reception for Elliot M. Sklar, Ph.D., M.S., associate professor and assistant director of the college's Public Health Program. Sklar joined the college in May 2011 as project manager for a five-year Health Resources and Services Administration grant called Project HOPE—Homelessness in Osteopathic Predoctoral Education. In July 2014, he assumed the role of assistant director for the Master of Public Health Program. Sklar left the college to accept the role of director of academics for the College of Public Health and Social Work at Florida International University, where he will oversee accreditation and direct new program development.



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## Introducing... **COLLABORATIONS**

**Welcome to the inaugural issue  
of *Collaborations*—the faculty and staff  
newsletter of the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of  
Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM).**

Because the college continues to grow, the Office of Medical Communications and Public Relations recognized the need to share news in a format that extended beyond the content we publish in our flagship magazine *COM Outlook*. Following a meeting with our dean, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., the decision was made to launch a quarterly faculty/staff newsletter.

The result is *Collaborations*, which will serve as the vehicle for publicizing a range of faculty and staff accomplishments and activities, as well as various programmatic happenings. The creation of this newsletter will allow us to share photos from fun events like the KPCOM Staff Council Fall Harvest Party, expand coverage of the faculty's research and scholarly activities, and highlight various faculty and staff endeavors, such as community involvement in health fairs and other civic-minded activities.

Other items of interest that will be featured in *Collaborations* include updates on recent grant funding received by the college, a listing of faculty and staff hires, promotions, and farewells, and the attainment of new academic degrees by KPCOM employees. A future

objective is to publish fun features on those staff members who are willing to be spotlighted.

The overarching goal of *Collaborations* is for it to be an engaging and interactive showcase of our dedicated and diverse faculty and staff family, so please share any ideas regarding additional content you would like to see featured. From a staff perspective, Roberta Duenas, manager of administrative services, will serve as the primary contact when it comes to submitting news for publication in *Collaborations*. She can be reached at extension 21534 or at [Rd700@nova.edu](mailto:Rd700@nova.edu).

From a faculty viewpoint, our medical communications coordinator, Debra Gibbs, will serve as the point of contact for all *Collaborations* submissions. As she has done in the past, Debra will send out several email solicitations during each *COM Outlook* editorial cycle seeking faculty submissions. Those submissions that meet the criteria for *Collaborations* will be saved for publication in future issues of the newsletter.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on this exciting KPCOM venture.

Scott Colton, B.A., APR  
COM/HPD Director  
of Medical Communications  
and Public Relations

## FACULTY DUO NAMED KPCOM PROFESSOR, RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

**Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FACOP, FAAP**, senior assistant dean, and **Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.**, assistant professor of public health, received significant honors in October at separate university events. During the NSU 16th Annual Faculty Reception, De Gaetano was recognized as KPCOM's Professor of the Year, while Cook earned the college's Provost's Research and Scholarship Award at the NSU External Funding Recognition Reception held October 19.

The Professor of the Year honor recognizes significant contributions to research, scholarship, and exceptional instruction. The Provost's Research and Scholarship Award recognizes innovative and sustained activities in scholarly pursuits in support of NSU's mission to foster intellectual inquiry, academic excellence, research, and a dynamic learning environment.



De Gaetano



Cook



# STAFF COUNCIL GATHERS TO HAIL THE FALL AND HAVE FUN

It was a happy Friday on October 27 when the NSU-KPCOM Staff Council celebrated its Fall Harvest Party.

Coworkers—many sporting creative costumes—chatted together at tables decorated with glittery pumpkins, enjoyed tasty food, and shimmied to thumping dance music. Aixa Vargas, dressed as an angel, invited her colleagues to dance with her—and some joined her at the front of the room.

The costumes of the two winners reflected current news. First-place winner Janet Carpenter wore a storm cloud headdress—a fluffy cloud with twinkling raindrops, reflecting our rainy September and October. Debbie Chase took second-place honors as a scary clown, sparking visions of Pennywise, the clown from the movie *It*.

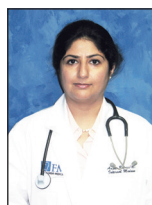
The Harvest Party proved to be a great way to kick off the fall festivities, as KPCOM staff members took a break from their daily hustle and bustle and enjoyed themselves with food, fun, and friendship.



# FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



BESTED



BHASIN



FLORENT-CARRE



HAMES



KLIMAS



MONTOYA



PANDYA



QURESHI



REY



RIVAS

**Alison Bested**, M.D., FRCPC, associate professor and chair of the Department of Integrative Medicine and director of student research development, assumed an additional role as clinical director for the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine (INIM). She is developing new strategic plans for the INIM clinics and is implementing and overseeing quality assurance measures related to clinical operations. Additionally, Bested successfully completed the requirements to earn integrative medicine certification through the American Board of Integrative Medicine. She and **Maria Vera-Nunez**, M.D., are the first NSU-KPCOM faculty members to obtain this certification.

**Anjali Bhasin**, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, was selected to join the Physician Leadership Academy of South Florida. The selection was made by the Broward County Medical Association and underwritten by a grant from the Physician Foundation. The program is presented by the Palm Beach Medical Society in collaboration with the Broward and Dade County medical associations.

**Marie Florent-Carre**, D.O., M.P.H., director of rural and urban underserved medicine and assistant professor of family medicine and public health, was certified by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine as a health policy fellow. Florent-Carre completed the requirements of the 2016–2017 Health Policy Fellowship class and was awarded a certificate of completion. As a health policy fellow, Florent-Carre has demonstrated the ability to research health policy issues, understand the health policy process, and serve as a resource in the formulation of health policy. She also earned first-place honors for her poster presentation “Controlling Prescription Drug Prices by Allowing Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to Negotiate” in the health policy category at OMED 2017, which was held October 7–11 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Elizabeth Hames**, D.O., CMD, authored the article “Learning About Grief, Death, and Dying During Medical Education: Thoughts, Rituals, and Rites of Passage,” which was published in the June issue of *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*. She also presented the lecture “Geriatric Literature Update” at NSU’s Interprofessional Geriatric Training Institute on July 7.

**Marc M. Kesselman**, D.O., FACOI, FACC, FACR, assistant professor of internal medicine and director of the Division of Rheumatology, served as the keynote speaker at the Arthritis Foundation’s Living Your Yes event held October 7 at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

**Nancy Klimas**, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Immunology and director of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, did a live interview with the National Public Radio *Morning Edition* program on October 2, which aired in 30 markets across the United States. Klimas discussed the new guidelines regarding exercise for chronic fatigue syndrome patients and provided clinical expertise on the best treatment options for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome in light of the recommended changes provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Maria F. Montoya**, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of public health, served as a panelist on June 29 at the National Hispanic Council on Aging Regional Conference held at the Miami Dade College InterAmerican Campus. She discussed the status of “Hispanic Caregivers in Miami-Dade County” and how academic institutions can better prepare medical students to meet the demands of a rapidly growing aging population.

**Naushira Pandya**, M.D., CMD, FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics and director of the Geriatrics Education Center, served as a speaker and presenter on the management of diabetes in skilled nursing facilities at the Global Healthcare Conference held July 24–25 in Singapore. She was also invited as a panelist to discuss geriatric polypharmacy at the national meeting of the American College of Academic International Medicine held July 29 in Clearwater, Florida.

**Yasmin Qureshi**, D.P.T., M.H.S., M.P.T., associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice, coauthored the article “Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment to Manage Ophthalmic Conditions,” which was published in the September issue of *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Medicine*.

**Irma Rey**, M.D., assistant professor and director of medical education in the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, was named president-elect of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine at the academy’s 52nd Annual Meeting held October 6 in Park City, Utah.

**Kenya Rivas**, M.D., assistant professor of geriatrics, served as the featured expert on an NBC 6 local news segment to discuss how family members can detect the early warning signs of elder abuse and neglect in the wake of a nursing home tragedy following Hurricane Irma, which resulted in the death of eight residents at a Hollywood, Florida, nursing home. Additionally, Rivas attended the Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (FMDA) event in Orlando, Florida, where she was elected as FMDA board member. She also won first place for her poster presentation “Antibiotic Stewardship in Long Term Care: A Milestone to Success.”

## FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



ROSEMAN-HALSBAND

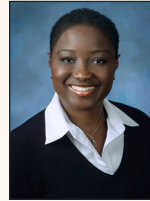
**Janet L. Roseman-Halsband**, Ph.D., M.S., assistant professor of integrative medicine, authored the article “Can the Use of Color and Light Therapy Be Used as an Effective Complementary Therapy for Oncology Patients? An Analysis of One Practitioner’s (Anecdotal) Experiences,” which is scheduled to be published in an upcoming issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Therapies*.



SIERRA

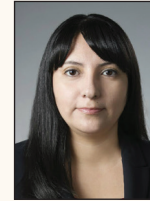
**Marysel Sierra**, M.S.Ed., academic coordinator in the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center, received her Master of Science in Medical Education from Nova Southeastern University.

**Kamilah B. Thomas-Purcell**, Ph.D., M.P.H., MCHES, director of interprofessional primary care education for the Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice, had her coauthored article published in a recent issue of *Cancer Causes & Control*. The article was titled “Gatekeepers’ Perceptions of the Quality and Availability of Services for Breast and Cervical Cancer Patients in the English-Speaking Windward Islands: An Exploratory Investigation.” Additionally, she served



THOMAS-PURCELL

as first author on the manuscript “Grenadian Women’s Perspectives on Screening for Breast and Cervical Cancers: A Participatory Approach to Understanding Prevention,” which was published in a recent issue of the *Global Journal of Health Education and Promotion*. Thomas-Purcell presented her work related to these manuscripts at the African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium Scientific and Training Conference held October 6–9 in Miami, Florida.



VERA-NUNEZ

**Maria Vera-Nunez**, M.D., ABOIM, assistant professor of clinical immunology and integrative medicine, completed the requirements to earn integrative medicine certification through the American Board of Integrative Medicine (ABOIM). Completing this board certification indicates mastery of the specialty experience and knowledge, as well as a professional commitment, to adhere to the ABPS Medical Code of Ethics. The ABOIM defines integrative medicine as the practice of medicine that reaffirms the importance of the relationship between practitioner and patient, focuses on the whole person, is informed by evidence, and makes use of all appropriate therapeutic approaches, health care professionals, and disciplines to achieve optimal health and healing.

## GRANTS UPDATE

Due to the confidentiality clauses of certain grant agreements, we are only permitted to publish funded grants that are listed monthly in the Office of Sponsored Programs administrative report package.

### **Genomics Approach to Find Female-Specific Mechanisms of GWI Pathobiology**

**Amount:** \$666,331

**Principal Investigator:** Lubov Nathanson, Ph.D., M.Sc.

**Funder:** DOD–U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity

**Project Period:** September 15, 2017–September 14, 2019

### **Growth Hormone Releasing (GHRH) Antagonist: Evaluation of Beneficial Effects for Gulf War Illness**

**Amount:** \$418,868

**Principal Investigator:** Luis Salguero, Ph.D.

**Funder:** DOD–U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity

**Project Period:** September 1, 2017–August 31, 2020

### **Computer Training and Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation for Cognition in HIV**

**Amount:** \$185,388

**Principal Investigator:** Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

**Funder:** US DHHS–National Institutes of Health

**Project Period:** July 15, 2017–April 30, 2018

### **Project LA BRUMA (Susan Harwood Training Grant Program)**

**Amount:** \$145,404

**Principal Investigator:** Stephen Grant, Ph.D.

**Funder:** U.S. Department of Labor

**Project Period:** September 30, 2017–September 30, 2018

The Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (IDEP) received funding for Project LA BRUMA, which is a Spanish-language hazardous materials safety training for workers in the maritime industry. One-hundred percent of the project is funded through a one-year Susan Harwood Training Grant from the U.S.

Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Association. Leveraging the success of IDEP’s two existing worker training programs—Projects SEAMIST and HazMIRTSI—Project LA BRUMA will address the training needs of nonliterate, low-literacy, and limited English proficiency maritime workers throughout the state of Florida.

### **Gender and Gulf War Illness**

**Amount:** \$115,501

**Principal Investigator:** Mariana Morris, Ph.D.

**Funder:** DOD–U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity

**Project Period:** July 15, 2017–July 14, 2018

### **Understanding the Effects of Substance Use on Male Couples’ Risk for HIV**

**Amount:** \$33,348

**Principal Investigator:** M. Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., M.A.

**Funder:** University of Hawaii

**Project Period:** March 1, 2017–April 30, 2018

### **Fecal Incontinence in Primary Care Consortium, Tier II**

**Amount:** \$24,998

**Principal Investigator:** Nicole Cook, Ph.D., M.P.A.

**Funder:** Trailhead Institute

**Project Period:** August 1, 2017–July 31, 2018

### **Jessie Trace Cancer Prevention Project**

**Amount:** \$19,403

**Principal Investigator:** T. Lucas Hollar, Ph.D.

**Funder:** Health Choice Network of Florida, Inc.

**Project Period:** August 2, 2017–December 29, 2017

# LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE HOSTS FALL WELCOME WEEK

On October 2–5, the college's Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) hosted its inaugural Fall Welcome Week event at its new NSU East Campus home. Members and lecturers gathered to discuss many topics, including

- “How We Got This Way: The Making of Contemporary America”
- “An Overview of Global, Gender-Based Violence”
- “The Global Reserve Army of Labor”
- “The 19th Century Symphony”
- “An Abridged History of China and Art of the Parisian Belle Époque”

The LLI moved from the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus to the East Campus in April 2017.



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Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.