PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2025 Reserach Colloquium Committee was designed by a Planning Committee of distinguished HTRS members.

Joshua Muia, PhD
Chair, Versiti Blood Research Institute
Medical College of Wisconsin

Jaehyung (Gus) Cho, PhD
Washington University School of Medicine

Radhika Gangaraju, MD, MSPH
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Bethany Samuelson Bannow, MD, MCR
Oregon Health & Science University

Neil Zakai, MD, MSc
University of Vermont

FACULTY MEMBERS

Joshua Muia, PhD
Versiti
Medical College of Wisconsin

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Dr. Joshua Muia recently joined the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Program as an Associate Investigator at the Versiti Blood Research Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. He also holds a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Before this, Dr. Muia was a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Muia's NIH-funded research program at Versiti focuses on biochemistry, vascular biology, the pathophysiology of metalloproteases ADAMTS13 and ADAMTS7, and the von Willebrand factor (VWF) protein. His lab also conducts translational research on thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), von Willebrand disease, sepsis, and coronary artery disease. Notably, Dr. Muia's team has developed innovative ADAMTS13 assays that offer unprecedented sensitivity and detection capabilities, allowing for the standardization of plasma ADAMTS13 activity in both human and preclinical animal models. In addition to his research, Dr. Muia is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists and physicians. Many of his former mentees have established successful careers across various fields.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Jaehyung (Gus) Cho, PhD
Washington University School of Medicine

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Dr. Joshua Muia recently joined the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Program as an Associate Investigator at the Versiti Blood Research Institute in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. He also holds a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Before this, Dr. Muia was a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Muia's NIH-funded research program at Versiti focuses on biochemistry, vascular biology, the pathophysiology of metalloproteases ADAMTS13 and ADAMTS7, and the von Willebrand factor (VWF) protein. His lab also conducts translational research on thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), von Willebrand disease, sepsis, and coronary artery disease. Notably, Dr. Muia's team has developed innovative ADAMTS13 assays that offer unprecedented sensitivity and detection capabilities, allowing for the standardization of plasma ADAMTS13 activity in both human and preclinical animal models. In addition to his research, Dr. Muia is passionate about mentoring the next generation of scientists and physicians. Many of his former mentees have established successful careers across various fields.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Radhika Gangaraju, MD, PSPH
University of Alabama at Birmingham

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Dr. Radhika Gangaraju, MD, MSPH is an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology-Oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), United States. She is a Classical Hematologist and takes care of individuals with thrombosis and bleeding disorders. Her research is focused on understanding the pathogenesis and risk factors for cancer-associated thrombosis and bleeding, with particular interest in hematologic malignancies and clonal hematologic disorders. Dr. Gangaraju's research is funded by the Walter B Frommeyer Fellowship in Investigative Medicine, a K08 grant from the NHLBI and the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Scholar Award.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Bethany Samuelson Bannow, MD, MCR
Oregon Health & Science University

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Dr. Samuelson Bannow is passionate about improving hematologic research and clinical care, particularly for female-identifying individuals and those with the potential to menstruate or become pregnant. She believes achieving this mission requires success in four equally important areas: 1) establishing true interdisciplinary teams, from basic scientists to clinicians to social scientists and public health experts, 2) improving the well-being and leadership potential of a diverse workforce of physicians and researchers, 3) increasing knowledge about the role of sex as a biological variable (SABV) and 4) decreasing stigma around aspects of female reproductive health such as menstruation and pregnancy.

As an Associate Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, Dr. Samuelson Bannow lives out her vision daily through a combination of original research, patient and provider education, leadership and advocacy. Her NIH-, HRSA- and foundation-funded, investigator-initiated research is designed to understand the role of disordered hemostasis on reproductive health outcomes and the impact of disordered hemostasis on those with the capacity to menstruate or become pregnant. She seeks to provide exceptional, direct patient care in innovative, multidisciplinary clinics and also to improve care of patients more broadly. Recognizing that meeting the needs of this patient population requires a healthcare workforce that is ready to innovate, collaborate and thrive, she seeks to achieve this through ongoing educational efforts, service work, advocacy and leadership roles designed to bring attention to and improve the situation of female-identifying patients, researchers and clinicians. Dr. Samuelson Bannow leverages a unique ability to network and connect teams, a dynamic and engaging speaking style, an out of the box problem-solving approach and a passion born of personal experience as a patient and a healthcare provider to make meaningful progress toward these goals.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Neil Zakai, MD, MSc
University of Vermont

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Dr. Neil Zakai is a professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont. His clinical and research focus is Classical hematology, with an emphasis on thrombosis and hemostasis. Dr Zakai studies the molecular epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases, working in large cohort studies such as the Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS), the Multiethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), and the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke study (REGARDS). A particular research focus has been on the role race and region play on cardiovascular outcomes and quality of care. Recently, he has harnessed the electronic health record to understand the risk factors for and the consequences of hospital-acquired complications such as bleeding and venous thrombosis. The aim is to design clinical decision support tools that will allow clinicians to predict which patients will benefit most and be harmed the least by interventions such as pharmacologic venous thrombosis prophylaxis.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Mohammad AbelGawwad, MD, PhD
Sanofi

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Dr. Mohammad Abdelgawwad is a physician-scientist and medical affairs leader with over a decade of experience in clinicalpractice, translational research, and global medical affairs. His career journey began with medical training in Egypt, followed by advanced degrees in biotechnology and a PhD in Pathobiology & Molecular Medicine from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. During my academic career, I conducted groundbreaking research on thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) and arterial thrombosis, earning prestigious awards including the ASH Abstract Achievement Award. My work resulted in multiple high-impact publications and presentations at international scientific congresses, establishing my expertise in hematology, oncology, and rare diseases.

In May 2022, he transitioned to the pharmaceutical industry, joining Sanofi as an Associate Director before quickly advancing to his current role as Scientific Director in Global Medical Affairs for Rare Diseases. In this position, he leads a team of two associate directors, develops the global medical communication strategies, spearhead scientific publications, orchestrate major congress planning, and drive innovative digital initiatives such digital platforms for healthcare professional education. His ability to bridge complex scientific concepts with strategic medical affairs initiatives has been instrumental in developing impactful, patient-focused solutions and fostering cross-functional collaboration.

His unique blend of clinical expertise, research acumen, and industry leadership enables him to drive innovation, foster collaboration between academia and industry, and develop strategies that address unmet medical needs in rare disease communities. Dr. Abdelgawwad aims to continue leveraging his experience to advance the field of rare diseases, integrating digital innovation and real-world evidence strategies to enhance patient outcomes and transform the landscape of rare disease therapeutics.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Donna DiMichele, MD
Weill Cornell Medical College

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Dr. Donna DiMichele has over 40 years of aggregate experience in academic pediatric hematology practice and clinical hemophilia research and, while at NHLBI, in the development of new scientific initiatives to stimulate the study of Factor VIII immunogenicity, to catalyze the design of rare disease clinical trials, and to reinvigorate the blood science research workforce through novel training pathways.

In 2020, she founded Donna DiMichele Consulting, LLC with the goal of partnering with leading organizations within the hematology and hemostasis communities to strategically enable both a strong future for hemostasis research and the sustainable growth of a dedicated clinical and research workforce in hematology. In that capacity Dr. DiMichele has worked and continues to serve as the principal consultant on the National Bleeding Disorders Foundation (NBDF)'s National Research Blueprint; the American Society of Hematology (ASH)'s Hematology Focused Fellowship Training Program; and Believe Ltd.'s monthly podcast The Global Hemophilia Report.

Dr. DiMichele is also an elected member of the Council of the International Society on Thrombosis Haemostasis (ISTH) and chairs the Research Advisory Committee for the Foundation of Women and Girls with Blood Disorders (FWGBD).

FACULTY MEMBERS

Jill Johnson, MD
University of Washington

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Jill Johnsen is a physician scientist at the University of Washington who studies the genetics and biology of coagulation factor VIII, factor IX, von Willebrand factor, and female bleeding particularly around pregnancy. Her program is dedicated to improving the diagnosis and care of patients with blood disorders through advancement of knowledge and the translation of research to improve clinical testing. Her research leverages new technologies including advanced DNA sequencing methods, multi-omics, computational tools, and innovative molecular methods such as *in vitro* assays that can survey the impact of thousands of DNA variants in a gene at scale.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Bryce Kerlin, MD, FAAP
Abigail Wexner Research Institute
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Dr. Kerlin received his BS in Medical Laboratory Science from Purdue University and his MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his residency in Pediatrics at Phoenix Children's Hospital and fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Kerlin is a Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Principal Investigator in the Abigail Wexner Research Institute, and Director of The Joan Fellowship in Pediatric Hemostasis-Thrombosis at Nationwide Children's Hospital; where he cares for patients with thrombotic and bleeding diseases. His research interests are in the translational aspects of coagulation signaling and mechanisms of thrombosis using basic and pre-clinical models and implementing observations from these models in clinical research. His work is currently supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and has previously been supported by HTRS, the CSL Behring Foundation, and the Novo Nordisk A/S Investigator-Sponsored Studies mechanism. He is a member of the American Society of Hematology, International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Society for Pediatric Research, American Pediatric Society, American Heart Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics. He has served on the HTRS Board of Directors since 2018.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Colin Kretz, PhD
McMaster University

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Dr. Kretz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and a member of the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute, at McMaster University. He joined McMaster in 2016 following postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan. Dr. Kretz runs a basic science research program that uses high throughput screening tools coupled with traditional techniques in protein biochemistry to understand the regulation of proteases in the cardiovascular system. His current research focus is on the ADAMTS13/Von Willebrand Factor axis, for which he receives funding from both CIHR and NSERC.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Ming Lim, MBBCh, MS
University of Utah

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Dr. Ming Y. Lim is an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Hematologic Malignancies at the University of Utah. She earned her medical degree at Cambridge University, England and completed her 2-year Foundation Training in the United Kingdom. She then completed residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic Rochester and fellowship training in hematology and oncology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her clinical interest lies in the field of hemostasis and thrombosis. Her research interest is focused on complications affecting people with congenital bleeding disorders, specifically persons with hemophilia with inhibitors and pregnant women with bleeding disorders.

Dr. Lim is the Medical Director for the Utah Center for Bleeding & Clotting Disorders at University of Utah Health. Nationally, she serves on the American Board of Internal Medicine Hematology Approval Committee and is the Chair of the American Society of Hematology Subcommittee on Stewardship and Systems-Based Hematology. She also serves on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Cancer-Associated Venous Thromboembolic Disease Panel.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Pamela Lutsey, PhD, MPH
University of Minnesota

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Dr. Lutsey is a Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Minnesota (UMN). Her research focuses on identifying potentially modifiable factors that influence risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia and other chronic conditions. Areas of particular interest include venous thromboembolism, sleep quality and quantity, and nutritional biomarkers (e.g. serum magnesium). She is the UMN Principal Investigator of the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study, which forms the basis for much of her research evaluating modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease and dementia. She is also a Co-Investigator on the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA). Additionally, she conducts pharmacoepidemiology research using large administrative data sources (i.e. MarketScan, Medicare 20% sample) to compare the effectiveness of new versus established treatment strategies for venous thromboembolism and atrial fibrillation. Dr. Lutsey is also committed to training early career investigators. She is Co-Director of the UMN T32 Training Grant in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology & Prevention and holds a NIH/NHLBI K24 award focused on mentoring and research in patient-oriented cardiovascular pharmacoepidemiology.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Craig Morrell, DVM, PhD
University of Rochester

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Dr. Morrell earned his undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1995. He then graduated from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000 before beginning a comparative pathology fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. While at Hopkins Dr. Morrell concurrently completed a PhD in the laboratory of Dr. Charles Lowenstein in 2005. Dr. Morrell then established an independent laboratory in the Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology at Hopkins from 2005-2009, before moving to the University of Rochester's Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute. His current research interests include platelets and vascular inflammation. He is also Co-Director of the Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute, and is the Program Training Director for the Rochester Partnership for Research and Academic Career Training of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Postdoctoral Scholars and PI of an IMSD T32 to provide graduate training for D/HH PhD candidates.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Kristen Sanfilippo, MD, MPHS
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Kristen Sanfilippo MD, MPHS is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Hematology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and a Staff Physician in the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the St. Louis Veterans Administration Medical Center, USA. She specializes in classical hematology, focusing on patients with thromboembolism. She completed her hematology/oncology training at Washington University School of Medicine after Internal Medicine training at University of Pittsburgh medical Center. In addition to her clinical training, she has a Masters in Population Health Sciences (Washington University in St. Louis, 2012).

Dr. Sanfilippo has focused her research on health outcomes in patients with or at risk of venous thromboembolism. Her clinical and research interests focus on prevention of venous thromboembolism and prevention of anticoagulant-related bleeding, with special interest in patients with cancer. She holds funding from the American Society of Hematology and NIH-NHLBI to identify predictors of and quantifying the risk of anticoagulant-related bleeding in patients with cancer. Her other research interests include prevention of venous thromboembolism, timely care of pulmonary embolism, and outcomes in patients with lower extremity deep vein thrombosis.

Dr. Sanfilippo is the chair of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Scientific and Standardization Committee for Hemostasis and Malignancy. In addition, she holds committee positions with the American Society of Hematology.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Jordan Shavit, MD, PhD
University of Michigan

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Dr. Jordan Shavit, MD, PhD, earned his B.S. with Honors and High Distinction in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan in 1992, followed by an M.D. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Cell Biology from Northwestern University in 2000. He completed his pediatric residency at the University of Michigan in 2003, followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Shavit's academic career began as a Lecturer at the University of Michigan, and he later became an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases in 2009. He holds multiple appointments, including Henry and Mala Dorfman Professor of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Professor of Pediatrics, and Professor of Human Genetics. He is also a member of several prestigious research centers and initiatives at the University of Michigan, including the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Michigan Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease Center. Dr. Shavit serves on editorial boards and reviews for top-tier journals in his field, such as Blood, Circulation Research, and Haematologica. He has made significant contributions to pediatric hematology/oncology and thrombosis research.