Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of our medicine residency research newsletter! This publication is aimed at both highlighting our residents’ exciting projects as well as informing trainees and recruits about the scholarly work taking place at Stanford. We define research comprehensively, including scholarly work done in quality improvement, global health, outcomes research, medical education, clinical investigation, translational research, implementation science, qualitative studies, clinical trials, and device/service innovation. Without further ado:

**Stanford Resident Researcher Spotlight:**

This Autumn, we have the incredible opportunity to spotlight one of our true research superstars, **Stefano Testa**!

**Tell us a little about yourself**

**ST:** I grew up in Naples, Italy and attended medical school at the University of Naples Federico II in Italy. During medical school I realized that I wanted to combine translational laboratory research with clinical practice as a physician-scientist, with a specific focus on oncology. To this end, after graduating from medical school, I moved to the USA to start a post-doctoral position at Stanford in Dr. Ronald Levy’s laboratory working on cancer immunology and immunotherapy. As a post-doc I studied a novel cancer vaccination strategy based on the intra-tumoral delivery of immune-active agents, called *in situ vaccination*. During the same time, I also worked on the development and in vivo applications of Charge Alterable Releasing Transporters (CARTs), a novel mRNA delivery platform with potential applications in cancer vaccine development.

**Tell us about your current QI/research activities**

**ST:** I am currently involved in several research projects in both solid tumor oncology and malignant hematology. My primary research mentors during residency have been Dr. Kristen Ganjoo and Dr. Nam Bui in sarcoma, and Dr. Michaela Liedtke with whom I have been working on AL amyloidosis. I recently had the opportunity to present the results of our retrospective study comparing outcomes of adult and pediatric patients with osteosarcoma at the annual meeting of the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society in Baltimore, MD. We have also been able to write a manuscript based on the results of this study that is currently under peer review for publication. With Dr. Ganjoo and Dr. Bui I have also been working on a project that focuses on trans-arterial radioembolization (TARE) in patients with both primary and metastatic hepatic sarcomas. We found that patients achieving a good tumor response in the liver 6 months after TARE tended to have longer overall survival with a favorable toxicity profile. These results suggest that TARE is a safe and effective treatment modality for patients with unresectable hepatic sarcomas that generally have an extremely poor prognosis with low rates of response to systemic chemotherapy. Another project that I am excited about studies the predictive and prognostic value of next generation sequencing in patients with AL amyloidosis on which I have been working on with Dr. Liedtke.

**Why Stanford?**

**ST:** As a medical student I had the opportunity to come to Stanford as a visiting sub-intern on the inpatient Medical Oncology service. That was an amazing experience that not only reinforced my interest and commitment to oncology but also gave me the possibility to work closely with the Internal Medicine residents on the service experiencing first-hand the sense of camaraderie and the supportive culture of our program. During that month I was also able to meet and work with some of the oncology faculty here at Stanford and I could see how approachable and dedicated to teaching and mentoring they are. I believe that Stanford is an institution where I can continue to grow and build an academic and personal community as I plan for a career as physician-scientist.

**What advice do you have for interns and residents interested in scholarly activity?**

**ST:** If you are interested in doing research during residency consider getting involved with one or more projects early on during intern year. Reach out to faculty working on areas that align with your interests and ask if they might have projects you could work on part-time. Do not get discouraged if you need to reach out to a few potential mentors before finding the right person and the right project. Perseverance always pays off!

**What are your plans for the future?**

**ST:** Next year I am planning to apply for hematology-oncology fellowship with the goal of pursuing a career in academic medicine as physician-scientist with a special focus on immuno-oncology.
Grand Rounds Highlight:

Our very own co-resident, Dr. Mayuri Chandran, presented at Stanford Medicine Grand Rounds! Her presentation entitled “Racial Disparities in Healthcare and Health” identified the challenges facing the medical field when it comes to racial disparities. But, it also offered hopeful insights into how we can work towards making progress on racial health equity. Her presentation is available on the Stanford Department of Medicine Youtube channel, along with all other recent Grand Rounds presentations.
Scholarly Work:

Congratulations to the following authors for their most recent publications and presentations over the past few months!

Third Year+ Residents:


Second Year Residents:


First Year Residents:


And congratulations to our newest Stanford Internal Medicine alumni! Their recent scholarly work is shared below.

Recent Alumni:


Best,
Stanford Internal Medicine Research Interest Group

If you have research you’d like to have highlighted in the newsletter (or know of work other residents or recent graduates have taken part in) or are interested in being involved in the research interest group please make sure to email us at jassi@stanford.edu or esonekpo@stanford.edu.