

COLLABORATIONS

Faculty and Staff Newsletter
Summer 2020



FEATURED TOPICS

Zooming...Boomers and Beyond • Department of Emergency Medicine Provides COVID-19 Training
B.S. in Health Informatics Established • Quitting Smoking Now Is More Important Than Ever

KPCOM Ingenuity, Teamwork in Action

Collaborations

is produced by
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DR. KIRAN C. PATEL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

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KPCOM CELEBRATES PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY GRADUATES

The KPCOM recently celebrated the graduation of its two psychiatry residents—Stacey Lindsey, D.O., and Christine Rule, D.O.—at a virtual ceremony. The ceremony featured Paul Deci, M.D., KPCOM psychiatry residency program director, and Pam Zerblas, KPCOM psychiatry residency program coordinator, who handed out the certificates of completion while wearing face masks and following appropriate social-distancing guidelines.

During the Zoom ceremony, family members and significant others, preceptors, KPCOM Office of Graduate Medical Education members, and other residents from the HCA/UCF Psychiatry Residency with whom they have trained in the Orlando Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System were able to share the special moment with the graduates.

In partnership with the Orlando VA Health Care System, the four-year program provides residents mastery in different areas of psychiatry—further lowering the 55 percent shortage of specialists in Florida. Lindsey will join the Doctor's Hospital in Sarasota as an inpatient psychiatrist, while Rule will stay in Orlando in a staff psychiatrist position with the Orlando VA Health Care System at its Lake Baldwin facility.

Christine Rule joyously celebrates her graduation from the residency program.



Stacey Lindsey proudly displays her completion certificate.



The college was recently recognized for its evident improvement in the alumni engagement index (AEI), which is one of the rubrics used when tabulating NSU's overall placement in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* and *Forbes* top national university rankings.

Because NSU-KPCOM did not meet certain AEI criteria levels in the past, Elaine Wallace, D.O., M.S.⁴, the college's dean, made it a priority to seek solutions and address the issue. During the past six months, the KPCOM alumni team actively pursued ways to increase the KPCOM's AEI. Throughout 2020, the college adapted new strategies to better track alumni engagement with each of its departments, while working on an app/alumni database with Graduway to further increase alumni networking and mentoring opportunities in the college that will be unveiled later this year.

In recognition of the KPCOM's improved AEI numbers, the college received two awards from NSU's Division of Advancement and Community Relations—Most Improved College/Department and the Distinguished Leadership Award, which was presented to Shauntae Roberts, who serves as assistant to the assistant dean of faculty and alumni affairs.

Although the KPCOM improved in the recent fiscal year by building upon prior successes, the college is committed to additional enhancement in the 2020–2021 academic year, which commenced on July 1.

KPCOM EARNS NSU ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR IMPROVED ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT





NSU ACHIEVES HIGHEST NEW ENTRY in *Times Higher Education* Young University Rankings

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) ranked 51st in the *Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2020: Golden Age*. NSU was recognized as the highest new entry in the international rankings, which included 308 universities.

“We are proud of our high standing in this year’s Golden Age rankings,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and CEO. “As we continue to position NSU as a preeminent university, our hard work is being recognized by industry leaders who see the value in the NSU Edge.”

From an undergraduate perspective, NSU has experienced a 21 percent growth rate among freshman classes during the past few years. Additionally, the university has seen a 400 percent increase in research revenue for a variety of initiatives during the last five years. More than \$107 million in externally provided funding is advancing the university’s mission of research, academic excellence, and public service in areas such as health care, biotechnology, life science, and pharmaceutical research.

The Golden Age Rankings were named to reflect what *THE* describes as the golden age in global higher education, rapid university expansion, and increasing investment in research. The Golden Age rankings use *THE* data to cast a spotlight on the best universities that have been in existence for more than 50 years, but less than 80 years.

THE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS USED TO RANK UNIVERSITIES ARE GROUPED INTO FIVE AREAS.

- 1. teaching**
(the learning environment)
- 2. research**
(volume, income, and reputation)
- 3. citations**
(research influence)
- 4. international outlook**
(staff, students, and research)
- 5. industry income**
(knowledge transfer)

FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



BRONSBURG



COHEN



COLINDRES



JOHNSON



KHANNA



MAYI



WAZIRY



MOUMOUTJIS



WALCUTT



PARMAR



PANDYA



MULLIGAN

Stephen E. Bronsburg, Ph.D., M.S., M.H.S.A., assistant professor of biomedical informatics, and **Arif M. Rana**, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., M.P.H., M.A., chair of the Department of Health Informatics, received the Best Research Idea Award in July for their abstract “A Balanced Body of Knowledge and Skills (BBKS) Approach Encompassing Knowledge Sharing and Skills Development to Prepare the Health Care Workforce to Optimally Manage Pandemic Data and Information.” Bronsburg presented the winning project at the 2020 International Knowledge Management Conference.

Peter Cohen, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, was appointed to Florida’s Physician Workforce Advisory Council in July. The council’s primary responsibility is to advise the state surgeon general on issues concerning current and projected physician workforce needs in the state, including reviewing graduate medical education data related to the number, location, cost, and reimbursement of programs and positions.

Petra Colindres, M.A., RDN, LDN, IBCLC, assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition, was selected to serve on the National Lactation Consultant Association Communications and Fundraising Committee.

Kenneth E. Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, professor and executive associate dean, completed the one-year American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic

Medicine Senior Leadership Development Program (SLDP) in July. The SLDP provides a unique opportunity for one-on-one and group engagement with experienced osteopathic deans who serve as mentors. Small and highly interactive, the SLDP fosters learning and networking with colleagues from institutions across the country. The SLDP concludes with a capstone project that requires teams to research a critical issue facing colleges of osteopathic medicine nationwide.

Deepesh Khanna, Ph.D., M.B.B.S., M.P.H., M.B.A., M.S., CPH, assistant professor of anatomy, coauthored the manuscript “Effects of Energy and Macronutrient Cycling on Weight Loss, Body Composition, and Markers of Health in Obese Women Participating in a Resistance-Based Exercise Program” in the June issue of *Medical Research Archives*. The article is a collaboration with professors at Texas A&M University and other institutions from the university’s exercise and sports nutrition lab.

Bindu S. Mayi, Ph.D., M.Sc., professor of microbiology, and **Paula A. Faria Waziry**, Ph.D., M.A., assistant professor of biochemistry, coauthored the paper “Impact of Pyriproxyfen on Virus Behavior: Implications for Pesticide-Induced Virulence and Mechanism of Transmission,” which was accepted for publication in the *Virology Journal*. Mayi also coauthored the article “SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: A Brief Review for Family Physicians” in

the July/August issue of the *Osteopathic Family Physician* with a number of KPCOM faculty members, including **Gina Foster-Moumoutjis**, M.D., M.S., assistant professor of family medicine; **Pamela Moran-Walcutt**, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine; **Mayur Parmar**, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacology; **Patricia Rose**, Ph.D., M.S., R.Ph., associate professor of physiology; and **Shahnaz Fatteh**, M.D., FAMWA, associate clinical professor and director of the Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Clinic. Additionally, she coauthored the article “Time to Strategically Position Nursing Homes to Effectively Manage Emerging Infections,” which will be published in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*. Mayi coauthored the article with **Nicole Cook**, Ph.D., M.P.A., associate professor of public health, and **Naushira Pandya**, M.D., CMD, FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics.

Deborah A. Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, assistant professor of pediatrics, appeared on iHeartRadio’s *First News with Jimmy Cefalo* program several times to discuss COVID-19 topics such as “Trauma Wrapped in Guilt,” “Incremental for the Greater Good,” and “Kids Want to Play.”

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics and project director of the college’s South Florida Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, served as lead author of the article “Challenges and

FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



PETROSKY



ROSE



ROSEMAN-HALSBAND



ROZENFELD



SANDHOUSE



SNYDER



WALLACE

Strategies for Managing Diabetes in Long-Term Care,” which was published in *Diabetes Spectrum*. In related news, the South Florida Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program received an additional \$90,000 in funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration for nine months to promote COVID-19 telehealth education among the community and providers. The primary focus areas are prevention, preparation, and response.

Stephanie Petrosky, M.H.A., RDN, LDN, FAND, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition, was recently honored by the South Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics with its annual award in legislation and public policy. This peer recognition is bestowed upon individuals who have provided distinguished leadership and advocacy in advancing important nutrition and health agendas.

Norman Rose, D.O., FACOS, FICS, DFACOS, clinical professor of surgery, was conferred the title of Distinguished Fellow in the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (DFACOS). The DFACOS designation was granted in recognition of his sustained involvement, dedication, and contribution to the ACOS and

the osteopathic community. “This honor is bestowed upon the very best of our profession, so I am incredibly honored and humbled upon receiving the award of Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, especially since this is the first year for this to be awarded,” Rose said.

Janet Roseman-Halsband, Ph.D., M.S., R-DMT, associate professor of integrative medicine, authored the chapter “Creativity as Medicine” in the book *Spiritual Herstories: Call of the Soul in Dance Research*, which was published in the United Kingdom by Intellect Books. She also presented her research on arts-based medicine at the Caring for the Human Spirit virtual conference held April 20–22.

Irina Rozenfeld, D.N.P., M.S.N., A.P.R.N., assistant professor and a board-certified nurse practitioner at the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, recently earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Mark Sandhouse, D.O., M.S., associate dean of osteopathic medical education, was appointed to Florida’s Physician Workforce

Advisory Council in July. The council’s primary responsibility is to advise the state surgeon general on issues concerning current and projected physician workforce needs in the state, including reviewing graduate medical education data related to the number, location, cost, and reimbursement of programs and positions.

Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, retired from the college at the end of May after serving as a respected faculty member and administrator for more than 15 years.

Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S.⁴, KPCOM dean, was selected as a March of Dimes Women of Distinction honoree in late June. Women of Distinction honors and celebrates female leaders in South Florida who are chosen by the community and selected by an esteemed committee of past recipients and distinguished women leaders. Since its inception, the event has honored more than 230 women innovators, influencers, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs who have effected change in the community and beyond.

Marilyn Gordon, Ed.D., RDN, CSSD, LDN, academic program coordinator of the KPCOM nutrition program, leads an LLI Zoom yoga session.



ZOOMING ... Boomers and Beyond

By Beth Allen, M.S., Community Relations Specialist
Lifelong Learning Institute

On March 16, the question on many people's minds was, "What is Zoom?"

With more than 200 mature adult learners—many with limited technology expertise—the NSU Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) had a big decision to make about the program's future continuation. For more than 42 years, the LLI has provided daily lectures to enrich the lives of older students meeting face-to-face in a classroom on NSU's East Campus. The program allows for social interaction, which is a very important aspect in reducing isolation for a segment of this population.

As soon as it became apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic would suspend the in-person program as the nation went into quarantine, all lectures were moved to the Zoom platform. With the assistance of the NSU Department of Public Health and several students, the LLI was able to set up Zoom tutorials for members. By April 1, the LLI staff had developed a robust online program.

"At first, this seemed so hard, but now, learning via Zoom seems normal," said a

78-year-old LLI member. "Signing on to Zoom is a way to learn and 'socialize' while staying safe. Zoom provides human contact for many of the students who are over the age of 55 and often live alone."

Fast-forward to July 29 to witness 70 Zoom windows listening to NSU professor Charles Zelden, Ph.D., discuss politics while posting questions in the chat function and raising blue hands to be called upon. Those windows equal more than 125 seniors who have conquered Zoom and participate in daily lectures. Due to the extreme vulnerability of the LLI older adult population, the institute will be remaining online for the rest of 2020—and possibly longer.

The LLI is becoming creative, as there are no geographic boundaries for either membership or potential lecturers. The institute can now offer lectures with speakers participating from near and far, virtual tours of museums, book club meetings, backgammon lessons, and discussion groups.

CLICK HERE





KPCOM COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS GO ONLINE

By Linda Maurice, M.A.
Director of Community Education
and Lifelong Learning

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the in-person high school medical immersion summer camp experiences, the community education program switched gears to go online as a free community program. The response was overwhelmingly grateful, as children everywhere, including students who had been interested in attending, were left with few choices for summer activities.

AIM-High ran via Zoom from July 13-17, and participation exceeded expectations, with attendance ranging from 80 to 100 students per session. While the usual hands-on experiences, such as suturing, dissection, and spending time in the simulation lab, did not translate to the Zoom experience, many other sessions ran

beautifully online. Sessions included sports medicine, radiology, OB/GYN, pharmacology, nursing, psychology, dentistry, nutrition, and more.

During the week of July 20-24, a much smaller returning group participated in the AIM-Higher online experience. About 20 AIM-Higher students choose to participate after completing the in-person AIM-High program last year at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

While AIM-High is designed to provide participants a taste of different areas of potential careers in the health professions, AIM-Higher provides a more in-depth experience. Sessions included “Does Genetics Cause Cancer?” “Experience Optometry,” “The Art, Science, and Technology of Pharmacy

Compounding,” “Nutrition Tips and Tricks,” Labor, Delivery, and Newborn Infant Care,” and “Digital Dentistry.”

One of the highlights was a virtual field trip to the continuing care community at Covenant Living of Florida, where Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, FACP, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, led a session on “Seniors: Our Future.” During the experience, AIM-Higher students were able to meet and chat with some of the older adult residents at Covenant Living.

This year’s programs included new collaborations with several other NSU colleges, including dental medicine, nursing, optometry, and psychology, which gave the participants a wonderful introduction to the feeling of the “One NSU” family.



Pictured (from left) are Samuel Espinal, Nergess Taheri, Danny Abouekde, Terry Parsons, and David Lepoff.

LAKESIDE MEDICAL CENTER GRADUATES FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENTS

Five physicians in Lakeside Medical Center’s Family Medicine Residency Program, located in Belle Glade, Florida, graduated in a virtual ceremony on June 17 following three years of intense training. NSU-KPCOM is the program’s academic partner.

The five graduates—Danny Abouekde, D.O., Samuel Espinal, D.O., David Lepoff, D.O., and chief residents Nergess Taheri, D.O., and Terry Parsons, D.O., completed rotations in a range of areas. These included emergency medicine, women’s health care, pediatrics, psychiatry, general surgery, internal medicine, community and sports medicine, cardiology, dermatology, women’s health, radiology, orthopedics, ENT, urology, ophthalmology, and critical care.

“These graduates represent the best in family medicine,” said Jennifer Dorcé-Medard, D.O., residency program director at Lakeside Medical Center. “We always say family medicine means we take care of our patients from the cradle to their senior years. These physicians went above and beyond to provide access to a range of quality services for our patients, many of whom have complex medical conditions and limited resources.”



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE PROVIDES COVID-19 TRAINING

As a supplement to the already-existing South East Area Marine Industry Safety Training (SEAMIST) grant, the KPCOM’s Department of Emergency Medicine’s SEAMIST team received additional funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for COVID-19 training. The grant was awarded as a collaborative project with Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. The Department of Emergency Medicine will receive \$135,000 of the \$172,000 awarded.

SEAMIST trainings typically address marine industry workers’ awareness of hazardous waste materials and how to handle the chemicals they deal with in their work environments. Due to the pandemic, free COVID-19 awareness trainings will include topics such as workplace exposure, prevention, and virus protection.

Since the trainings began, 10 sessions have been done via Zoom and encompassed more than 700 participants. The four-hour training sessions are done with a live trainer and will continue through July 31, 2021.

Interested participants can contact Philyppe Carre at seamist@nova.edu.



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISPLAYS FRONTLINE SUPPORT

On May 26 and June 2, the Master of Science in Disaster and Emergency Management program thanked local fire and police departments for their continued support and effort during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program had meals delivered from Mission BBQ to the Davie Fire Department located on Orange Drive and the Davie Police Department on Nob Hill Road and State Road 84.

The program specifically chose these departments for their service to the local NSU community and their collaboration with the Master of Science in Disaster and Emergency Management program. Delivering the meals was a way to not only show support for our local first responders and frontline workers, but to also support a local Davie restaurant.



The Department of Emergency Management expresses its thanks to the Davie fire and police departments while supporting local businesses such as Mission BBQ.

KPCOM ADDS B.S. IN HEALTH INFORMATICS TO ITS ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

On May 28, NSU's New Program Review Committee approved the Bachelor of Science in Health Informatics program, which will commence in fall 2021. The program is a collaboration between the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) and the NSU College of Computing and Engineering (CCE).

Students can expect a rich undergraduate curriculum, where they will have an opportunity to apply core concepts of health informatics to myriad fields, including mental health, public health, nutrition, clinical practice, private sector, and non-health professions. B.S. in Health Informatics students will have a few choices in the degree paths they can take, such as pursuing a straight four-year degree or a dual admission in the B.S. in Health Informatics and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine programs.

The B.S. in Health Informatics program looks forward to working with the CCE as educators, mentors, and guides for incoming students on their academic journey. The program will offer an interdisciplinary curriculum that is focused on cultivating and developing health information technology (HIT) knowledge, skills, and attitudes, allowing graduates to pursue successful and meaningful careers in HIT.

Graduates will be able to interpret, gather, clean, analyze, and present HIT data and information while acquiring the necessary applicable knowledge and skills to create or enhance existing HIT processes and systems—improving health care organizational operations while meeting their goals. Students will learn to recognize the importance of lifelong learning and be a champion of HIT adoption.

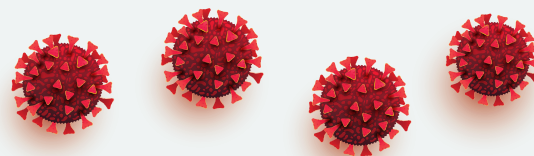
Special thanks to **Alfredo Rehbein**, M.B.A., executive director of finance and administration, and **Blake Constantinides**, director of finance and administration, for carving out time in their busy schedules to craft the budget for the new undergraduate degree program.



THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAKING THE NEW PROGRAM A REALITY.

- **ELAINE M. WALLACE**, D.O., M.S.⁴
KPCOM Dean
- **MELINE KEVORKIAN**, Ed.D.
Dean of the CCE
- **PHYLLIS J. FILKER**, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Dean of Undergraduate, Graduate, and Community Education
- **KRISTI MESSER**, M.P.H., LCSW
Assistant Dean of Bachelor's Programs
- **GREG SIMCO**, Ph.D.
Chair and Professor at the CCE
- **ARIF M. RANA**, Ph.D., Ed.S., M.S., M.P.H., M.A.
Chair of the Department of Health Informatics and Director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program
- **STEPHEN E. BRONSBURG**, Ph.D., M.S., M.H.S.A.
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics

CLASS OF 2024 WELCOMED WITH COVID-19-RELATED CURRICULAR MODIFICATIONS



On July 27, the class of 2024 students began their osteopathic odyssey by opening their laptops and diligently watching lectures from their homes. Though a different experience than expected without the traditional white coat ceremony or orientation week, the first-year students at both the Fort Lauderdale/Davie and Tampa Bay Regional campuses remained excited. To replicate the classroom experience in some form, they took to social media to document the process of getting their scrubs and white coats delivered, taking photos on campus, meeting their new

academic society peers, and sharing their thoughts on their first week of medical school.

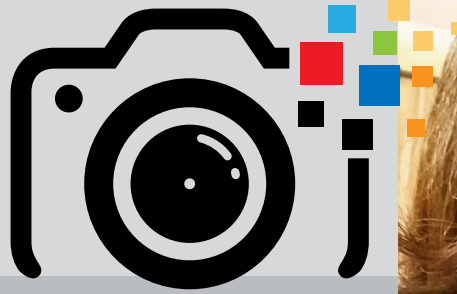
One of the many safety measures NSU-KPCOM has instilled during the COVID-19 pandemic is the continuation of online classes with its bachelor's, master's, and D.O. programs. The D.O. curriculum has undergone the most changes, as classes have been rearranged to front-load lectures and backload laboratories.

While some lab experiences have been converted to an online platform, all classes requiring interpersonal contact

have been moved to the winter term for the time being. With exams, lectures, and rotations converted to online, the college has made sure all student services will be available via Zoom, such as counseling (career, academic, and financial), tutoring, and psychological support, along with the use of campus buildings with masks and social-distancing guidelines in place.

If the college decides to offer in-person classes, it will be an option for students to select during the fall term—not a requirement. The KPCOM aims to resume its usual operations in-person in January 2021.

STAFF SNAPSHOT



Getting to Know... Natacha Villedrouin, M.S.



No matter the season, Villedrouin and her daughters Amariah and Cailey are always ready to celebrate the holidays.

FAMILY FACTS

I have two daughters—Amariah Reynolds, who is 11, and Cailey Reynolds, who is 10.

DATE OF HIRE

June 26, 2017

OFFICIAL NSU-KPCOM RESPONSIBILITIES

I am the director of student affairs for the NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus Office of Student Affairs. My responsibilities are to assist students with the onboarding process for matriculating into the KPCOM and organize different student-related events, such as orientation, the wellness cruise, and Halloween throughout the year.

REASONS I ENJOY WORKING AT NSU-KPCOM

I really enjoy working with students, and I love that I can do that within the KPCOM where everyone feels valued, respected, and supported. I enjoy being able to see students grow and graduate into the doctors they have worked so hard to become. Most of all, I love the wonderful relationships and bonds I have been able to make in the last three years.

WHAT DID YOU DO PROFESSIONALLY BEFORE JOINING NSU-KPCOM?

I worked for another university in admissions. I worked in admissions for seven years and really had a passion for guiding students to pursue their education. Before that, I worked in food and beverage for seven years.

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN LIFE

I set goals for myself on a regular basis, but so far, my greatest achievement is being a mother to my girls. It is not always easy, especially as a single parent, but with my strong faith in God and the support of my family and friends, everything always works out.

GETTING TO KNOW: NATACHA VILLEDROUIN, M.S.

(continued from previous page)

FAVORITE WAY TO UNWIND WHEN NOT AT WORK

I love to cook, bake, and try out new, healthy recipes. Baking really helps me relax.

THE MOST EXCITING THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME

Honestly, life as a single parent with two girls is always an exciting adventure.

MY COWORKERS WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THIS ABOUT ME

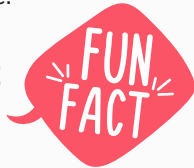
I have an identical twin sister.

WHEN I RETIRE, I PLAN TO

I plan to live in Spain for at least a year, explore, and learn the culture.

THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE ME

Hardworking, helpful, and self-motivated



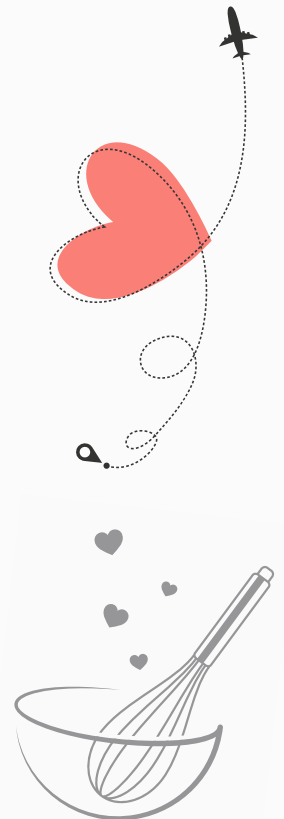
Halloween fun



Villedrouin and her daughters Amariah and Cailey join Razor at the Sallarulo's Race for Champions 5K.



Villedrouin and Delia Celestine, Ed.D., M.P.H., assistant dean of student affairs, welcome the inaugural D.O. class at the NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus to orientation week in 2019.





BERNSTEIN



CERNEA



FLETCHER



GARCIA



LILLQUIST



RUIZ

M.S. RDN STUDENTS BRING THEIR EXPERTISE to AIM-High and AIM-Higher

The 2020 cohort of student dietitians, under the direction of program faculty members Ioana Scripa, Ph.D., RDN, LDN, assistant professor and director of the B.S. in Human Nutrition program, and Stephanie Petrosky, M.S., RDN, LDN, FAND, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Nutrition, delivered dynamic and interactive nutrition presentations for both the AIM-High and AIM-Higher high school students participating in the intensive medical school immersion experiences. AIM-High ran via Zoom from July 13-17, while AIM-Higher took place July 20-24.

AIM-High

Jessica Bernstein
Mariona Cernea
Jordan Fletcher
Katherine Garcia
Sylvia Lillquist
Gabriella Ruiz

AIM-Higher

Stephanie Fonseca
Danielle Lankford
Marissa Swindell
Denvyr Tyler-Palmer
Cassandra Wagner
Sierra Williams



FONSECA



LANKFORD



SWINDELL



TYLER-PALMER



WAGNER



WILLIAMS

KPCOM FACULTY MEMBERS EARN NSU RECOGNITION

A number of KPCOM faculty members received NSU's 18th Annual Quality of Life and 21st Annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant Awards, which support NSU's Vision 2025 research-focused core values and strategic priorities and recognize NSU faculty members in their research endeavors.

These awards provide seed money for new areas of research. Featured to the right are the KPCOM projects that earned recognition.

QUALITY OF LIFE RECIPIENTS

"Recipes for Health: A Community-Based Nutrition Intervention"

- Barbara Arcos, D.O.
- Marilyn Gordon, Ed.D.
- Nadine Mikati, Ph.D.
- Stephanie Petrosky, M.H.A.
- Ioana Scripa, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT'S FACULTY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT

"Effect of ME/CFS on Transcriptional Changes in Immune Cells Subtypes"

- Vladimir Beljanski, Ph.D.
- Lubov Nathanson, Ph.D.

"Investigating the Role of Rab8a in 4R-Tauopathies"

- Mayur Parmar, Ph.D.

"Listening to Traditional Medicine Healers. What Can We Learn About Wellness?"

- Janet Roseman-Halsband, Ph.D.
- Alison Bested, M.D.
- Gena Meroth, M.L.I.S.

Sahar Sarrami Amini, D.O., assistant professor, was named interim chair of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Gayl Canfield, Ph.D., RDN, LDN, associate professor, was promoted to the position of chair of the Department of Medical Education.

Eric A. Goldsmith, D.O., FACOS, assistant dean of clinical operations, is the KPCOM's new chair of surgery.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., M.S., assistant dean of graduate medical education, is the new chair of the Student Progress Committee.

Melinda Luis, M.S., RDN, LDN, is now a full-time assistant professor for the Department of Nutrition. She previously worked as an adjunct instructor and practicum coordinator in the KPCOM Master of Science in Nutrition program since 2017.

Bindu Mayi, Ph.D., professor of basic sciences, was named chair of basic sciences.

Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W., LCSW, was promoted to the position of assistant dean of bachelor's programs in July.

Ashley Prizzi transitioned from her position as an administrative assistant into the Department of Clinical Education as a class coordinator.

Transitions

WELCOME

New Hires

Sherla Cruz de Benoit, Ed.D., M.A., joined the college as an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Education. She transitioned from NSU's Undergraduate Academic Advising Center.

Farzanna Haffizulla, M.D., is the new chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. She previously worked at NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine, where she served as assistant dean for community and global health. Haffizulla is board certified in internal medicine and is a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

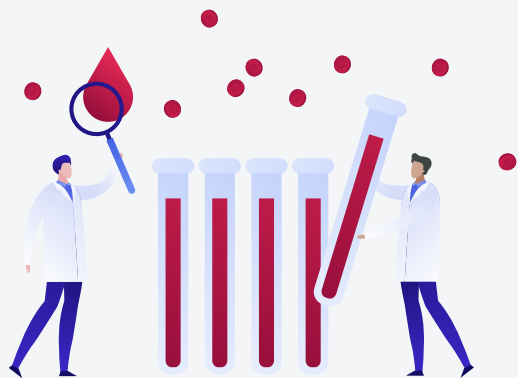
Nicholas Lutfi, M.D., D.P.M., M.S., joined the college as a professor of anatomy, where his primary assignment will be at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus. Lutfi, who previously worked as a professor in the former NSU College of Medical Sciences, will also serve as the Anatomy course director.

Howard Naser, Jr., joined the college as a budget analyst III. He transitioned from NSU Enrollment and Student Services.

The following employees joined the KPCOM as family therapy faculty and staff members. The program recently transitioned from NSU's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences to the KPCOM.

- **Aimee Barahona**, administrative assistant I
- **Christine Beliard**, Ph.D., LMFT
- **Tommie Boyd**, Ph.D., LMFT
- **Irina Bransburg**, internship/practicum coordinator
- **Christopher Burnett**, Psy.D.
- **Andrea Dillman**, program coordinator
- **Kara Erolin**, Ph.D., LMFT
- **Arlene Gordon**, Ph.D., LMFT
- **Pei-Fen Li**, Ph.D., LMFT
- **Fariha Niazi**, Ph.D., LMFT, LMHC (chair)
- **Anne Rambo**, Ph.D.
- **Michael Reiter**, Ph.D.
- **Jamie West**, Ph.D., LMFT, CAI-I





GRANTS Update

Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Coordinating Center

Funder: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Amount: \$116,762

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

Project Period: June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Coordinating Center

Funder: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Amount: \$40,763

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

Project Period: June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) Coordinating Center

Funder: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Amount: \$ 37,723

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

Project Period: June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

Scale It Up: Effectiveness-Implementation Research to Enhance HIV-Related Self-Management Among Youth

Funder: Florida State University

Amount: \$37,228

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

Project Period: June 1, 2020–May 31, 2021

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.

Quitting Smoking Now Is More Important Than Ever

Most people are very vigilant about protecting themselves from the COVID-19 virus. Yet, tobacco smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in our society.

There has never been a greater need for smokers to seek the help they need in quitting tobacco use or vaping than now during the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and the American Lung Association agree about the importance of highlighting this urgent need.

Quitting smoking tobacco or electronic cigarettes can reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection through less-frequent hand-to-mouth contact. It can also offer smokers the opportunity to build up their defenses in case they contract COVID-19, such as through improved lung function and removal of mucous buildup, reduced chronic inflammation and stronger immune system capacity, and improved circulatory and cardiac health—all of which are vital in overcoming COVID-19.

The NSU-KPCOM Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program offers free, virtual, online group-smoking cessation classes at multiple times during the week using accessible, easy-to-use, web-based teleconferencing technology. These virtual classes are provided in the same interactive, friendly, respectful, and supportive atmosphere that has been a hallmark of AHEC's community tobacco cessation services for more than a decade. Eligible participants may receive free over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapy, such as patches, gums, and lozenges.

For specific details or to register, please call the AHEC Program at (954) 262-1580 or visit www.ahectobacco.com.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College
of Osteopathic Medicine
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

NSU
Florida

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, military service, veteran status, 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. Any such acts are unacceptable and strictly prohibited by the university.