

Med School Watercooler

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Escobar joins the MCI as medical oncologist and hematologist

Following an internal medicine residency at USA Health and a three-year oncology fellowship at the USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute, Daisy E. Escobar, M.D. joins the cancer center as a medical oncologist and hematologist. Additionally, Escobar is an assistant professor of interdisciplinary clinical oncology at the MCI.

Prior to entering her residency, Escobar worked in clinical trials at the MCI, focusing on gynecologic oncology. The opportunity to learn about clinical research deeply influenced

Escobar's decision to stay within the university's health system for her residency and fellowship, as she was able to offer hope to patients and be a part of a field where research is transforming lives.

"Working in an academic health system allows me the ability to teach, mentor and conduct research, help to advance the field and support the next generation of professionals, and create a ripple effect that extends my impact beyond my immediate practice," said Escobar. In addition, the ability to provide representation as a Hispanic female was a meaningful part of her decision to stay at the MCI.

Escobar said being able to offer hope and support to patients during times of grief and uncertainty is her favorite and most rewarding part of her job. "We are not just treating illnesses but also making the journey more bearable and hopeful for those facing some of the toughest times in their lives," Escobar said.

During her residency and fellowship, Escobar served as the appointed residency representative for the Graduate Medical Education Committee. She was the vice chair for the House Staff Council, a co-chief medical oncology and hematology fellow and the winner of the Women in Cancer Immunotherapy Network (WIN) Leadership Institute and Travel award in 2023.

Escobar attended medical school at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine in Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. Prior to residency, she completed a pre-internship program at Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester in New Rochelle, New York.

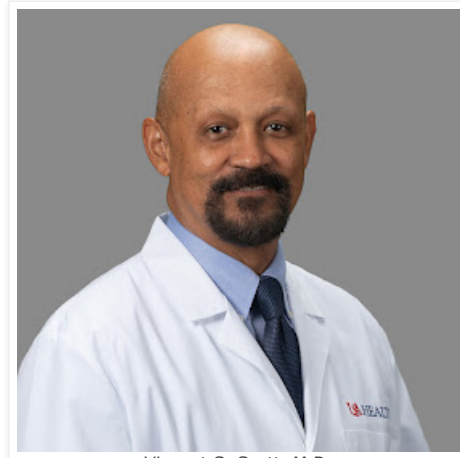
Escobar's husband, Jose Sanchez, M.D., also works at USA Health as a neuromuscular neurologist and an assistant professor of neurology at the



Daisy E. Escobar, M.D.



USA Health welcomes new urogynecologist



Vincent S. Scott, M.D.

Vincent S. Scott, M.D., an experienced physician and surgeon, recently joined USA Health Urogynecology and Pediatric Urology. He is board certified in urogynecology and pelvic reconstructive surgery and has performed more than 4,000 pelvic and incontinence procedures during his career.

Urogynecology is a subspecialty devoted to the treatment of pelvic floor disorders. The pelvic floor is the term used for the set of muscles in the bottom of the pelvis that support pelvic organs including the bladder, uterus and rectum.

Scott treats disorders of the pelvic floor that include urinary and fecal incontinence, overactive bladder, vaginal pain and pain during intercourse, fistulas, and prolapse (bulging) of the bladder, uterus or rectum through the vaginal opening.

He worked in private practice for more than 30 years in Georgia and most recently served on the faculty at the Medical University of South Carolina as an assistant professor.

Scott is a fellow of the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery. He also is a member of the American Urogynecologic Society.

"I take pride in relating well to patients of all backgrounds and socioeconomic situations," Scott said. "Face-to-face patient care is what I love the most and is why I continue to practice medicine."

Scott earned a degree in medicine from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He completed a residency at the Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center at the University of Chicago.

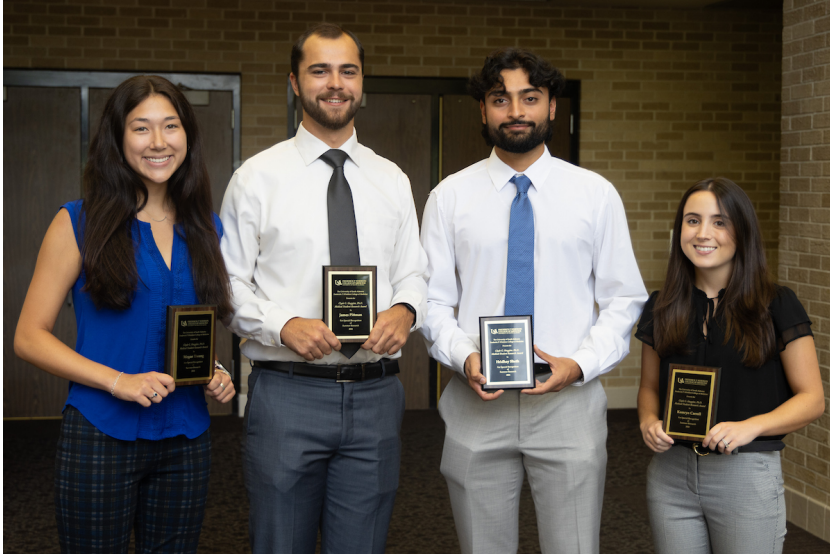
As part of the Gulf Coast's only academic health system, Scott also serves as an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology, urogynecology and pelvic reconstructive surgery in the Whiddon College of Medicine, helping to train the next generation of healthcare providers.

A longtime medical volunteer, his service includes traveling to the Dominican Republic for 10 years for Medical Ministries International for surgical mission trips as well as taking part in Remote Area Medical clinics across rural Tennessee.

Scott is accepting new patients at USA Health Urogynecology and Pediatric Urology, 3290 Dauphin Street, Suite 301 in Mobile. To make an appointment, call 251-361-2306.



Medical students recognized for excellence in summer research



Winners of the Clyde G. Huggins Award for Summer Research, from left, are Megan Hwang, James Pittman, Hridhay Sheth and Kamryn Carroll.

The Whiddon College of Medicine recently announced the top oral and poster presentations from the 51st Annual Medical Student Summer Research Day. These exceptional students have demonstrated outstanding dedication, creativity and excellence in the research projects they worked on as part of the Medical Student Summer Research Program.

Winners of the Clyde G. Huggins Award for Summer Research, all second-year medical students, each received a plaque and a \$100 prize. The award honors the memory of Clyde G. "Sid" Huggins, who served as the first dean of students at the Whiddon College of Medicine.

This year's oral presentation winner is:

- **Kamryn Carroll:** "Trained Immunity provides protection against *pseudomonas aeruginosa* keratitis"
Sponsored by: Robert Barrington, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology

The focus of Carroll's research was the innate immune system and its role in protecting against bacterial keratitis, a serious infection of the cornea.

"Our goal was to use the concept of trained immunity to increase the effectiveness of the innate immune system in the face of infection," she said. "Overall, our findings pointed to trained immunity as a potential therapeutic strategy to reduce the occurrence and severity of *pseudomonas* keratitis."

Carroll said she had a very positive experience in the summer research program. She is grateful for the mentorship she received from Barrington and the lab members who trained her.

"I learned so much about the research process as a whole and learned new lab techniques," she said. "This experience helped me to grow in many areas, and the skills I learned will continue to benefit me throughout medical school and beyond."



Kamryn Carroll with Robert Barrington, Ph.D.

Winners in the poster presentation category are:

1. **Hridhay Sheth:** "The impact of the SmartBx system on prostate cancer detection"
Sponsored by: Jatinder Kumar, M.D., Department of Urology
2. **James Pittman:** "Investigating the role of WNK1 in modulating the cancer cell and CAF interaction"
Sponsored by: Debanjan Chakroborty, Ph.D., Department of Pathology
3. **Megan Hwang:** "Genotypic characterization of mutations in antiviral resistant HSV-2 genital lesion"
Sponsored by: Robert Barrington, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Sheth evaluated the SmartBx biopsy management system, its impact on prostate cancer detection, and its accuracy in detecting cancer. His project was a retrospective analysis involving more than 500 prostate cancer biopsy patients at University Hospital, spanning from 2019 to 2024.

"Our findings were quite exciting," he said. "We discovered that the SmartBx system significantly increases the detection of clinically significant cancers and shows greater accuracy in predicting the presence of prostate cancer compared to the standard collection system."

His experience in the program was "both enriching and transformative," he said. "It gave me the chance to dive into clinical research and work closely with Dr. Kumar, which was incredibly rewarding."

Sheth said he looks forward to sharing the research findings at future urology conferences. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to such work in prostate cancer detection," he said, "and this recognition motivates me to continue researching."



Hridhay Sheth with Jatinder Kumar, M.D.



James Pittman with Debanjan Chakroborty, Ph.D.

Pittman's project investigated the role of WNK1 protein in breast cancer progression.

He said working in Chakroborty's lab over the summer was a great experience. "Not only did I learn new experimental techniques," Pittman said, "but I also learned to improve my scientific writing and presenting."

"I am so grateful to have received this award. I am also appreciative of my mentors who helped me

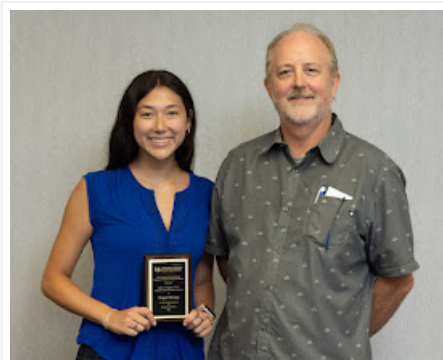
with this project," he added.

Hwang's research aimed to genotype a strain of herpes simplex virus 2 that is resistant to antiviral medication. The team found novel mutations in the viral DNA polymerase gene that might contribute to the resistance.

"My experience in the Medical Student Summer Research Program was incredibly fulfilling," she said. "I was able to learn numerous laboratory techniques with the help of my mentors. Furthermore, I was able to learn to think like a researcher instead of a medical student, which in turn will allow me to become a better physician one day."

Hwang said she is humbled to have received an award for her poster: "My classmates had phenomenal projects and presentations, so it is surreal to me

that mine was chosen.”



Megan Hwang with Robert Barrington, Ph.D.

Posted by Med School Watercooler at 9:25AM



BMS graduate students join lab 'matches': Part 2

At the end of their first year of studies, students in the Basic Medical Sciences Graduate Program choose a major professor who will mentor them throughout the program. This selection also determines the students' program track affiliation. Then, at the beginning of their second year, they join the labs with which they "matched," and this lab home is where they will conduct research for their dissertation through graduation.

This year, 10 BMS graduate students joined labs. This week, meet the second group of five students:

Manley Hicks

Age: 23

Hometown: Louisa, VA

Education: B.S. in natural sciences, concentration in cell and molecular biology; Pensacola Christian College

BMS track and faculty mentor: Infectious Disease and Host Defense; Michael "Rusty" Elliott, Ph.D.

Research focus: Macrophage hypophagia in cancer immunotherapies

Why did you choose to join this lab?

The mentor. While I love getting to work at MCI with my amazing coworkers, I would never have joined if Dr. Elliott wasn't the man he is. My mentor is a top-tier scientist that cares for his students and wants us to become the best we can be. He is always available and more than willing to help while also not hovering, allowing us a healthy degree of independence. I'm getting to learn about a fascinating research field from an accomplished scientist, and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to be his student. Shoutout to my lab mates Brianna, Mita, and Mary!



Hoa Thi Tran

Age: 38

Hometown: Binh Phuoc, Vietnam

Education: B.Sc. in biotechnology and M.Sc. in microbiology; Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City University of Science

BMS program track and faculty mentor: Infectious Disease and Host Defense; Jonathon Audia, Ph.D.

Research focus: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection that causes inflammation and pyroptosis in lung endothelial cells

Why did you choose to join this lab?

My research interest is studying the mechanism of bacterial infection and host immunity. I also love to learn about genetics and cell biology, so I chose the Audia lab where I have many chances to work with DNA, RNA and protein. The



important reason is I have a great mentor who is willing to teach me not only the biological knowledge background but also a lot of research skills. Moreover, department admin staff and other professors do care about the students and help the students when they need help. After working in this lab for several months, I believe that I made a good decision.

Jonathan Cortez

Age: 23

Hometown: Bolingbrook, IL

Education: B.S. in cell and molecular biology; Pensacola Christian College

Faculty mentor: Marie Migaud, Ph.D.

Research focus: NAD metabolism and impacts of oxidized NAD

Why did you choose to join this lab?

I wanted to challenge myself in my Ph.D., and I felt like joining an organic synthesis lab would provide a unique challenge and a variety of experience in science. Dr. Migaud is teaching me to do organic synthesis as well as allowing me to pursue biology, so it was a good opportunity to grow in two fields.



Rebecca Tang-Holmes

Age: 32

Hometown: Irvington, AL

Education: B.S. in cardiorespiratory sciences, Master of Business Administration; University of South Alabama

BMS program track and faculty

mentor: Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Biology; Silas Leavesley, Ph.D., and Tom Rich, Ph.D.

Research focus: Detection of cancer-related spectral signatures in neoplastic tissues using excitation-scanning hyperspectral imaging techniques

Why did you choose to join this lab?

I was a respiratory therapist for 10 years before matriculating into the Basic Medical Sciences Ph.D. program, and my clinical experience is largely what influences my interest in translational medicine. The technological development work of Drs. Leavesley and Rich has fueled my intrigue, and the other members of the lab – Dr. Naga Annamdevula and Santina Johnson – continue to inspire me on a daily basis in various aspects of life. Plus, it's fun! I am excited to have a hand in potentiating the transition of their technology from benchtop to bedside one day. So, stay tuned!



Michael Shaw

Age: 24

Hometown: Newnan, GA

Education: B.S. in biology and B.S. in information technology; Georgia Southern University

BMS program track and faculty

mentor: Biomedical Engineering & Bioinformatics; Glen Borchert, Ph.D.

Research focus: The role of DNA secondary structure in mediating interactions between genetic regulatory elements and how their perturbation affects the severity of various disease states

Why did you choose to join this lab?

I've always been interested in genetics, and this lab conducts cutting-edge research within that realm of science, with notoriety in both the amount of publications it produces and their quality. I also thoroughly enjoy working with the other members of the lab, and I really appreciate the mentoring style and lab



culture Dr. Borchert provides to his students. It is also a nice plus knowing that the Borchert Lab is well funded.

Posted by [Med School Watercooler](#) at [8:00AM](#)



Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Goodloe follows family path to emergency medicine

For Travis Bedsole Goodloe III, M.D., an emergency medicine physician at USA Health and an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Whiddon College of Medicine, being an ER doc is in his blood.

As a child, he listened to stories from his grandfather – Travis Bedsole Goodloe Sr., M.D. – about interesting patients and cases he encountered in the emergency department. His grandfather started in pediatrics, but he transitioned to emergency medicine during the infancy of the specialty, having never completed formal residency training in the field.



Travis Bedsole Goodloe III, M.D.

Goodloe's path to emergency medicine continued to develop while he was an undergrad at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. During his freshman year, he took an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic course and became a certified EMT. He worked throughout college for the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad in Farmville, Virginia, as well as the Hampden-Sydney Volunteer Fire Department.

Due to his experience in EMS, he matriculated into medical school at the Whiddon College of Medicine fairly certain that emergency medicine was going to be his career path. While a medical student, he was named to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and received the Merck Award, given to the senior student who demonstrated superior academic achievement. He also received the Department of Emergency Medicine's Award of Excellence for outstanding performance and academic excellence in emergency medicine.

Goodloe received a medical degree from the Whiddon College of Medicine in 2020. He completed his residency training in emergency medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, followed by a one-year EMS fellowship at UTHealth Houston.

Now, he's back in his hometown of Mobile, excited to make a difference at USA Health and the Whiddon College of Medicine.

"When my wife and I moved to Birmingham for my residency, we knew that we would ultimately return to Mobile," Goodloe said. "We are both lifelong Mobilians, and this is the community where I have always wanted the impact of my career as a physician to be, just like my grandfather.

"During my medical school years, I was continually impressed with the strides that USA Health was making as a health system. I wanted to be a part of that growth, and thus I am very happy to be back!"

Goodloe's role will extend beyond the emergency department due to his extensive background and training in EMS. Over the next few weeks and months, he will be getting involved in the prehospital environment with many local EMS partners.

"Being in a position to deliver emergent care/comfort to a patient during their most critical or desperate time is unique and a privilege not to be taken lightly,"

he said. "I find these interactions incredibly rewarding, especially when we have the ability to positively affect a patient's life."

Goodloe is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Medical Association, the National Association of EMS Physicians, and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.