

Med School Watercooler

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

Friday, August 6, 2021

Meet a Med Student: Tiara Dean

Tiara Dean

Age: 22

Class of: 2024

Hometown: Monroeville, Ala.

Undergrad/grad institution: Tuskegee University

Degrees earned: Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering

Interests, hobbies: Traveling, puzzles, The Sims, baking and Netflix

Something unique about me: I was in marching band all four years of high school. During freshman year, I played the trumpet. For the remaining time, I was a majorette.

Three of my favorite things: Going to museums, hanging out at the beach, and shopping at Ross, TJ Maxx and Marshalls.

What I enjoy most about being a student at the USA College of Medicine: I absolutely love my classmates. They honestly make school so much fun. I couldn't do it without them.



Posted by Med School Watercooler at [2:00 PM](#) No comments:

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Medical student aids woman in cardiac arrest



Gabrielle Brumfield

Gabrielle Brumfield, a second-year medical student at the USA College of Medicine, had stopped at Starbucks for an afternoon coffee.

She noticed another vehicle had bumped her car in the parking lot. "I came outside, getting ready to speak with the driver, and just looking in I could tell that the driver was unconscious," she said.

The driver, Agnes Jackson, was in cardiac arrest.

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Blog Archive

- ▶ 2023 (11)
- ▶ 2022 (249)
- ▼ 2021 (269)
 - ▶ 12/12 - 12/19 (7)
 - ▶ 12/05 - 12/12 (6)
 - ▶ 11/28 - 12/05 (6)
 - ▶ 11/14 - 11/21 (4)
 - ▶ 11/07 - 11/14 (4)
 - ▶ 10/31 - 11/07 (10)
 - ▶ 10/24 - 10/31 (7)
 - ▶ 10/17 - 10/24 (5)
 - ▶ 10/10 - 10/17 (6)
 - ▶ 10/03 - 10/10 (8)
 - ▶ 09/26 - 10/03 (4)
 - ▶ 09/19 - 09/26 (4)
 - ▶ 09/12 - 09/19 (6)
 - ▶ 09/05 - 09/12 (7)
 - ▶ 08/29 - 09/05 (3)
 - ▶ 08/22 - 08/29 (7)
 - ▶ 08/15 - 08/22 (6)
 - ▶ 08/08 - 08/15 (4)
 - ▼ 08/01 - 08/08 (8)

[Meet a Med Student: Tiara Dean](#)

[Medical student aids woman in cardiac arrest](#)

[Mark your calendar for upcoming grand rounds](#)

[Register now: Paddle the Delta CME Conference](#)

[USA researchers study cat flea saliva to uncover h...](#)

[Faculty Spotlight: Benjamin Niland, M.D.](#)

[Neonatologist Kelechi Ikeri joins pediatrics faculty](#)


Brumfield opened Jackson's passenger side door and started performing the steps of CPR that she learned in medical school. Meanwhile, Starbucks manager Kenia Mose called 911 and Jackson's family to let them know what was happening.

"I just feel like it's human decency," Brumfield said. "You see someone struggling, you see someone in pain, you see someone at their most vulnerable, and you step in and help."

Jackson's daughters, Lakia Kelly and Tamika Jackson, are grateful she did. "Gabby, that's my hero," Kelly said. "She's heaven sent."

An ambulance took Jackson to a local hospital.

[Watch the full story on FOX10 News.](#)

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [11:39 AM](#) No comments: 

Mark your calendar for upcoming grand rounds

Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds

"Interesting Cases: Spine"

Jesse Trent, M.D., PGY2 resident in orthopaedics, USA Health

Friday, Aug. 6 at 7 a.m.

Zoom: <https://usahealthsystem.zoom.us/j/91854409584>

Contact: Rhonda Smith at 251-665-8251 or

rhondasmith@health.southalabama.edu

OB-GYN Grand Rounds

"Trauma-Informed Responses to Sexual Assault Disclosure"

Candice Selwyn, Ph.D., assistant professor, community/mental health nursing, USA

Friday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 a.m.

The Atlantis Room and via Zoom

Zoom registration:

https://southalabama.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrcOyprTiiHNzEXgarNapK_VhLZDLejL8o

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

Radiology Grand Rounds

"Basics of Retirement and Financial Planning"

John Heymann, M.D., diagnostic radiologist, University of Texas Medical Branch

Friday, Aug. 6 at noon

Mastin 218 and via Zoom

Zoom registration:

<https://usahealthsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIqcOCtrT0qHtSsJNPVX30zIVSYt6akLtv>

Contact: Rosie Rogers at 251-471-7920 or rogers@health.southalabama.edu

Pediatric Grand Rounds

"Best Practices for Aligning Student Feedback with Grading"

Emily Wilson, Ph.D., associate dean of faculty affairs and faculty development, USA College of Medicine

Friday, Aug. 20 at 8 a.m.

Zoom: <https://southalabama.zoom.us/j/91007689394>

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

Mental Health Grand Rounds


"Eating Disorders 201"

Daniel Preud'Homme, M.D., professor of pediatrics, USA College of Medicine
Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 8 a.m.

Zoom registration: <https://southalabama.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsf-isqjMiHtyYx3UlyuC-50kwI5E7ai2f>

Contact: Sharrie Cranford at 251-414-8080 or scanford@southalabama.edu

[See the full schedule of grand rounds on CME tracker.](#)

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [11:23 AM](#) No comments: 

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Save the date: OB-GYN Conference set for Oct. 14-15

- ▶ 07/25 - 08/01 (6)
- ▶ 07/18 - 07/25 (4)
- ▶ 07/11 - 07/18 (4)
- ▶ 07/04 - 07/11 (5)
- ▶ 06/27 - 07/04 (6)
- ▶ 06/20 - 06/27 (7)
- ▶ 06/13 - 06/20 (4)
- ▶ 06/06 - 06/13 (6)
- ▶ 05/30 - 06/06 (5)
- ▶ 05/23 - 05/30 (6)
- ▶ 05/16 - 05/23 (4)
- ▶ 05/09 - 05/16 (3)
- ▶ 05/02 - 05/09 (7)
- ▶ 04/25 - 05/02 (5)
- ▶ 04/18 - 04/25 (3)
- ▶ 04/11 - 04/18 (7)
- ▶ 04/04 - 04/11 (5)
- ▶ 03/28 - 04/04 (5)
- ▶ 03/21 - 03/28 (6)
- ▶ 03/14 - 03/21 (4)
- ▶ 03/07 - 03/14 (7)
- ▶ 02/28 - 03/07 (6)
- ▶ 02/21 - 02/28 (6)
- ▶ 02/14 - 02/21 (5)
- ▶ 02/07 - 02/14 (5)
- ▶ 01/31 - 02/07 (4)
- ▶ 01/24 - 01/31 (5)
- ▶ 01/17 - 01/24 (6)
- ▶ 01/10 - 01/17 (6)
- ▶ 01/03 - 01/10 (5)

- ▶ 2020 (191)
- ▶ 2019 (245)
- ▶ 2018 (236)
- ▶ 2017 (231)
- ▶ 2016 (206)
- ▶ 2015 (205)
- ▶ 2014 (241)
- ▶ 2013 (232)
- ▶ 2012 (245)
- ▶ 2011 (262)
- ▶ 2010 (247)
- ▶ 2009 (88)

Register now: Paddle the Delta CME Conference

The USA Department of Emergency Medicine's Wilderness Medicine Division will host Paddle the Delta, a challenging and informative continuing medical education conference, Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, at the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center on the Mobile Causeway.




The conference will bring together experts to share their research, experience and interventions surrounding wilderness medicine. Speakers include USA emergency medicine faculty: Dan Holleyman, M.D., Grace Lagasse, M.D., Raymond Maguire, M.D., Walker Plash, M.D., and Lynn Yonge, M.D.

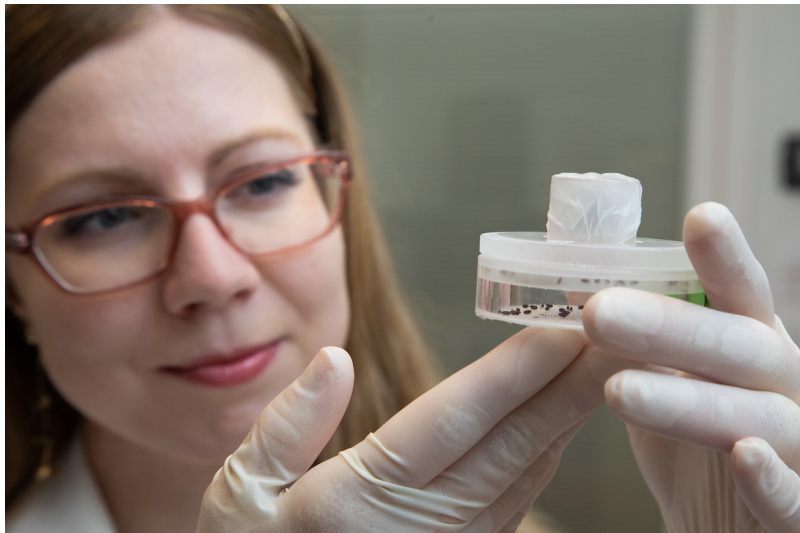
Participants will earn 14 to 17 hours of CME credits in preparation for a guided one-night wilderness expedition in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. This course has been approved for Fellowship in the Academy of Wilderness Medicine credits through the Wilderness Medical Society.

Cost is \$450 for the CME course only; or \$1,000 for the CME course, canoeing and camping.

Visit [CME Tracker](#) to view the brochure and register for the conference.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [2:51 PM](#) No comments: 

USA researchers study cat flea saliva to uncover how diseases are spread



Monika Danchenko, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in microbiology and immunology, is studying the saliva of fleas to determine how pathogens are transmitted.

With a goal of stopping the spread of diseases that infect pets and humans, scientists at the USA College of Medicine have been studying fleas – specifically the microscopic salivary glands of cat fleas – as evidence suggests several diseases are transmitted through the parasite's infected spit.

Supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health, research from USA recently was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Pathogens and Disease*. The July 2021 issue includes a research paper by Monika Danchenko, Ph.D., a

postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, titled "Dynamic Gene Expression in Salivary Glands of the Cat Flea during Rickettsia felis Infection."

Fleas are small parasites of birds and mammals whose blood-feeding can transmit a variety of serious pathogens causing diseases including bubonic plague, flea-borne rickettsioses (typhus and spotted fever) and cat scratch disease.


Work on the project began in 2018 and was interrupted – at least briefly – by the COVID-19 global health pandemic. Two others contributed to the work: Kevin Macaluso, Ph. D., professor and chair of microbiology and immunology, and graduate researcher Hanna Laukaitis.

"We hope a better understanding of what cat fleas require to feed and transmit pathogens will give physicians, veterinarians and public health officials the information needed to prevent new outbreaks of a number of diseases," Danchenko said, "and to provide more effective treatment for people and pets."

The article is timely as a rise of typhus cases have been reported in recent years in states including California and Texas. Those cases have been attributed to fleas associated with increasing populations of rodents and opossums, and requires basic science efforts to combat a serious risk to human health.

Read the full article here:

<https://academic.oup.com/femspd/article/79/5/ftab020/6189691>

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [10:03 AM](#) No comments: 

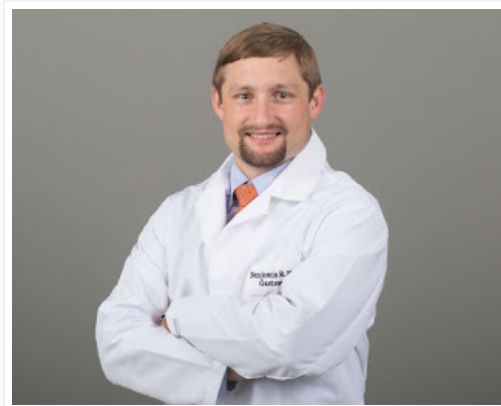
Monday, August 2, 2021

Faculty Spotlight: Benjamin Niland, M.D.

Benjamin Niland, M.D.

Academic title: Assistant professor of internal medicine; interim division director, gastroenterology; director, section on motility, gastroenterology

Joined the USA College of Medicine faculty: 2019 following completion of my fellowship training here at South



What does your position in the USA COM/USA Health entail?

I care for patients as part of my clinical duties as a gastroenterologist as well as provide leadership of the gastroenterology division, which includes day-to-day clinical operations, recruitment of new faculty, expansion of new programs, management of the GI motility service line, participation in scholarly activity, and involvement in the education of medical students, residents and GI fellows.

What is your favorite or most rewarding part of your position?

The most rewarding parts are having the ability to make a positive change in the lives of patients, and seeing the growth and development of young, future leaders in their field of work.

What research or other initiatives are you involved in?

Current initiatives involve an open-access endoscopy pathway to decrease barriers for patients in need of colon cancer screening, an acute care pathway for patients in need of more urgent outpatient GI evaluation, expansion of the GI fellowship, recruitment of GI physicians and advanced practice providers, development of the GI motility service line including new procedures and protocols to offer new services to our community. Research interests include esophageal disorders, GI motility, functional GI disease, and colon cancer screening.

What is your advice for medical students?

Develop the curiosity and skills to be a lifelong learner in your field (because your profession will require it).

Learn the business and politics of medicine as it is not always covered comprehensively in your formal education, yet it will likely be important at some point in your career.


You may have heard of "The three A's" of being a good physician: affability, availability and ability. Your education will tend to focus on ability, but I find the other two are also very important.

Keep your other interests outside of medicine, and don't let school or career consume you as a person.

What are your hobbies/interests outside of work?

My wife and three young daughters are the center of my life outside of work. I enjoy golfing, hunting, fishing, and cooking out whenever I get the chance. I am a big sports fan. We are originally from Louisiana and enjoy getting back to those Cajun roots when we visit family and friends.



Posted by Med School Watercooler at [11:57 AM](#) No comments: 

Neonatologist Kelechi Ikeri joins pediatrics faculty

USA Health Children's & Women's Hospital is expanding its interdisciplinary team of pediatric physicians with the addition of Kelechi Ikeri, MBBS, FAAP, a neonatologist who joins the region's only level III neonatal intensive care unit to care for extremely premature infants.

"I love taking care of newborns," Ikeri said. "Neonatology gives me an opportunity to go into the physiology and reasons behind the illnesses that children can face."




Ikeri, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the USA College of Medicine, said he was drawn to USA Health because of the patient population's wide range of complexity and cases: "They afford you the opportunity to progress in your career in terms of clinical experience and quality improvement."

Ikeri was born in Nigeria and earned a bachelor of medicine and surgery degree from the University of Lagos College of Medicine in Idi-Araba, in Lagos, Nigeria. An interest in critical care medicine, he said, attracted him to neonatology.

He worked in hospitals in Nigeria and the island of Tobago before moving to the United States in 2015. Ikeri completed a pediatric residency at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Centre in Brooklyn, New York in 2018 and completed a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, Pa., in June 2021.

He is certified in general pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics, and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association and American College of Medical Quality.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at [11:48 AM](#) No comments: 

Save the date: OB-GYN Conference set for Oct. 14-15


The 29th Annual Obstetrics and Gynecology Conference is set for Oct. 14-15, 2021. This year's conference will be virtual.



This event will be of particular interest to OB-GYN physicians, family medicine physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, nurse midwives, ultrasonographers, and other healthcare professionals associated with obstetrics and gynecology.

Continuing medical education credits will be provided for physicians, nurses and social workers.

Details, including a list of speakers and where to register, will be available in the next few weeks. For more information, call 251-415-1496 or [visit the OB-GYN Conference page](#).

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