



ENDOWMENT IMPACT SUMMARY

Department of Medicine Endowments

Thank you for your support of our work in Medicine at MetroHealth. Your generosity helps our patients receive the best care possible, and it provides tomorrow's caregivers with invaluable experience. Your partnership makes it all possible. I'm pleased to share an update and highlights from the past year.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Anthony S. Tavill, MD Endowment – Supports research by Drs. Gengqing Song, who is studying the effect of transcutaneous electrical stimulation on disorders of stomach-brain interaction, and Bolin Niu, who is studying the care that minority patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receive at a safety-net hospital. Additionally, funds support education for gastrointestinal (GI) trainees, research by Medicine and GI trainees, and costs for hosting visiting professors.

Medicine Endowment – Helped to cover the cost of physician and trainee continuing medical education and conference travel and training in 2023.

Robert Ching Lam, MD Teaching Fellowship Endowment

This newer endowment will support the development of outstanding clinical educators in the MetroHealth Department of Medicine by establishing a fellowship for a junior faculty member to develop innovations in teaching. This summer, the Department of Medicine is funding Dr. Lauren Bolden as the inaugural fellow, who is developing a curriculum to teach Department of Medicine residents skills in point-of-care ultrasound.



Anita Lang, MD Endowed Lectureship

After MetroHealth Internal Medicine physician Dr. Lang died by suicide in 2020, her family established an endowment in her memory. It supports a lecture series focused on fostering a supportive medical community and promoting the advancement of

knowledge in internal medicine and women's health. Dr. Lang, who trained as both an OB-GYN and internal medicine physician, held a deep commitment to educating residents and promoting inclusivity within the medical field. With this ethos at its core, the lecture series memorializes Dr. Lang and promotes education of MetroHealth Internal Medicine residents and faculty, as well as clinicians from other departments.

During the inaugural 2023 lecture, Dr. Lang's daughter, an advocate for families affected by suicide, gave a moving introduction, and Dr. Martha Gulati, a preventative cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, addressed gender disparities in cardiac care. The 2024 lecture featured Dr. Carolyn Chan, a distinguished specialist in addiction medicine from the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine and frequent guest on the popular internal medicine podcast *The Curbsiders*.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

New Programs and Initiatives

- A state-of-the-art vector and cellular Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility was launched, which will enable quick, reliable production and processing of the latest cutting-edge cellular immunotherapies, including chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) cancer therapies—making MetroHealth the first safety-net hospital in the U.S. to offer in-house viral vector and cellular production for a wide range of medical treatments. The initiative makes CAR-T therapy and cellular immunotherapy research accessible to underserved communities in the greater Cleveland region and beyond.
- A collaboration among Endocrinology, Nuclear Medicine, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology, the MetroHealth Theragnostic Program focuses on treating thyroid cancer and other illnesses.
- Directed by Dr. Morgan Morelli, the Foot and Bone Infection Service offers streamlined care for patients with diabetic foot ulcers using best practices from multiple disciplines to decrease hospital lengths of stay and amputations.
- Started by Dr. Sohil Manvar, the Oncology-Nephrology Clinic serves oncology patients with kidney and/or electrolyte disorders.
- The American Academy of Sleep Medicine Accredited Sleep Technologist Education Program was created to train sleep technicians, and its first cohort graduated.
- A co-management service was implemented in the Behavioral Health Hospital to augment medical support for psychiatric inpatients.
- An endobronchial valve placement program began for patients with emphysema.

Milestones

- Under the leadership of Dr. Roger Ove, Radiation Oncology was named a clinical department and four radiation oncologists joined the staff.
- The Gastroenterology division had 45 abstracts accepted by national conferences and 40 articles accepted for publication—both record numbers.
- 25 caregivers across the department received Clinical Excellence Awards; 138 medical students did clinical rotations; MetroHealth Center for Cancer Research faculty mentored more than 25 post-doctoral fellows, technicians and students; and 86 residents and 35 fellows trained in our Internal Medicine Residency and Subspecialty Fellowships.

SUCCESS STORY: Unlocking the Mysteries of COVID

A 69-year-old man with a history of severe COVID, migraines and pre-diabetes was seen by the Long COVID Clinic for proximal muscle aching and difficulty sleeping. This patient, who was treated by Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation clinicians for brain fog and diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, is grateful to MetroHealth for saving his life. Cases like this one have shown that musculoskeletal complaints are frequent in Long COVID and that there is some increase in autoimmune disease after COVID. MetroHealth clinicians are collaborating with colleagues locally and nationally to learn how frequently autoimmunity occurs; long-term follow-up will create better understanding of which symptoms resolve on their own, which require other types of medicine, which are autoimmune and which are not.



Thank you again for your role in making these activities possible through your vital support. The echo of your generosity can be heard for years to come.

With gratitude,

Catherine A. Curley, MD
Interim Chair, Department of Medicine