HTRS is a comprehensive scientific meeting dedicated solely to hemostasis and thrombosis. This is the perfect opportunity to learn from and network with leaders in the field and with others who share interests in hemostasis and thrombosis.

Visit [http://www.htrs2017.com](http://www.htrs2017.com) for more information, to register, and to reserve a hotel room.

**Social Event:**

Double Tree Resort
Paradise Valley by Hilton
~
Grand Ballroom Foyer
~
Thursday, April 6, 2017
8:30 pm to 11:00 pm

**ASH 2017 Annual Meeting & Exposition**

December 9-12, 2017

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Questions on a Career in Benign Hematology

1. What mentors and experiences (research, training, and/or professional) inspired you to enter the field of benign hematology?

There have been several mentors and experiences that have inspired me and shaped my decision to enter the field of benign hematology. I did have some exposure to the field of benign hematology through my degree and thesis work in Nutrition involving maternal iron status in undergrad at UNC Chapel Hill. However, my first exposure to the specific field of hemostasis and thrombosis was through a blood coagulation elective during my fourth year of medical school at the University of Pittsburgh. This course introduced me to the intricacies of the clotting cascade and coagulation testing that hematologists deal with clinically on a regular basis. This was probably the first time that I considered a career relating to bleeding and clotting disorders as a potential option. During my internship year as a pediatric resident my experiences in my hematology rotations confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in benign hematology. There were numerous mentors along the way that particularly inspired me to enter the field either by observing their interactions with patients and their approach to the complexities of hematologic issues, their teaching and mentorship, and overall their excitement and genuine passion about the field. The ones that particularly stand out to me during that early phase of my pediatric training are Drs. Shannon Meeks, Amy Dunn, and Mike Briones as well as the hemophilia nurse practitioner at the time Robbin Chapman. These mentors and experiences all are a part of the reason why I am where I am today.

2. What was the biggest challenge(s) you faced as a fellow? And now as a junior faculty member?

I think the biggest challenge as a fellow and even more so now as a junior faculty member is balancing all of the different responsibilities that requires your attention and doing them all justice. Whether it be clinical, education, research, or career development responsibilities, time seems to be a rate limiting step. Learning how to manage one’s time, being efficient but effective, and prioritizing tasks are, in my opinion, important skills to develop especially as one transitions from a trainee to faculty.

3. What is your HTRS MRA research project focused on?

My research work since fellowship has focused on the role of the C1 domain of coagulation protein factor VIII (FVIII) on inhibitor development against FVIII. Through the HTRS MRA, I am investigating the interaction between FVIII and antigen presentation cells such as dendritic cells to provide a better understanding of FVIII presentation and processing by the immune system as well as the role that von Willebrand factor plays in this process in the laboratory setting.

Glaivy Batsuli, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Emory University, Department of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT
Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Questions on a Career in Benign Hematology (cont’d)

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

Mentorship is vital. Mentors are a critical part of one’s career development from trainee to junior faculty to senior faculty who go on to become mentors. They can provide guidance, perspective, motivation, and potential opportunities to participate in a research project, clinical trial design, committee, or publication that can help you succeed as a clinician and/or researcher. My advice to fellows is to actively seek out mentors in a niche that you are passionate about within your chosen field. Often times you need multiple mentors, even those outside of your chosen field, who will contribute to different aspects of your career and personal development.

5. What does your typical workweek consist of?

It’s hard to describe a typical week since each week can vary significantly. However, the majority of my time, approximately 85%, is dedicated to research while the remainder is dedicated to clinical service. Most days are spent in the lab - this consists of a variation of planning experiments, implementing experiments, analyzing data, planning more experiments based on the data, etc. In the clinical setting, I see pediatric patients in the Emory University pediatric comprehensive bleeding disorders clinic or in my hematology clinic one day a week. An array of clinical/lab/faculty/committee meetings, journal clubs, tumor boards, conference calls, and trainee education sessions are scattered throughout the week.

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

Honestly I am one of those people who knew and declared at an early age, 6 years old to be exact, that I was going to be a doctor, so I have never really put much thought into career alternatives. However, one of my favorite hobbies and growing interests is baking and decorating baked goods, mainly because I enjoy creating things with my hands for other people to enjoy. So I could see myself owning a business that involves doing something in that realm…maybe in retirement.