Message from Dr. David Hilden

Chair, Department of Medicine
Scott F. Davies Endowed Chair of Medicine
Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School

Dear DOM colleagues and friends,

I invite you to look through this edition of our quarterly IM Newsletter and, if you will, pause to look at the pictures. (Of course, I hope you’ll read the words as well!) When you look at the pictures, you will find a family to which we all belong. And what a family we have in the Department of Medicine! You will find colleagues doing things that perhaps you didn’t know about.

- You’ll see Amanda Noska talking about her life and career and is just a wealth of insights.
- You’ll see pictures of friends moving on as we wish Scott Davies and Dan Hoody well in the next chapter of their lives.
- You will find pictures of residents launching their careers in style at their graduation banquet, welcoming new chief residents, and saying thank you to the outgoing chiefs.
- You will see a group of energetic new doctors – our newest interns – relaxing in my backyard and when you look at that picture, I assure you that you can smile in the knowledge that the future of medicine is bright indeed.
- You will see Jenell Stewart and I hope you will marvel – as I do – at the incredible scientific contributions she brings to us all as she is honored with a prestigious award.
- You will see a bunch of new fellows with their smiling faces that are only the surface of a group of skilled and dedicated subspecialty physicians in our fellowship programs.
- And you will see that our Geriatric Medicine program has literally been training doctors for decades who will care for older adults in our community. Larry Kerzner and Mariam Anwar are proudly promoting this vital part of the mission of Hennepin.

And so much more to see in this issue that I hope you will check out.

The Department of Medicine family has many faces representing the rich clinical, educational, and scientific pursuits of Hennepin. I am delighted that we can share some of their stories with you all!

David
**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENTS, CLASS OF 2023**

L-R: Elizabeth Wendt, Anne Pereira (Interim Chair of Medicine), Marcela Kuijpers, Beau Rigstad, Colton Thoreson, Kirsten Lasley, Jeff Hall, Nhat Vo, Ben Swart, Nicole Pagel, Rachel Salz, Nathan Nelson, Katherine Blomquist, Megan Rushmeyer, Greg Thompson, Brooke McDonald, Daniel Bernstein (EM/IM), Michael Larson, Roberto Fu, Rosemary Quirk (Program Director). Missing from photo: Mohamoud Artan, Peter Dock and Evan Lister.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduating Residents</th>
<th>Where they are going:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artan, Mohamed</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Regions &amp; Methodist Hospitals, HealthPartners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blomquist, Katie</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Fairview Ridges Hospital</td>
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<td>Dock, Peter</td>
<td>Nephrology Fellowship, University of Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pu, Roberto</td>
<td>Chief Resident, Hennepin Healthcare</td>
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<td>Hall, Jeff</td>
<td>Critical Care Fellowship, Hennepin Healthcare</td>
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<td>Kuijpers, Marcela</td>
<td>Rheumatology Fellowship, Case Western University</td>
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<td>Larson, Michael</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Fairview Southdale Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lasley, Kirsten</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Fairview Ridges Hospital</td>
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<td>Lister, Evan</td>
<td>Critical Care Fellowship, Hennepin Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>McDonald, Brooke</td>
<td>Chief Resident, Hennepin Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson, Nathan</td>
<td>Primary Care, Alomere Health, Alexandria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pagel, Nicole</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Methodist Hospital, Park Nicollet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rigstad, Beau</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Fairview Ridges Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rushmeyer, Megan</td>
<td>Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship, Maine Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salz, Rachel</td>
<td>Chief Resident, Hennepin Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swart, Ben</td>
<td>Addiction Medicine Fellowship, University of Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thompson, Greg</td>
<td>Primary Care, Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Wyoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thoreson, Colton</td>
<td>Hospitalist, Regions &amp; Methodist Hospitals, HealthPartners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vo, Nhat</td>
<td>Nephrology Fellowship, University of California, Irvine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendt, Elizabeth</td>
<td>CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellowship</td>
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</table>

**EM/IM**

Dan Bernstein, Dan  
McHale, Liz  
Hospitalist, United Health Care  
EM/IMCC Fellowship Hennepin Healthcare
INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENT GRADUATION BANQUET

The 2023 Internal Medicine Graduation Banquet was held at the Golden Valley Country Club on Friday, June 2, 2023. After an enjoyable social hour with classical piano music by Dominic Cudd, Drs. Rosemary Quirk and David Hilden welcomed guests to the event followed by dinner and awards. A wonderful time was had by all. Drs. Roberto Fu and Elizabeth Wendt were presented with the prestigious Nicholas Briese Spirit of the Residency Award. Dr. Brooke McDonald was presented with the Resident Research Award. Dr. Beau Rigstad was presented with the Resident Teaching Award. Dr. Vignesh Williams Palaniappan was presented with the Faculty Teaching Award (2nd year in a row!). Drs. Amber Lindsay, Arianna Lofrano and Shrikar Rajagopal were presented with Chief Resident Awards. Dr. Shrikar Rajagopal was recognized for his work with the Global Health Pathway.

The Craig Garrett Excellence in the Practice of Primary Care Medicine Award was given to Drs. Zachary Davidson and Rachel Salz. The Excellence in Primary Care Award was given to Drs. Karly Boll, Kelly Hallowell and Brooke Hendricks. The Faculty Clinical Excellence Award was presented to Dr. Jeffrey Wang and the APP Clinical Excellence Award was presented to Jesse Powell.

Thank you to all of the faculty who attended and/or financially supported residents for this important event and congratulations to our graduates!

The Department of Medicine faculty, staff and residents thank Michelle Herbers, the hostess for the evening, and Nina Setala. Their efforts made for a highly enjoyable event.
Department of Medicine Chief Residents

Thank you to our departing Internal Medicine Chief Residents, Drs. Amber Lindsay, Arianna Lofrano, and Shrikar Rajagopal, pictured below along with Dr. Anne Becker. We wish them the very best as they move on to new adventures.

Welcome to our incoming Internal Medicine Chief Residents as of July 1, 2023, Drs. Brooke McDonald, Roberto Fu, and Rachel Salz, pictured below.

Dr. David Hilden welcomed the new intern class at his home on Saturday, June 17.
Welcome Department of Medicine Fellows

Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship (2023-2026)

Michael Downey, MD  
University of Minnesota  
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency

James Evers, MD  
University of Wisconsin  
Internal Medicine Residency

Interventional Cardiovascular Fellowship (2023-2024)

Gauravpal Singh Gill, MBBS  
Creighton University  
Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship

Muhammad Hamza Saad Shaukat, MBBS  
University of South Dakota  
Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship

Critical Care Medicine Fellowship (2023-2025)

Saiara Choudhury, MD  
Corpus Christi Medical Center  
Pulmonary Disease Fellowship

Jeffrey Hall, DO  
Hennepin Healthcare  
Internal Medicine Residency

Evan Lister, MD  
Hennepin Healthcare  
Internal Medicine Residency

Michael Peliska, MD  
Aurora Health Care  
Int Med Residency

Geriatric Medicine Fellowship (2023-2024)

Mohammad Khandwala, M.D.  
Hennepin Healthcare  
Family Medicine Residency

Kwabena Kwayke, MD  
Sanford School of Medicine -Geriatrics  
Columbia University's Affiliation with the Harlem Hospital Center, New York-Internal Medicine

Hani Al Salti Al Krad, MD  
Marshall University Joan D. Edwards School of Medicine-Internal Medicine

Nephrology Fellowship (2023-2025)
Celebrating 30 Fellows!
The Geriatric Medicine Division held a 30 Fellow / 25-year Celebration event on May 9, 2023 at the Elliot Park Hotel. Over 60 people attended the celebration including past fellows, faculty, staff, organizational leaders and representatives of community organizations including the Hennepin County Adult Protection Service, the MN Elder Justice Center, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. The Hennepin Geriatric Medicine Fellowship is the only program in the Twin Cities training Internal Medicine and Family Medicine physicians as Geriatricians. Thank you to Dr. Lawrence Kerzner who has directed this important program from the beginning.
Mpls St. Paul Magazine Top Doctors & Rising Stars

*Mpls St. Paul Magazine* has announced its 2023 list of Top Doctors and Rising Stars in the Twin Cities in their June 2023 issue. Each year, the magazine names doctors to the list as nominated by their peers. The magazine asks physicians in the Twin Cities who they would go to for care they may need, and then a panel of physician experts vets the list of nominees based on merit, peer recognition, professional achievement, extensive research, and disciplinary history.

Congratulations to the following HHS Department of Medicine physicians voted as Top Doctors and/or Rising Stars:

**Top Doctors**
- Woubeshet Ayenew, M.D.
- Jason Baker, M.D.
- Ellen Coffey, M.D.
- David Hilden, M.D.
- Robert Kempainen, M.D.
- Louis Kohl, M.D.
- James Leatherman, M.D.
- Robert Matlock, M.D.
- Anne Murray, M.D.
- Matthew Prekker, M.D.
- Douglas Rausch, M.D.
- Aaron Rutzick, M.D.
- Peter Schlesinger, M.D.
- Ronald Schut, M.D.
- Katherine Shafto, M.D.
- Robert Shapiro, M.D.
- Megan Shaughnessy, M.D.
- Mark Sprenkle, M.D.
- John Sweet, M.D.
- Meghan Walsh, M.D.

**Rising Stars**
- Heather Baxter, M.D.
- Jessica Boettcher, M.D.
- Joshua Dorn, M.D.
- Heidi Erickson, M.D.
- Brian Grahan, M.D.
- Danielle Haselby, M.D.
- David Melling, M.D.
- Robert Mittet, M.D.
- Linh Ngo, D.O.
- Amanda Noska, M.D.
- Steven Richmond, D.O.
- Kerry Sheets, M.D.
- Vignesh V. Williams Palaniappan, M.D.
- Tyler Winkelman, M.D.

**Dr. Amanda Noska**, Infectious Diseases Division, was one of three local doctors featured in the *Mpls St. Paul Magazine*’s 2023 Top Doctors: Rising Stars Edition. Below is Dr. Noska’s featured article titled: Finding More Effective Ways to Cure Disease.

*Why did you choose your field?* I thought I wanted to be a family doctor. As I went through training, I felt that the knowledge base required to be a family physician wasn’t my strongest skill set, and I wanted to be able to follow things down the rabbit hole. I also ended up really loving every infectious disease doctor I ever worked with. It’s a wonderful career because you end up hearing people’s stories and getting to know them, and I get to be their primary care doctor—when they’re living with HIV or we’re curing hepatitis C—and feel like a safe space for a patient. It’s a lovely opportunity. To me, it’s a sacred relationship. And I feel like the advocacy opportunities are endless in this career.

Continued on next page
What is your favorite thing about being an infectious disease doctor? I’ve worn a lot of hats over the years. My favorite things—my niche areas—are vulnerable populations: people who are incarcerated, who are unhoused, or who have overlapping mental health/substance use disorders and are living with HIV and/or viral hepatitis.

What impact has COVID had on your practice? I was up at Essentia in Duluth when COVID was ballooning. I was part of the incident management team there. COVID shook all of us. Sadly, I think the pandemic—putting on my inequity lens—widened the gaps. I’ve seen a ballooning of wealth disparity, unhoused status. There’s been a rampant, pretty dramatic rise in alcohol and substance use disorders in terms of coping mechanisms, with how hard the world has become. Through a societal lens, I think it’s become very difficult for the folks who are the “have-nots.” They are struggling harder now than ever.

What do you feel good about? I think the gift of being in medicine is you have daily opportunities to make small changes to people’s lives, if nothing more than to let them know they are loved. And I know that sounds corny, but it’s true. People know when you care. You don’t even need to say it to them. They feel that. They can see it in your eyes and your actions. I think the beautiful opportunities within infectious diseases are that you’re surrounded by colleagues who genuinely care and advocacy opportunities are abundant. So, right now, my advocacy opportunities are to try to commit myself to maintaining funding for people living with HIV. It’s important for me to be the voice for people who don't have a voice or have power.

What changes are happening with infectious disease, and how is it evolving into the future? We’re having hard conversations more often around race and inequities in medicine, which are so overdue and needed. And that’s a beautiful thing. I haven’t witnessed anything like this since I’ve been in medicine. I think it will lead to better outcomes for our patients.

As far as the science goes, I’m so excited about injectable therapies that are already out in the mainstream. We’re doing injectable HIV treatments within the Positive Care Center of Hennepin Healthcare. There’s HIV prevention, or PrEP, injectable therapies we’re offering as well. I expect down the line there will be injectable hepatitis C treatments that have been whispered about but are not ready for the mainstream yet, which is incredibly exciting because they last so long.

What excites you about the work you do? There are new therapies coming for the functional cure of hepatitis B. It’s a DNA virus that integrates into the genome; it’s a very complex virus. Curing it was never thought to be possible. My colleague Jesse Powell and I have been exploring looking at participation in a viral hepatitis trial for the functional cure of hepatitis B for our patients, to offer them the option not to take lifelong medications to control it. That’s very exciting and completely novel. They’re just doing Phase 3 trials now, and if they’re successful, I imagine it could be available in the next couple of years, if the FDA thinks it’s safe and effective.

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES (2ND QUARTER)

Welcome to the Department of Medicine:

Megan Clapper, PA-C joined the Hematology/Medical Oncology Division on May 1

Katia Chernyshov joined the Department as an Echo Program Coordinator, on April 7

Valerie Lawrence, PA-C joined the Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes Division on May 1

Department of Medicine Departures:

Dr. Omar Iqbal, Cardiology Division, on May 31

Dr. Scott Davies, Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Division retired on June 30 – see next page

Dr. Amber Lindsay, Medicine Chief Resident and General Internal Medicine Division on June 30

Dr. Shrikar Rajagopal, Medicine Chief Resident and General Internal Medicine Division on June 30

Dr. Ariana Lofrano, Medicine Chief Resident and General Internal Medicine Division on June 30

Sandra Main, Medical Office Supervisor, Department of Medicine, retired on April 7

Alexandra Lanpher, Medical Office Coordinator, Cardiology Division on June 21
**Dr. Scott Davies** officially retired from the Department of Medicine at Hennepin Healthcare on June 30, 2023 following 44 years of a highly distinguished career at HCMC/Hennepin Healthcare. We thank Dr. Davies for his dedication and commitment as an outstanding clinician in internal medicine, critical care, and pulmonary medicine, outstanding educator of our medical student, resident and fellow trainees, outstanding leader serving in multiple leadership positions including Division Director and Chief of the Department of Medicine at HCMC/Hennepin Healthcare, and Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School, directing and serving on numerous important committees, boards and societies, and accomplished researcher publishing over 180 publications including book chapters and still publishing. We all thank Dr. Davies and wish him the very best in his retirement.

From *The Scanner*, June 28, 2023:

**Dr. Hoody leaving Hennepin Healthcare later this year**

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news that Dr. Daniel Hoody has made the difficult decision to leave Hennepin Healthcare later this year for a leadership opportunity at another health system outside of the Twin Cities. Dr. Hoody has been a hospitalist at Hennepin since 2012 and he has led the medical staff since 2019. As Chief Medical Officer, his commitment to our health system and our patients was on display as he provided strong, steady leadership throughout the pandemic. He exemplifies that same commitment in his day-to-day interactions with colleagues as a leader and the manner in which he cares for patients in his practice as a hospitalist. One of his recent accomplishments as Chief Medical Officer was the creation of a medical staff operating and governance infrastructure that provides a solid foundation for the future. Dr. Hoody will be with us through the summer to assist the transition in medical staff leadership.

**Dr. Kirsten Johanson**, Director of our Nephrology Division, was appointed as Interim President of the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute (HHRI) effective June 26. Dr. Ajay Israni is shifting his focus to research and clinical responsibilities.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jenell Stewart** who received the 2023 American Sexually Transmitted Disease Association Young Investigator Award (ASTDA). The ASTDA Young Investigator Award is presented to a person engaged in outstanding work in the field of sexually transmitted diseases who is no more than seven years from completion of training.
Office of Education, Mentorship and Scholarship (OEMS)

Mark Linzer, MD
Director of Education, Mentorship and Scholarship, Director, Office of Professional Worklife

For questions, support, or if you have scholarship announcements, news, or information you'd like to share, please contact Renee Marrero at renee.marrero@hcmed.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Department of Medicine Research Conferences
Recordings of DOM Research Conferences can be found on the Research Conferences page of the HHS Mediasite.

April – Resident presentations:

Dr. Spencer Goble, 2024 Graduate, presented Statin Utilization Among Individuals Infected with Hepatitis C Virus

Dr. Lucas Zellmer, 2024 Graduate, presented research projects: Social Needs in HF and Primary Care Patients; China - Proteomics and Atrial Fibrillation; Free Clinic QI

May – Dr. Maroun Chedid, Resident Physician, Department of Medicine, presented the following with guest moderator Dr. Mengistu Simegn, Physician, Cardiology Division, Department of Medicine and Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School: Determinants of Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia and Ventricular Fibrillation in patients with Stress Cardiomyopathy

June – Nicholas Roetker, PhD, MS, Epidemiologist, Chronic Disease Research Group, Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute and Research Scientist, Department of Medicine, Hennepin Healthcare presented: Don’t Put the Cart Before the Horse: The Importance of Study Design in Comparative Effectiveness Studies

DOM Research Conference, Wednesday, August 16, 5:00-6:00 pm, Jenell Stewart, DO, MPH, from the Infectious Diseases Division, discussion of her research.

Department of Medicine Research Council
One of the many important first initiatives of his new appointment as Department of Medicine Chair, Dr. David Hilden has requested the formation of a Department Research Council (RC) to help advise him how to best support and grow research in the department. We invited department researchers with diverse backgrounds and interests and are happy to announce that we had a great response. Those who have committed to be a member of the RC include: Lynn Andreae, PhD, MPH, Jason Baker, MD, MS, FIDSA, Andrew Busch, PhD, Anne Frosch, MD, MPH, Haeshik Gorr, MD, Allyson Hart, MD, MS, Sandra Japuntich, PhD, Grace Lyden, PhD, Kirsten Johansen, MD, Xin Piao, APRN, CNP, Jesse Powell, PA-C, MS, Katherine Vickery, MD, MSc and Tyler Winkelman, MD, MSc. We have also identified an RC member who can represent the patient/community perspective.

Among the important topics the Research Council will be advising include white paper/research scholar hires; research investments in junior faculty, APPs and residents; seed grants; hiring study nurses; providing bridge funding between grants; support for statistical analyses and publication costs; and defining research foci (Research with a Mission is our current emphasis). The RC will also help with strategic planning for the department about where we wish to go and how to get there. The department averages about 300 publications per year and $35M in grants, but the future is more nuanced than simply having more of each. This is an exciting time in research and we are grateful to have the members of the Research Council helping pave the way to the future of research in the Department of Medicine!
**Grants Awarded**

Dr. **Gavin Bart** received grants for the following:

- Two projects with the North Star Node of the Clinical Trials Network (funded by National Institutes of Health; National Institute on Drug Abuse)
  - Facebook Intervention for Preventing Opioid Relapse among American Indian Women
  - Engaging African American Faith-Based Leaders in a Substance Use Learning Collaborative (LC)
- A project with the New Mexico Clinical Trials Network: Clinical Research and Practice to Address Substance Use in Diverse, Rural and Underserved Populations, funded by National Institutes of Health; National Institute on Drug Abuse and University of New Mexico

Dr. **Allyson Hart** received funding from the University of Minnesota for the Mothers Leading Science Program Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI).

Dr. **Mark LeSage** is PI for the study: Comparative neurobehavioral pharmacology of combusted and non-combusted tobacco products, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Dr. **Mark Linzer** (PI) recently received funding for the Moral Injury Protection Program from the HHS-Hennepin Healthcare System Provider/Team Mental Health/Suicide Prevention Program Fund.

Dr. **Amanda Noska** received a grant from GlaxoSmithKline for the BWell2 study.

Dr. **Tyler Winkelman** received funding for the Telehealth-Based Services Report from the Minnesota Department of Health.


Presentations

Drs. Lea Buda and Lawrence Kerzner presented “Dance Therapy for Dementia in Care Facilities: A Systemic Review” at the American Medical Directors/Post-Acute-Long Term Care National Conference held in Tampa, Florida, March 9-12, 2023.

Drs. Kathryn Vickery and Tyler Winkelman presented “Trials and Errors: Recruitment and Retention with People Experiencing Housing Insecurity or Incarceration” at the 2023 Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians Innovation and Research Forum, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 11, 2023.

Dr. Tyler Winkelman presented “COVID-19 Vaccinations in Minnesota Jails and Prisons” at the American Consortium on Criminal Justice Health meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina, April 13-14, 2023. This conference hosted 140 academic presentations and posters which highlighted emerging research and policy across the justice field.

Dr. Ryan Jelinek presented “DIY Data: The Power of Self-Service Analytics in Healthcare” at the American College of Physician’s Internal Medicine Meeting, San Diego, California, April 27-29, 2023.


Dr. Kathryn Vickery presented “Minnesota Homeless Mortality Study, 2017-2021” at the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and Policy Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland, May 15-18, 2023. This was the first systemic examination of mortality among people experiencing homelessness who die in Minnesota.


Dr. Mark Linzer virtually moderated a national session on “Worklife, Wellness, and Building Trust” at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Action Period Call on Trustworthiness in Healthcare, June 13, 2023.

Drs. Matthew Prekker and Brian Driver participated and presented the results of the “DirEct versus Video laryngosCop# Trial” at the Critical Care Reviews Conference, Titanic Belfast, Ireland, June 14-16, 2023, with simultaneous publication in the New England Journal of Medicine.

DEPARTMENT SUMMERFEST 2023

Department Summerfest, Saturday, August 5, 4:00-7:00 PM, Beard’s Plaisance in Minneapolis. Contact Belinda Rogers (belinda.rogers@hcmed.org) or Bonita Schroeder (bonita.schroeder@hcmed.org) for further information.

Logo--You may have noticed our Department’s new logo on the front cover of the newsletter. The concept of our logo, which was designed by artist Nneka Osueke, MA, is below.

Department of Medicine

The sharp angles of the HH logo come together to form a medical cross. This represents teamwork and quality care for which the Department of Medicine stands.

The outward fixtures represent the vitality and diligence of the team while also creating a resemblance of a molecule or strain under a microscope.

The negative space within the middle and the overlapping of each piece of the cross represent collaboration, diversity, and the mission of inclusivity and all-affirming care in serving the community.

IM Newsletter is a quarterly publication from the HCMC Department of Medicine. Please forward any inquiries, corrections, comments or items you have for our next issue to:

bonita.schroeder@hcmed.org.