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.

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. Zielinski, Mallory Koshiol, Kate Syverson, and Adrienne Salentiny.
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.

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

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

To go: https://annualmeeting.acponline.org/. Pre-registration is now through Jan. 31. For more information, go to: https://www.im.org/aimw2020/home. Advance registration March 5-April 15 and onsite registration 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/aime2020/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/.

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

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 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.

What resources from the University do you find valuable in clinical or teaching responsibilities?
The UND library resources are a valuable tool.

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