

FACULTY MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: DR. ANU GABA



Dr. Anu Gaba is chair of the Medical Oncology Department at Roger Maris Cancer Center, service chair of Roger Maris Cancer Center and Breast Clinic, attending physician in medical oncology/hematology, and an associate professor at the UND SMHS Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Gaba completed her fellowship in hematology/oncology at Montefiore Medical Center through Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y. She completed a residency in internal medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital/Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and a residency in ophthalmology from Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital in New Delhi. She sits on the Board of Governors/Physicians Executive Committee at Sanford Health Fargo, is a member of the Physician Executive Council for the Sanford Fargo Board of Directors, and is chairperson of the Gynecology-Oncology Study Group at Roger Maris Cancer Center.

Dr. Gaba is currently involved in eight investigator-initiated research projects, is site principal investigator on six industry-sponsored research projects, and is site sub-investigator on nine industry-sponsored research projects. Some of her current investigator-initiated research projects include:

- Author and primary investigator on the trial on the accuracy of liquid biopsies when performed on thawed frozen plasma, as opposed to freshly prepared plasma.
- Site primary investigator on the Sanford Health COMPASS (Community Oncology use of Molecular profiling to Personalize the Approach to Specialized cancer treatment at Sanford) trial.
- Author and primary investigator of the Sanford Health ELSA (Evaluating targets in Localized and advanced breast cancer by Sequencing tumor DNA at diagnosis and After progression) trial.
- Co-author and site primary investigator for the GEMMA (Genetic Exploration of the Molecular basis of Malignancy in Adults) trial.

GRANT AWARDED TO DR. JURIVICH

Dr. Don Jurivich, chair of the Geriatrics Department at the UND SMHS, was recently awarded a Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grant to strengthen geriatric education, integrate geriatrics into primary care, and improve dementia care. Dr. Jurivich will work with several primary health care teams, community groups, and state agencies in the Dakota Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEP) to complete the goal set forth in the \$3.75 million grant.

The Dakota GWEP will implement evidence-based educational resources and clinical practices, PDSA cycles of change, and innovations such as interprofessional team competition and curricular engagement. To integrate geriatrics into primary health care, Age-Friendly Health Systems will be created with the help of collaborations through Institute for Healthcare Improvement action communities. The Dakota GWEP will also be educating health professionals and community members on Alzheimer's disease & related dementia

(ADRD) to help facilitate age- and dementia-friendly primary care clinics.

To assist in the completion of these tasks, four innovative teams will work in conjunction with institutional partners. Team 1 will develop educational curricula; team 2 will integrate geriatrics into primary care; team 3 will improve dementia care by adding ADRD education for health professionals and community members; and team 4 will promote GWEP partnerships and monitor the project health outcomes. The overall goal of the project is to improve the quality of health care for older adults while reducing health costs and health disparities among vulnerable elderly populations.



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Matthew Tingley has been named program director of the new Hematology/Oncology fellowship, slated to start July 2022 at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo.

A design team has been formed to work on longitudinally integrating quality improvement and patient safety into the medical school

curriculum. Dr. Bande is leading this work with team members, including Dr. Basson, Dr. Carr, Dr. Theige, Dr. Zelewski, Mallory Koshiol, Kate Syverson, and Adrienne Salentiny.



SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT FROM DR. ABE SAHMOUN



We invite the UND SMHS clinical faculty to discover the newly created Clinical Research Ideas Repository website (<https://med.UND.edu/internal-medicine/clinical-research-ideas.html>). This website will serve as a forum that connects internal medicine physicians, researchers, medical students, and residents from various disciplines

interested in addressing North Dakotans' health issues. We will provide help to clinicians interested in clinical research and connect students and residents with clinicians who have research projects with which they need assistance.

QUARTERLY NEWS

Registration has opened for three annual conferences coming up in April:

- The Society of Hospital Medicine's Annual Conference will be held April 15-18, 2020, in San Diego, Calif. Pre-registration is going on now through Feb. 4, and registration goes from Feb. 5 to April 14. For more information, go to: <https://www.hospitalmedicine.org/events/annual-conference/>
- The Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine will hold its Academic Internal Medicine Week 2020 in Tampa, Fla., from April 19-22. Early registration is going on now through March 4, with advance registration March 5-April 15 and onsite registration starting April 16. For more information, go to: <https://www.im.org/aimw2020/home>.
- The American College of Physicians will hold its annual Internal Medicine Meeting April 23-25, 2020, in Los Angeles, Calif. Pre-registration is now through Jan. 31. For more information, go to: <https://annualmeeting.acponline.org/>.

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 15-18 – Annual SHM Conference in San Diego
- April 19-22 – AAIM Academic Internal Medicine Week 2020 in Tampa
- April 23-25 – ACP annual Internal Medicine Meeting in Los Angeles
- May 15 – 2020 Internal Medicine Research Symposium
- May 28 – 2020 Internal Medicine Resident Graduation Banquet

#PROUDTOBEGIM

The Department of Internal Medicine was recently the recipient of a grant from the Society of General Internal Medicine as part of the #ProudtobeGIM campaign to promote careers in General Internal Medicine. The department will host a #ProudtobeGIM event for residents, medical students, and faculty on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, at 6 p.m. at TruBlu in Fargo. The event will be webcast to the Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Minot campuses for those who wish to participate:

- Bismarck Room 2101A
- Grand Forks Room E101
- Minot Conference Room
- You may also join the meeting via Zoom: <https://und.zoom.us/j/525175602>



CLINICIAN Q&A: DR. JOHN BASSETT

Please describe your current clinical practice.

Currently, I'm hospital employed with Sanford Health in Fargo. I do general gastroenterology with a focus in hepatology and work primarily with the University of Minnesota, and in some cases the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, on liver transplant cases.

How long have you been with the UND SMHS?

I was appointed Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences in September 2019.

Do you serve on any UND committees?

No. At Sanford I do serve on the cancer committee, professional practice review committee, and the physician retention committee.

How do you balance clinical practice and an academic career?

I've always primarily been a clinician, but with an interest in academic medicine. I spent the previous 21 years serving in the U.S. Navy as a physician, and four years in the reserves while in medical school. Over those two decades, I always prioritized patient care and did my best to deliver the highest quality of care possible, sometimes in very austere environments with minimal medical resources. My participation in academics has been sporadic and depended on the military facility I was assigned. The majority of my research and publications occurred while at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., or when doing transplant hepatology training at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

What do you like most about teaching?

Teaching is one of the most rewarding activities I currently perform. It allows me an opportunity to mentor the physicians of tomorrow. I've always found that in teaching a topic, I come to understand it better myself. Hopefully, I can provide some clinical pearls to students, interns, and residents that I've learned over an extended period of training. I also appreciate that the flow of knowledge is not in a single direction. I've frequently learned information from the students and physicians I have mentored.

What resources from the University do you find valuable in clinical or teaching responsibilities?

The UND library resources are a valuable tool.

What can you advise to other physicians who are considering becoming more involved in teaching?

It's an investment in the next generation of physicians that is well worthwhile. I personally had some excellent mentors that taught me the art of medicine. While many of them have retired, I hope I can "pay forward" the efforts others made in my clinical development. Every significant accomplishment in my career was made standing on the shoulders of giants.



RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

If you are interested in becoming involved in research, or have research ideas but do not know where to start, feel free to contact Mikki Eken at mikki.eken@UND.edu. If you have published research or presented a poster or oral presentation, please inform Mikki Eken.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD REMINDER

If you are the primary investigator of a research team, UND IRB approval is mandatory in addition to the hospital IRB approval. For questions, please contact: Michelle Bowles at michelle.bowles@UND.edu or 701.777.4079.

