

Gundersen Medical Foundation

# Medical Research Newsletter

[Department Website](#)

## Message from Leadership . . .

Autumn is my favorite time of year. I love the cool, clear mornings, the soft light, and the sense of opportunity that accompanies the beginning of a new school year. This fall more than ever, I am grateful for the chance to delve into new things, for in-person school, and for the conversation and collaboration that can occur when we gather face to face.

To each of you - thank you for welcoming me. It has been exciting to learn more about the amazing work happening here. I am just beginning to grasp the scope of the current work and see the opportunities to grow research at Gundersen. I am honored to be a part of this team.

As you will see from this newsletter, despite the continued challenges of Covid (thank you for your continued support of the system efforts!), we have had a productive summer in each area of the Research department. The list of publications is long and varied. All of Us continues to work with the community to increase awareness and recruit patients. The Summer Research Fellow program was a tremendous success - I continue to hear great feedback from colleagues who attended the presentations. The lab at the HSC has submitted grants, published papers, and is again focused on their core projects. The clinical research team has been busy both with recruiting patients for trials and assisting with the Covid system efforts. Nursing research is helping us to better understand the intersection between social determinants and healthcare.

In the weeks to come, I look forward to learning more about what you do and finding ways to integrate research into the day-to-day work with the GHS system. Please feel free to reach out at any point – even if it is just to say hello.

Kind regards,  
Jennie

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*Jennifer Kleven, MD*  
Medical Director

## Meet the New Medical Director of Research!

Jennifer Kleven, MD, MPH is a pediatrician and child health advocate. She has lived and worked in the La Crosse area for the past 18 years with her husband of 21 years, James, their 4 children Sonja (20), Noah (18), Caroline (16) and Greta (11) and their 2 dogs – Odin and Nala.



Born and raised in Rochester, MN, she attended University of Wi - Madison as an undergraduate and then went on to medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She did her first 2 years of Pediatrics residency at Primary Children's in Salt Lake City and then joined her husband in Seattle and completed her 3rd year of residency at Seattle Children's.

Dr. Kleven's commitment to serving children and families has driven her career and community involvement. Dr.

Kleven worked as a general pediatrician in Seattle for her first 2 years in practice. After moving to La Crosse, she worked as a locums pediatrician at Gundersen and then joined the Onalaska Peds team in Jan of 2006. She transitioned to a hospitalist practice in 2010. While her clinical work became focused in the hospital, her passion continued to be prevention. With this focus in mind, she received a Masters of Public Health Policy and Administration in 2017 from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Kleven continues to serve as a Pediatric Hospitalist and the Chair for the Department of Pediatrics. Outside of work, Dr. Kleven has devoted her time to her family and to a variety of local organizations including the Children's Museum, the Onalaska schools, and the Y - Healthy Living Center. She founded PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health) La Crosse Chapter, and most recently, is serving as Vice President of the Wisconsin American Academy of Pediatrics. She enjoys spending time together with husband and their kids at every opportunity – from the routine of day-to-day meals and carpools, to traveling, skiing, and sitting around a fire in their little cabin in Northern MN.



## *All of Us*

Over the summer, *All of Us* staff had the opportunity to engage in-person at local Farmers Markets, State Fairs, and a few concerts. It has been a pleasure to talk with folks about the benefits available to participants in the *All of Us* Research Program. We have learned quite a bit about our community and are sincerely looking forward to meeting new people while continuing to spread the word about the program. Come visit us at one of our upcoming events this fall!

### Fall *All of Us* Events

9/11 Steppin' Out in Pink

9/16 @ 11am *All of Us* & COVID Vaccine WebEx Presentation with Dr. [www.facebook.com/AllofUsGundersen](https://www.facebook.com/AllofUsGundersen)

9/18 - 9/19 Applefest La Crescent

10/1 - 10/2 Oktoberfest



**Name:** Luke McEldowney

**Title:** Wellness Education Specialist

**Start Date:** 05/03/2021

**Office Location:** Medical Research (5th Floor)

**Background:** Luke is a military veteran who has been serving for over 10 years. He spent four years on active duty in the Navy and has been in the Air Force Reserves for the last six plus years. He has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Oregon State University and his graduate degree from the University of Western States in Sport and Performance Psychology. Now, he is in a doctoral program studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Sport and Performance Psychology at UWS. Before joining the team at Gundersen, he spent the last 5 years in higher education working as an advisor or in athletics. He is currently an

Assistant Coach for Viterbo Men's Volleyball and the UWL Women's Volleyball team. Using his background in coaching and sport psychology, he is also an aspiring entrepreneur providing services for athletes to improve their mental game and overall wellness. He has been hired to speak on these topics for events and conferences, as well.

Luke lives in Onalaska with his wife, Angie. They have two boys, Theo (5) and Archie (3), with another one arriving soon! They also have two dogs, Sydney and Stevie. In his free time, Luke enjoys being active, playing sports, and getting outdoors with his family. They love hiking, biking, swimming, and snowboarding!

**Name:** Sydney Eberhardt

**Title:** Clinical Research Coordinator

**Start Date:** 06/01/2021

**Office Location:** Onalaska

**Background:** I am originally from Madison, WI. I recently finished my undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse in Psychology and a minor in Ethnic and Racial Studies. My hobbies are going to concerts, kayaking, boating, and anything outside during the summertime. This position is my first role here at Gundersen and I am very excited to be a part of the Gundersen team.



## Health Science Consortium Labs

### Lab Updates

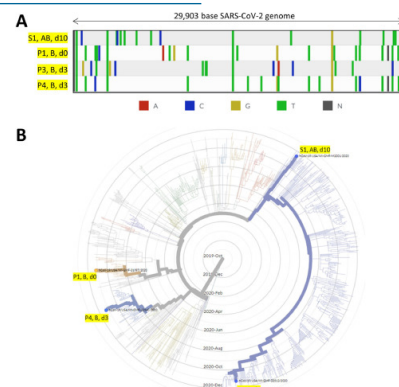
The Virology Research Lab is going to be starting a bacteriophage (phage) therapy research enterprise in which phage is collected and characterized for use against multi-drug resistant bacterial infections under FDA-approved compassionate care guidelines. In addition, the lab will begin to investigate ways in which they can create better phage through genetic engineering. This is work that Dr. Darby Oldenburg initiated this summer with some progress made in collecting phage that are active against MRSA and uropathogenic E. coli.



Dr. Oldenburg also has a new collaborator at Rice University, and they are working to generate a bacterial artificial chromosome of a phage that infects *Fusobacterium necrophilum*, so that they can make targeted mutations in the phage and hopefully improve its ability to kill this bacterium.

Steve Callister from the Microbiology Research Laboratory and Colleagues from New York Medical College were awarded a US Patent for a new Lyme disease test that offers promise of earlier detection of the illness and accurate confirmation of successful treatment. The researchers are currently partnering with a major commercial company to perform studies necessary for FDA approval of the new test.

The researchers also recently published new data in support of this possibility in Clinical Infectious Diseases (Arnaboldi PM, D'Arco C, Y Hester, S Nolan, DA Jobe, SM Callister, PM Arnaboldi, RJ Dattwyler. 2021. Detection of IFN- $\gamma$  secretion in blood samples collected before and after treatment of varying stages of Lyme disease).



Dr. Paraic Kenny's team recently published studies on a [new antibody-drug conjugate that they developed for breast cancer treatment](#), on the use of viral genome sequencing to [evaluate potential COVID19 outbreaks in clinical settings](#), and two studies describing how unusual BRAF mutations caused [melanoma](#) and [colorectal cancer](#) development.



## Nursing Research & EBP

- Continuing to build on the data from this year's Summer Fellow study, Nursing Research is conducting an expanded study related to Social Determinants of Health and diabetes, cholesterol, HTN, and obesity.
- Nursing Research continues to analyze the GunderKids data in relation to precursors of maltreatment to support the pediatric care coordination program for vulnerable populations.

### BACKGROUND

#### Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

- Non-clinical factors that influence health outcomes
  - Environment people are born, grow, work, live, and age in<sup>1</sup>
- Account for 80% of health outcomes,<sup>3</sup> cost \$77 billion annually,<sup>3</sup> and highlight health disparities<sup>3</sup>
  - Screening for SDoH is increasingly important
- Health Conditions:
  - Obesity is a BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, affects >40% of adults<sup>2</sup>
  - Hypertension (HTN) is a blood pressure of  $\geq 140/90$ mmHg<sup>2</sup>
- Obesity and HTN occur at greater rates in rural counties; lead to more complex conditions<sup>2</sup>

## Nursing Research on the Green



We are delighted to announce that the 2022 Dahlberg Scholar and keynote speaker for Nursing Research on the Green will be Sherry Chesak, PhD, MS, RN. Dr Chesak conducts a research program for Mayo Health System in Rochester, MN that focuses on promoting resilience among health care professionals and family caregivers. She focuses primarily on the efficacy of mindfulness-based interventions and Stress Management and Resiliency Training (SMART).

Christine Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN 2021's Dahlberg Scholar was honored by the Foundation through the purchase of several books on the topic of biomedical ethics for the Gunderesen Health Science Library. These books are now available for anyone who might be interested in expanding their knowledge on the subject of ethics!

For more information on the books and how to check them out, [view the article from Nursing News](#).



## Clinical Research

### Use of a Predictive Joint Tensioning Tool Improved the Final Balance in Total Knee Arthroplasties



This study aimed at comparing the impact of a predictive digital joint tensioning tool on intra-operative joint balance and joint balance and flexion joint laxity on patient-reported outcomes. Improved outcomes were found in balanced knees, however failure to achieve MCID suggests further studies may be required to define optimal balance targets. You can read more about this study by visiting: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00402-021-04043-3>

Study: [LIAISON® Lyme Detect®](#)

PI's: Dr Steve Callister and Dr Arick Sabin

Number of patients enrolled at GHS to date: 31

Contact to enroll a patient: Sara Meyers x50238 or Research RN on-call  
Gundersen Research Foundation is currently enrolling patients with early Lyme Disease into a clinical trial that examines the next generation of diagnostic technologies in a bid to improve the identification of Lyme Disease in our patients. The study aims to identify and evaluate novel immunological markers of active disease in lieu of using the existing imprecise methods that depend on serology. Patients with suspected or confirmed early Lyme Disease may be eligible for enrollment.



## Hem/Onc Research

### Study Shows High-Intensity Anticoagulation in Patients with Severe COVID-19 Does Not Extend Life Expectancy or Prevent Blood Clots

Gundersen Health System study, newly published in the *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, compared outcomes in hospitalized adults with severe COVID-19 treated with standard prophylactic versus intermediate dose enoxaparin, but the optimal prophylactic anticoagulation therapy remains uncertain. Find out more on this study by visiting:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jth.15450>



## Investigator Initiated Research

The 72nd Southwestern Surgical Congress annual meeting was held in Maui, Hawaii, at the beginning of September. Gundersen's surgery department was well represented at this year's annual meeting, with three residents presenting their recent research.



**Bronson Bomkamp**, a PGY IV General Surgery resident, presented his research study titled "Temporal Artery Biopsy: When is it worth the headache?" Dr. Bomkamp's study focused on temporal artery biopsies and the subsequent development of a risk stratification tool to triage patients and avoid unnecessary temporal artery biopsies or steroids. The next steps for this study include incorporating ultrasound into the diagnosis process in a prospective study to assess whether patients can avoid TAB altogether.

**Rachel Seiler**, a PGY IV General Surgery resident, also presented her research titled "Inpatient Nutrition Choices and 30-day Post-Operative Morbidity and Mortality in Surgery Patients." This study was designed to evaluate whether the quality and quantity of inpatient food choices affect 30-day postoperative morbidity and mortality. Future steps for this study include utilizing a larger study pool of patients and expanding healthful nutrition choices before and after surgery as logical next research steps to improve surgical outcomes regarding patient nutritional decisions.



**Faraz Khan**, a PGY General Surgery, resident presented his research titled "Tube Thoracostomy Placement Technique – Can adjusting the angle and direction of tube thoracostomy placement decrease fissure tubes' likelihood?" This study aimed to identify if adjusting the angle of tube insertion at the time of placement could decrease the chance of a chest tube being placed in the fissure. This study showed that tube thoracostomy placement from the contralateral angle was associated with a significantly decreased chance of placing the chest tube within the lung fissure. This technique requires no changes to standard chest tube placement set up, time, cost, or equipment, and it could decrease the chance of patients requiring further intervention to manage a hemothorax, pneumothorax, or effusion due to misplaced tubes.



## Summer Fellow Presentations 2021



Pictured (L-R), Backrow: Palwisha Mukhtar, Rory Campbell, Matthew Casmey, Andrew Blanker, Tiana Carlson, Front row: Aditya Ailiani, Ally Ecklund, Kayla Feehan, Emily Barthel, Claire Curtis, Laure Priem, Jennifer Kleven, MD

Another year of the Student Summer Research Fellow program has just finished up, and we would like to congratulate this year's fellows on all of their hard work this summer. Their presentations went splendidly, and many of the featured projects will continue on for further findings and presentations at conferences. Listed below is this year's Summer Fellows, their sponsors (who make this program possible), the projects they worked on, and the study teams they worked with.

Aditya Ailiani, *Bariatric Surgery*

**Adolf L. Gundersen, MD Fellow**

"The Impact of Bariatric Surgery on Respiratory Outcomes"

Mentors: Joshua Pfeiffer, MD, Brandon Grover, DO & Alec Fitzsimmons, MPH

Emily Barthel, *Behavioral Medicine*

**Joan Curran Memorial Fellow**

"Effects of Prenatal Methamphetamines and Heroin Exposure on Children"

Mentors: Charles Schauburger, MD, Kavita Kanwar, MD & Mary Oldenburg, MS, RHIT

Andrew Blanker, *Family Medicine*

**Bernard & Sally Kuebler-Killoran Fellow**

"Follow-Up after Elevated Fasting Blood Glucose Screening"

Mentors: Paul Klas, MD, MacKenzie Bruce, MD & Mary Oldenburg, MS, RHIT

Rory Campbell, *Pediatric Behavioral Medicine*

**Lommen Family Fellow**

"Integrated Characteristics and Socioeconomic Impact on Behavioral Health Outcomes"

Mentors: Allison Allmon-Dixon, PhD, Brady Nelson, MD & Kristin Swartz, PhD

Tiana Carlson, *Medical Oncology & Interventional Radiology*

**Kenneth & Mildred Kuebler Fellow**

"Post Implementation Impact of a Systemic Multidisciplinary Approach for Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Filter Utilization and Retrieval"

Mentors: Benjamin Parsons, MD, Kurt Ziegelbein, MD, Andrew Horstman, PA, Brian Sowka, DO & Mary Oldenburg, MS, RHIT

Matthew Casmey, *Medical Oncology & Pathology*

**Gertrude Salzer Gordon Fellow**

"Clinicopathologic Analysis of PD-L1 Biomarkers in Patients with Advanced Malignancies Receiving Immunotherapy"

Mentors: David E. Marinier, MD, Grzegorz Gurda, MD & Susan Frankki, MS

Claire Curtis, *Behavioral Medicine*

**Sharon & George Kerckhove Fellow**

"The Impact of Eating Disorder and Mood Symptoms on Outpatient Eating Disorder Treatment Adherence"

Mentors: Afton Koball, PhD, ABPP, Sarah Long, PhD, Abigail Krueger, DO & Alec Fitzsimmons, MPH

Ally Ecklund, *Bariatric Surgery & Anesthesiology*

**John & Nettie Mooney Fellow**

"The Impact of Enhanced Recovery Protocol for Patients Undergoing Bariatric Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass and Sleeve Gastrectomy"

Mentors: Kate Mellion, MD, Beth VanderWielen, MD & Alec Fitzsimmons, MPH

Kayla Feehan, *Medical Oncology*

**Jerry & Anna Beth Culver Fellow**

"Real World Validation of VTE Risk Models in Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma in a Community Setting"

Mentors: Lori Rosenstein, MD, Shivani Kapur, MD & Susan Frankki, MS

Lauren Priem, *Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice*

**Dr. A.C.V. & Mary M. Elston Fellow**

"A Close Look at Hypertension, Obesity and Social Determinants of Health in a Rural Clinic"

Mentors: Karen Hayter, PhD, RN, Serina Johnson, MSN, PHN, RN & Dawn Steffes

Palwisha Mukhtar, *Cardiology*

**Desmond & Lucille Harris Fellow**

Ward E. Brown, MD and Ward M. Brown, MD Fellow

"Appropriate Use of ARNI as a Part of Guideline Directed Medical Therapy for Systolic Heart Failure"

Mentors: Raju Ailiani, MD, Matthew Eidenschink, MD, Sarah Holthe, APNP, Joseph Mueller, MD & Kristin Swartz, PhD

Recordings of this year's Student Summer Fellow Presentations can be found at:

<https://mediasite.gundluth.org/Mediasite/Channel/mediasiteadmin-summer-fellows-2021>



## Publications since May

1. Arnaboldi PM, D'Arco C, Hefter Y, Nolan S, Jobe DA, Callister SM, Dattwyler RJ. Detection of IFN- $\gamma$  Secretion in Blood Samples Collected Before and After Treatment of Varying Stages of Lyme Disease. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2021 May 27;ciab503. doi:[10.1093/cid/ciab503](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab503). Online ahead of print. PMID: [34043758](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34043758/)
2. Borgert A, Foley BL, Live D. Contrasting the Conformational Effects of  $\alpha$ -O-GalNAc and  $\alpha$ -O-Man Glycan Protein Modifications and Their Impact on the Mucin-Like Region of alpha-dystroglycan. *Glycobiology.* 2021;31(5):649-661. doi:[10.1093/glycob/cwaa112](https://doi.org/10.1093/glycob/cwaa112). PMID: 33295623
3. Dean O, Anjum S, Hess B, Hammoud DA, Athas D, Wheat J, Williamson PR. Central Nervous System Histoplasma-Associated Post-infectious Inflammatory Response Syndrome (Histo-PIIRS). *J Clin Immunol.* 2021;41(3):545-551. doi:[10.1007/s10875-020-00954-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10875-020-00954-9). PMID: [33387157](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33387157/)
4. DeBoer AM, Mellion KM, Frankki SM, Kallies KJ, Grover BT, Pfeiffer JD, Kothari SN. Pre-screening for bariatric surgery patients: comparative effectiveness of transnasal endoscopy versus esophagogastroduodenoscopy. *Surg Endosc.* 2021;35(8):4153-4159. doi:[10.1007/s00464-020-07892-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00464-020-07892-y). PMID: [32797285](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32797285/)
5. Fineman S, Mahr T, Oppenheimer J, Lee GB. From the Pages of AllergyWatch: May 2021. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2021;126(5):605-606. doi:[10.1016/j.anai.2021.02.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anai.2021.02.001). PMID: [33556532](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33556532/)
6. Fineman SM, Lee GB, Mahr T, Chipps BE. From the pages of AllergyWatch®. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2021;126(4):444-445. doi:[10.1016/j.anai.2021.01.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anai.2021.01.005). PMID: [33450395](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33450395/)
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8. Foley RP, Koball AM, Kallies KJ, Domoff SE. Emergency Department Encounters, Hospital Admissions, Course of Treatment, and Follow-Up Care for Behavioral Health Concerns in Patients after Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass Surgery. *Surg Obes Relat Dis.* 2021 May 15:S1550-7289(21)00247-1. doi:[10.1016/j.soard.2021.05.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soard.2021.05.014). Online ahead of print. PMID: [34103252](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34103252/)
9. Garcia S, Dehghani P, Grines C, Davidson L, Nayak KR, Saw J, Waksman R, Blair J, Akshay B, Garberich R, Schmidt C, Ly HQ, Sharkey S, Mercado N, Alfonso CE, Misumida N, Acharya D, Madan M, Hafiz AM, Javed N, Shavadia J, Stone J, Alraies MC, Htun W, Downey W, Bergmark BA, Ebinger J, Alyousef T, Khalili H, Hwang CW, Purow J, Llanos A, McGrath B, Tannenbaum M, Resar J, Bagur R, Cox-Alomar P, Stefanescu Schmidt AC, Cilia LA, Jaffer FA, Gharacholou M, Salinger M, Case B, Kabour A, Dai X, Elkhateeb O, Kobayashi T, Kim HH, Roumia M, Aguirre FV, Rade J, Chong AY, Hall HM, Amlani S, Bagherli A, Patel RAG, Wood DA, Welt FG, Giri J, Mahmud E, Henry TD; Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions, the Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology, and the American College of Cardiology Interventional Council. Initial Findings From the North American COVID-19 Myocardial Infarction Registry. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2021;77(16):1994-2003. doi:[10.1016/j.jacc.2021.02.055](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2021.02.055). PMID: [33888249](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33888249/)
10. Gomez-Cardona D, Favazza CP, Leng S, Schueler BA, Fetterly KA. Task-Specific Efficient Channel Selection and Bias Management for Gabor Function Channelized Hotelling Observer Model for the Assessment of X-Ray Angiography System Performance. *Med Phys.* 2021;48(7):3638-3653. doi:[10.1002/mp.14813](https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.14813). PMID: [33656177](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33656177/)
11. Katzman BM, Kelley BR, Deobald GR, Myhre NK, Agger SA, Karon BS. Unintended Consequence of High-Dose Vitamin C Therapy for an Oncology Patient: Evaluation of Ascorbic Acid Interference With Three Hospital-Use Glucose Meters. *J Diabetes Sci Technol.* 2021;15(4):897-900. doi:[10.1177/1932296820932186](https://doi.org/10.1177/1932296820932186). PMID: [32506941](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32506941/)
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## Publications since May

14. Koball AM, Borgert AJ, Kallies KJ, Grothe K, Ames G, Gearhardt AN. Validation of the Yale Food Addiction Scale 2.0 in Patients Seeking Bariatric Surgery. *Obes Surg*. 2021;31(4):1533-1540. doi:[10.1007/s11695-020-05148-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11695-020-05148-1). PMID: [33405178](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33405178/)
15. Lee TM, Villareal CL, Meyer LM. Y-Site Compatibility of Intravenous Levetiracetam with Commonly Used Critical Care Medications. *Hosp Pharm*. 2021;56(4):282-286. doi:[10.1177/0018578719893376](https://doi.org/10.1177/0018578719893376). PMID: [34381262](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34381262/)
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