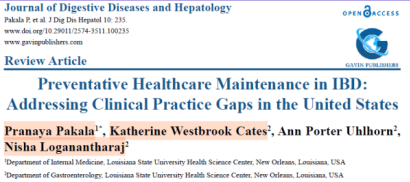


DOM NEWS BLAST

The LSU Department of Medicine Weekly Communication

Dr. Pranaya Pakala (IM Resident), Dr. Katherine Cates (GI Fellow), Ann Porter Uhlhorn and Dr. Nisha Loganantharaj (Gastroenterology) had a paper accepted in the *Journal of Digestive Diseases and Hepatology* titled “Preventative Healthcare Maintenance in IBD: Addressing Clinical Practice Gaps in the United States”.



Dr. Olivia Sugarman (Community & Population Medicine) recently published a paper “Xylazine-Fentanyl Positivity and Concentration in Urine Drug Tests” in *JAMA Network Open*.



Kelly Rauser has been selected to represent the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM) Clerkship Administrators Council on the AAIM FY 2027 CDIM Survey and Scholarship Committee.

Congratulations, Kelly!



Please join me in congratulating Dr. Stephen Landreneau (Gastroenterology) who was elected to serve as the American College of Gastroenterology Governor for Louisiana. His three-year term begins following the College’s Annual Meeting, October 9-14, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee.



Drs. Seth Vignes (Hospital Medicine) and Ben Springgate (Community and Population Medicine) are featured in a new American Hospital Association podcast entitled

Bridge to Care: Better Care Transitions for Opioid Use

Description:

Improving care transitions is one of the most effective ways health systems can improve outcomes for patients with substance use disorders. In this conversation, the team from the University Medical Center New Orleans LSU School of Medicine’s Benjamin Springgate, M.D., professor of Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, and Seth Vignes, M.D., assistant professor of Internal Medicine, share how integrated care models, addiction consult services and peer navigators are improving care transitions and increasing access to evidence-based treatment. They also discuss how hospital leaders can reduce readmissions and strengthen recovery by breaking down barriers across the continuum of care.



PRESENTATIONS:



Dr. Rajasree Pia Chowdry (Hematology – Oncology) recently spoke virtually at the ASCO for the Caribbean Association for Oncology meeting held in Trinidad & Tobago. Her talk was titled “Updates in Prostate Cancer: From Evidence to Everyday Care in the Caribbean”



Dr. Fred Lopez (Infectious Diseases) was recently featured on 4WWL discussing cyclosporiasis in an article titled “Diarrhea-causing parasite illness linked to fresh produce: How to protect yourself”

Read it here: <https://www.wwtv.com/article/news/health/diarrhea-causing-parasite-illness-linked-to-fresh-produce-how-to-keep-safe-cyclospora/289-69d7e7f0-9d1d-4deb-bd88-9c4f9a16f2f2>

DOM NEWS BLAST

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Dr. Ben Springgate (Community and Population Medicine / Addiction Medicine), Dr. Seth Vignes (Hospital Medicine / Addiction Medicine), and LCMC colleague Amy Pruim (LCMC Senior Director, Population Health) authored and led a virtual presentation on 7/22/26 to hospitals participating in the American Hospital Association / CDC Bridge to Care program about progress in care for Opioid Use Disorder at UMCNO and LCMC. This highlighted the team's efforts creating a new buprenorphine order set within Epic for ED and Inpatient use; a new methadone initiation protocol; introduction of Substance Use Navigators in LCMC EDs; and other recent areas of progress. LCMC's Bridge to Care team also included Drs. Jeff Elder, Patrick Greiffenstein, and Anjali Niyogi.



PUBLICATIONS:



Dr. Rajesh Mohandas (Nephrology) and colleagues recently published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*. This study demonstrates that loss of the circadian clock protein Period 1 (PER1) promotes sex-dependent arterial stiffness and hypertrophic vascular remodeling, providing new mechanistic insights into how circadian biology influences cardiovascular disease and identifying PER1 as a potential therapeutic target.

Sharma RK, Krishnan S, Gomes J, Kallis P, Mckee A, Broderick B, Kanumuri SRR, Sharma A, Gumz ML, **Mohandas R**. Loss of the Circadian Clock Protein Period 1 Mediates Sex Dependent Increase in Arterial Stiffness and Hypertrophic Remodeling in Mice. *Journal of the American Heart Association*.0:e047632. doi: doi:10.1161/JAHA.125.047632

Dr. Hai Tran (Pulmonary/Critical Care) published with other LSU colleagues a paper on blood pressure change as a predictors of worsening in patients with pulmonary hypertension in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society* journal.

Tran HV, Van Dreumel C, Schafer A, Mukherjee M, Mathai SC, deBoisblanc BP, Lammi MR. Blood Pressure Change After Six-Minute Walk Test Is an Independent Predictor of Clinical Worsening in Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension. *Ann Am Thoracic Soc*. 2026 Jul1: aaoag178. doi: 10.1093/annalsats/aaoag178. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42384918



Dr. Gala True (Community & Population Medicine) published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. The study concludes that improving veteran suicide prevention requires formalizing program collaboration, supporting specialized staff roles, and leaning on community-integrated resources rather than relying solely on clinical interventions.

True G, Cusack M, Cullen SW, Dichter ME, Blosnich JR, Brecht T, Montgomery AE. Addressing Veterans' Social Determinants of Health in the Context of Suicide Prevention: Staff-Identified Implementation Barriers and Strategies. *J Gen Intern Med*.2026 Jul 7. doi: 10.1007/s11606-026-10612-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42414797