



## Fellows Network Newsletter

**Spring 2020**

Welcome to the new HTRS Fellows Network Newsletter!

Our new Fellows Network leadership is preparing for an exciting year. In this and subsequent issues, you will find new features, including:

- *HTRS members contribute during COVID-19 crisis*
- *Spotlight on an HTRS Faculty Member*
- *Spotlight on an HTRS Fellow Member*
- *Connection to CLOT+ to highlight recent high-impact studies*
- *Info on funding opportunities and meetings*



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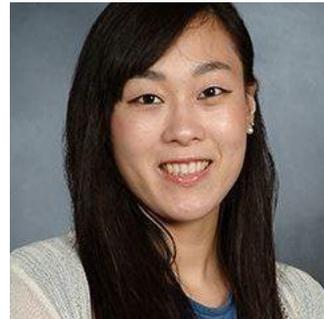
## HTRS and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The HTRS Fellows Network extends our gratitude to all caregivers, and especially our members, for their tireless work and dedication to improving our

patients' lives during the COVID-19 crisis.

*Please let us know if you know someone working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, who might consider sharing his or her experience with our membership: [jziegler@versiti.org](mailto:jziegler@versiti.org)*

*"This has been such a life-altering and emotionally draining experience, but the medical community is coming together and rising to the challenge. We are not hematologists or oncologists any more, we are just doctors. Everyone is stepping out of their comfort zones willingly to support each other and care for patients. We will tackle this with solidarity and persistence, and remember that this too shall pass."*



**Hana Lim, MD**

HTRS Fellows Network Council member

Front-line COVID-19 Clinician

2nd year Hematology/Oncology Fellow

New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell  
Medical Center

Plan to Attend the Virtual Congress: July 12-14



FOR THE LATEST DETAILS: CLICK [ISTH2020.ORG](https://www.isth2020.org)

## HTRS Faculty Member Spotlight

### **Rakhi Naik, MD, MHS**

Assistant Professor of Medicine,

Johns Hopkins University

Associate Director for Hematology,  
Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program



#### **1. Which mentors and experiences (research, training, and/or professional) inspired you to enter the field of non-malignant hematology?**

My first introduction to non-malignant hematology was in medical school at Cornell. The Department of Medicine Chief at the time was hematologist Ralph Nachman (who subsequently won the ASH Mentorship Award). He used to bring groups of medical students into his office for face-to-face time.

During one of his sessions, he gave us a chalk talk about TTP, and I was absolutely fascinated. From that point on, I knew that I wanted to be a hematologist.

## **2. How did you translate this inspiration into training in hematology?**

After completing medical school, I took a gap year to work in breast cancer research with the assumption that hematology and oncology were sort of the same. But eventually when it came time to pick a fellowship, I chose the only location at the time that had a dedicated hematology program. Having seen my colleague Brady Stein doing non-malignant hematology consults, the path forward for myself was clear and I chose to pursue fellowship training in hematology alone.

## **3. How did you navigate the process of finding the right mentor to guide your early career as a trainee and faculty member?**

When I joined the department as a fellow, it was a smaller group then. I was advised to approach Sophie Lanzkron who was a junior faculty member at the time and in a position to take on a mentee. After our initial meeting, our personalities clicked and we decided to work together. That was my initial foray into hemoglobinopathies. I think it is important in fellowship to pursue the right mentor with the goal of learning the process of research as opposed to being specific to your preferred research topic. Eventually you will find your way into the topic that interests you.

## **4. What were the biggest challenges you faced as a fellow and as a faculty member?**

Perceived lack of acceptance. When I was going through training, non-malignant hematology seemed to be considered the “lesser” discipline when compared to oncology. I would often question whether I made the right career decision to single-board in hematology alone and would constantly worry about what others thought about my choice. But in the end, I LOVE hematology, so there was no other decision that could have been more right for

me. (And now, I'd say hematology is finally becoming the "cool" specialty!)

**5. What is one piece of advice you can give fellows to help them become successful hematologists and hemostasis/thrombosis researchers?**

It's all about passion. Don't let others tell you how you should and should not shape your career. I have a passion for education and so I have found ways to incorporate that into my career from medical school education all the way up to fellowship. I also have a passion for all of non-malignant heme so I have kept my clinical practice broad and still see everything from hemoglobinopathies to hemostasis/thrombosis to autoimmune cytopenias and early myeloid disorders. Therefore, I am involved in broad research in both education and clinical hematology. While this is not the "traditional" path of focusing on a narrow topic area, it is my own.

**6. How does your typical work week look?**

Since I am involved in research, education, and administration, my days are extremely varied from week to week. I have clinic two and a half days per week, and the other days I spend either organizing fellowship activities, teaching in medical school, writing papers/grants, shaping policy in my systems-based hematology role, or attending on our non-malignant hematology service. It is a whirlwind but always fun!

**7. If you were not a physician, what profession would you choose, and why?**

That is a good question. If I could choose anything, I would have been in a '90s hip-hop/R&B cover band. I'll do some TLC or Salt-N-Pepa karaoke any day.

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**HTRS Fellow Spotlight**



## **Julia Ramos, MD, PhD**

Former HTRS Fellows Network Council Member

2019 Graduate of UCSF Hematology Fellowship

Assistant Medical Director at Genentech/Roche,  
Rare Blood Disorders Group

### **1. Tell us about your path to non-malignant hematology.**

It's interesting to reflect back on this. I suppose my first steps on the path in Non-Malignant Hematology research were as early as high school, when I did summer research as a high school student in Gary Ackers' lab at Washington University, which focused (among many things) on the relationship between structure, energy and function in hemoglobin. Many years later, as an MSTP (Medical Scientist Training Program) student at UCLA, I did my PhD research in Tomas Ganz's lab which was defining new frontiers in the molecular biology of iron homeostasis, and it was there that I fell in love with translational benign hematology. I decided to pursue clinical training through Internal Medicine, which I did at UCLA, and adult hematology fellowship at UCSF. As a first-year fellow, I quickly realized I wanted to practice Non-Malignant Hematology, so after I completed the core Oncology rotations in the first year, I switched to single-boarding in hematology and spent the next three years of fellowship focusing on training and research in non-malignant hematology. My fourth year of fellowship was a clinical research fellowship at Genentech, where I spent most of the year at its South San Francisco campus, with one half-day of hematology clinic a week at UCSF.

### **2. What do you love about Non-Malignant Hematology?**

I love the detective work of a non-malignant hematology case: the patient comes with a symptom, or a finding on a CBC, and the hematologist tries to crack the case like a mystery. It is a truly broad field that comprises many clinical entities with a wide spectrum of severity and complexity, so it offers

opportunity for constant learning and development.

### **3. What are you doing now, and why did you choose this path?**

I am now an Assistant Medical Director at Genentech/Roche in the Rare Blood Disorders group. I chose this career opportunity for the chance to do very creative translational science in non-malignant hematology.

### **4. What advice would you offer trainees interested in non-malignant heme?**

Pick your mentors carefully and build a mentorship team with multiple types of mentors: clinical mentors, research mentors, and professional mentors, and don't discount peer mentors! Some of the best mentorship I received as a fellow came from a core group of peer mentors with whom I remain in close touch. I also think it was helpful to me to come up with a core mission statement to summarize my personal purpose at work to help with decision-making should challenging decisions arise.

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## **Recent High-Impact Articles from CLOT+**

**We are excited to announce a new collaboration with [CLOT+](#) to provide curated, high-yield hemostasis and thrombosis articles via this newsletter.**

**For more information and to access the links below, click [HERE](#) to register for free at CLOT+.**

#### **[Treatment of distal deep vein thrombosis.](#)**

Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2020 Apr 9;4:CD013422. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD013422.pub2. (*Systematic review*)

#### **[Dabigatran Treatment of Acute Noncardioembolic Ischemic Stroke.](#)**

Stroke. 2020 Apr;51(4):1190-1198. doi: 10.1161/STROKEAHA.119.027569.

Epub 2020 Feb 26. (*Original study*)

**[Apixaban for the Treatment of Venous Thromboembolism Associated with Cancer.](#)**

N Engl J Med. 2020 Apr 23;382(17):1599-1607. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1915103. Epub 2020 Mar 29. (*Original study*)

**[Rivaroxaban or Enoxaparin in Nonmajor Orthopedic Surgery.](#)**

N Engl J Med. 2020 Mar 29. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1913808. (*Original study*)

**[Predictive value of D-dimer testing for the diagnosis of venous thrombosis in unusual locations: A systematic review.](#)**

Thromb Res. 2020 May;189:5-12. doi: 10.1016/j.thromres.2020.02.009. Epub 2020 Feb 15. (*Systematic review*)

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## Announcements

### **HTRS Member Survey: Case-based learning via Zoom**

HTRS is considering offering online, case-based learning events to better serve members' educational and career development needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Challenging clinical cases submitted by HTRS-member trainees and junior faculty would be presented live to a panel of physician-scientists for discussion.

Please respond by: **Friday, May 15, 6:00 PM ET**

Please complete this very brief [survey](#) to help us gauge member interest.

Thank you for your feedback!

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## **ASH ISTH NHF WFH Guidelines on VWD**

The ASH, ISTH, NHF, and WFH invite public comments on new DRAFT recommendations as they collaborate to develop guidelines for the diagnosis and management of von Willebrand Disease.

Please access both surveys and supplementary files by clicking [HERE](#).

Deadline for public comment: **Friday, May 15, 2020**

Anyone is welcome to comment on draft recommendations, including ASH, ISTH, NHF, and WFH members, non-member physicians and researchers, allied professionals, representatives of industry and insurance companies, patients, caregivers, and members of the public.

*Sent on behalf of the American Society of Hematology*

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### Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society

Fellows Network Newsletter

2020 Fellows Network Council Members:

Jennifer Yui, MD, University of Pennsylvania, Chair

Anna Parks, MD, University of California, San Francisco, Chair-Elect

Sherwin DeSouza, MD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation/Taussig Cancer Institute

Harry Fuentes Bayne, MD, Mayo Clinic

George Goshua, MD, Yale

Hana Lim, MD, MS, Weill Cornell Medicine

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