

Med School Watercooler

NEWS FROM FREDERICK P. WHIDDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Barrington named associate editor of The Journal of Immunology



In recognition of his outstanding performance as a knowledgeable and fair reviewer of scientific research, Robert A. Barrington, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of microbiology and immunology at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, was recently appointed as an associate editor for The Journal of Immunology.

"I've served as an ad hoc reviewer for JI for many years, but being a part of the editorial team formally recognizes my part in the peer review process," said Barrington. "It is most definitely an honor and career highlight."

As an associate editor, Barrington will review at least one manuscript a month, and his name will appear on the masthead in each issue, according to Eugene M. Oltz, Ph.D., editor-in-chief of The Journal of Immunology.

Barrington, who will serve a two-year term on the editorial board, is the scientific director for the Flow Cytometry Laboratory at the USA College of Medicine and is also a member of the USA Center for Lung Biology.

The Journal of Immunology (JI), printed and posted online twice a month, is owned and published by The American Association of Immunologists, Inc. All editors are practicing scientists. The journal is cited more than any other immunology journal, according to 2019 journal citation reports. The journal's website records more than 1.7 million page views per month.

"Peer review is the backbone of science," Barrington said. "All that we do as scientists is ultimately held up to the scrutiny of our peers."

Med School Café to address COVID-19 and diabetes



Nina Hibbard, MSN, CRNP, a nurse practitioner specializing in diabetes care at USA Health Endocrine and Diabetes, will present "COVID-19 and Diabetes" at the Med School Café lecture on Friday, Oct. 30, at noon. The event will be held virtually via Zoom.

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Hibbard will discuss how patients with diabetes can stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic and what to do if you become positive for COVID-19 and have diabetes. She will also touch on the importance of getting a flu shot,

- ▶ 07/19 - 07/26 (3)
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To register for the lecture, visit <https://usahealthsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tdeGrpzsqE9erTbIt9X09gvmKSDcJyf0A>

- ▶ 06/21 - 06/28 (4)
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Med School Café is a free community lecture series sponsored by USA Health. Each month, faculty and physicians share their expertise on a specific medical condition, providing insight on the latest treatment available.

- ▶ 05/31 - 06/07 (3)
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For more information, contact Kim Partridge at kepartridge@health.southalabama.edu.

- ▶ 05/10 - 05/17 (5)
- ▶ 05/03 - 05/10 (3)
- ▶ 04/26 - 05/03 (3)

Mark your calendar: Grand rounds

Mark your calendar for upcoming grand rounds:

Surgery Grand Rounds

"Aortic Dissections"

Allison Beckett, M.D., Surgery Resident, USA Health University Hospital
7 to 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16

Zoom: <https://usahealthsystem.zoom.us/j/94304025968>

Contact: Tyronda Rogers at 251-445-8230 or tmrogers@health.southalabama.edu

- ▶ 04/19 - 04/26 (2)
- ▶ 04/12 - 04/19 (5)
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- ▶ 02/09 - 02/16 (3)
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- ▶ 01/26 - 02/02 (4)
- ▶ 01/19 - 01/26 (5)
- ▶ 01/12 - 01/19 (6)

- ▶ 01/05 - 01/12 (4)

Pediatric Grand Rounds

"The Pediatrician as Advocate and Influencer"

Katrina Skinner, M.D., President, Alabama Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Nola Ernest, M.D., President-Elect, Alabama Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

8 to 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16

Zoom Registration:

https://southalabama.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIudu2qrT8uE9a_gjkRAZd5kMKFZ6XOOcl5

Contact: Jessica Petro at 251-415-8688 or jpetro@health.southalabbama.edu

- ▶ 2019 (245)

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- ▶ 2017 (231)

- ▶ 2016 (206)

- ▶ 2015 (205)

- ▶ 2014 (241)

- ▶ 2013 (232)

- ▶ 2012 (245)

- ▶ 2011 (262)

- ▶ 2010 (247)

- ▶ 2009 (88)

Surgery Grand Rounds

"SARS Cov 2: Review and Update"

John Vande Waa, D.O., Ph.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, USA College of Medicine

7 to 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23

Zoom: <https://usahealthsystem.zoom.us/j/97215657939>

Contact: Tyronda Rogers at 251-445-8230 or tmrogers@health.southalabama.edu

OB-GYN Grand Rounds

"Mindfulness for Helping Professionals"

Julie A. Barker, LPC, CADC, Employee Assistance Program Counselor, University of South Alabama

7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23

Zoom Registration: https://southalabama.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuf-Gsrz0oH9PNDQgKTE4Fh6h_j4keBDJL

Contact: Heather Glass at 251-415-1492 or hglass@health.southalabama.edu

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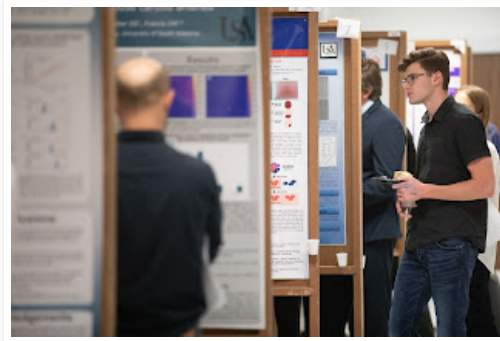
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

COM Research Forum submission deadline approaching

The University of South Alabama College of Medicine 2020 Research Forum is set to take place on Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The deadline for abstract

submissions is Friday, Nov. 6.

According to Michael Francis, Ph.D., assistant professor of physiology and cell biology at the USA College of Medicine and a member of the research forum committee, this year's research forum will be held using a virtual format. "Though this year's forum will take place virtually, the overarching goal of the research forum remains unchanged," he said. "Not only does this forum provide an avenue to recognize student contributions to research within the scientific community, it also fosters collaboration among our researchers."



Students, faculty and staff visit poster presentations at a past research forum. This year's format will be virtual.

The forum highlights outstanding biomedical research under way in the college and its partners. Graduate students in the Basic Medical Sciences program and postdoctoral fellows will present their research to the scientific community. Participation is required for all postdoctoral students and Basic Medical Sciences graduate students in their third year and beyond.

For more information and guidelines for submission, visit <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/com/research/researchforum.html>.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

A passion fulfilled: Medical student worked for The Michael J. Fox Foundation



Addie Clark, front row, second from right, participates in a race for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

In 2016, Addie Clark, a second-year medical student at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, set her sights on a big city in hopes to fulfill her dream.

After completing her bachelor's degree in neurosciences, she moved from Birmingham, Ala., to New York to work for a company rooted in medical research to treat diseases – The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Clark explained the foundation has two unofficial teams – those who raise funds through community outreach and events, and those who help choose the best research projects to receive funding. Clark was a part of the latter group.

"My team managed the Parkinson's Progression Marker's Initiative (PPMI), which is the foundation's largest project aimed at finding a biomarker for Parkinson's disease," she said.

Clark helped plan patient visits, prepared documents and assisted researchers with publications.

"My favorite part of the job was planning and attending participant dinners because I got to travel and meet people with Parkinson's from many different backgrounds," she said.

Eventually, Clark decided to pursue a degree at the USA College of Medicine. "I was drawn to the faculty and how they cared for each student's success. The school also has small class sizes and that was a plus, too."

Although Clark is fascinated by the neurosciences field, she is keeping her options open to see where she can best serve patients as she approaches her clinical years in school. "There is so much that I haven't been exposed to and I want to have an open mind during my clinical years."

Clark said her experiences at the foundation were unforgettable. She was able to live in New York and work around one of the biggest names in the entertainment industry for a good cause. She even met several celebrities – including Akbar Gbajabiamila, former NFL player and current host of the television show "American Ninja Warrior." She also participated in a race with Jimmy Choi, an "American Ninja Warrior" participant. Both men had stories of how Parkinson's disease affected their lives.

Her most memorable encounter, though, was with Fox.

"Once a year, he speaks to all of the foundation employees at a meeting," Clark said. "His last speech was about overcoming difficulty and turning bad news into an opportunity. It brought me to tears."

Clark hopes to maintain a connection to the foundation and its community. "I am fortunate to have been exposed to an ever-changing field that is pursuing groundbreaking research into chronic illnesses," she said. "Scientists are close to being able to diagnose these diseases earlier and offer life-changing treatments that have so far been unavailable. I am drawn to the complexities of these diseases and see an opportunity to help people through what can be a very difficult path."

