In the News

New Healthcare Disparities Grant: Taj Mustapha, MD, assistant professor in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, is studying how unfairness manifests during medical training, where it is prevalent and who is most affected. The research will build a tool to better measure how fairness impacts learners from typically underrepresented backgrounds. Read Story

Medicine Faculty Named on the 2020 Highly Cited Researchers List: Dr. Alexander Khoruts and Dr. Bertram Kasiske. Read Story

World’s First ECMO-based Clinical Trial Shows 6 Times Higher Survival Rates: A team led by Demetri Yannopoulos, MD has published the results of the first ECMO-based clinical trial in the world. The trial has shown a 6x increase in survival rate among patients experiencing cardiac arrest who received treatment from the life-support machine known as ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation). Read Story

Team Helps Develop World’s First AI-Controlled CPR System: Dr. Yannopoulos, Director of the Center for Resuscitation Medicine, helped lead the project. A team at the University of Minnesota Medical School and the Georgia Institute of Technology has invented the world’s first artificial intelligence (AI) closed-loop CPR system. Early studies show the system performs better than both a licensed physician and the LUCAS machine during cardiac arrest. Read Story

U Hepatology Expert Studying ‘the Silent Epidemic’ — Viral Hepatitis B: Mohamed Hassan, MD, FAASLD, a professor in the Department of Medicine, discusses his research on Hepatitis B virus—a type of viral hepatitis that disproportionately impacts the immigrant population in the Twin Cities. Read Story

New $500K Grant Supports Hormone Receptor Research in Metastatic Breast Cancer: A significant grant from METAvivor worth $500,000 over three years will allow Carol Lange, PhD, a professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology, Oncology & Transplantation, to analyze the biological mechanisms behind breast cancer, particularly how steroid hormone receptors impact the disease. Read Story

Experimental hormone therapy may speed recovery for COVID patients: David Ingbar, MD, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, is featured as the lead story in the Star Tribune. Dr. Ingbar had studied for years whether a common thyroid hormone could be repurposed for the treatment of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), an often fatal type of lung failure. Federal approval was granted late last year to test the therapy, so when COVID-19 caused a sudden surge in ARDS, they were ready for their first patient. Read Story

Team Examines the Protective Role of PDE5 Inhibitors During COVID-19: Bong Sook Jhun, PhD, FCVS, leads U of M team of researchers in examining the protective role that common PDE5 inhibitor medications might play during COVID-19 infection. If proven, these medications could potentially lead to milder symptoms, fewer hospitalizations, and quicker recoveries in COVID-19 patients with pre-existing heart and lung diseases. Dr. Bong Sook Jhun, Assistant Professor of Medicine with the Division of Cardiovascular Read Story

Promising Treatment to Slow Kidney Disease Doesn’t Prove Out in Clinical Trial: Michael Mauer, MD, professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Medicine and kidney specialist at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and his colleagues conducted an international, multi-institution, randomized clinical trial that enrolled 530 participants to study whether allopurinol would slow the disease. Clinical Trial Outcome

Dr. David Boulware’s hydroxychloroquine trial on early outpatient treatment of COVID-19 has been published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Full Report · Editorial

How to Protect Against Current, Future Strains of the Coronavirus: A new vaccine development approach, now being studied at the University of Minnesota Medical School, hopes to protect against current and future strains of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). “This virus is affecting the whole world, and we’re not able to respond fast enough to thwart it with a vaccine,” said Geoffrey Hart, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, who leads the project. “Our hope is that the first wave of vaccines that other teams are working on will protect against SARS-CoV-2, and then our next-generation universal vaccine or antibodies would protect against future variants of SARS-CoV.” Read Story

NIH Clinical Trial Shows Remdesivir Accelerates Recovery from Advanced COVID-19: Locally led by Dr. Susan Kline, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and International Medicine. Clinical Trial
Dr. Kline Using Research Network to Find Effective COVID-19 Treatments: Dr. Kline received support from the National Institutes of Health to study the use of remdesivir in the treatment of COVID-19, and they asked SPRN to serve as recruiting centers. Read Story

Drs. Debes and Leventhal Look to Predict the Onset of Acute Liver Injury: University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Medicine faculty Jose Debes, MD, and Thomas Leventhal, MD, are looking to predict the onset of acute liver injury in patients with COVID-19 as well as mortality and other outcomes.

University of Minnesota Medical Center Authorized as Sarcoidosis Center of Excellence: The University of Minnesota Medical Center is one of 26 other institutions worldwide to receive this honor.

U of M Twin Cities, Helmsley Charitable Trust and Healthcare System Partners Aim to Increase Cardiac Arrest Survival Rates: This is a collaborative initiative aims to treat cardiac arrest as quickly as possible in Minnesota.

New Roles, Curriculum and Offices
Virtual Curriculum: Ronald Reilkoff, MD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, has overseen the development and implementation of a virtual curriculum that mimics the experience a fourth-year medical student would have in the ICU during an in-person clerkship. Read Story

Inaugural Vice Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Ana Núñez, MD, FACP, estimates meeting 600-700 people in her first few months as the inaugural vice dean for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is also a Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine Biography - Read Story

Dr. Andrew Olson has accepted the positions of Director of Hospital Medicine for the University of Minnesota Medical Center and as Section Head for Hospital Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Announcement

Dr. Seaquist Named Associate Dean for Medical Specialties and Primary Care for the University of Minnesota Medical School: Dr. Seaquist is a professor of medicine and Pennock Family Chair in Diabetes Research for the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism. ‘Foundations in Health Equity’: New Course to Address Health Disparities.

Dr. Taj Mustapha is leading the charge to introduce new medical curricula that teaches medical practitioners, faculty and students to recognize and address racial and other biases in healthcare. Read Article

Awards, Recognition & Accomplishments
Drs. David Hilden and Mark Linzer were included in the list of “100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders” in the Minnesota Physician Journal’s November 2020.

Dr. Bertram Kasiske was one of 24 University of Minnesota faculty members named on the 2020 Highly Cited Researchers list on November 18, 2020, published by insight and analytics firm Clarivate Analytics.

Academy for Excellence Recognition: Dr. Brian Sick: 2020 Inductee - Academy for Excellence in Scholarship of Teaching & Learning and Dr. Kristine Ensrud: 2020 Inductee - Academy for Excellence in Health Research. The Academies for Excellence recognizes outstanding faculty in the areas of scientific research, educational scholarship, clinical practice, and team science.

Dr. Caitlin Eccles-Radtke, Division of Infectious Diseases & International Medicine was featured on the cover of the Minnesota Monthly, September 2020 issue: “Staying One Step Ahead of the Pandemic”.

Assistant Professor Earns 2020 Clinical Scientist Development Award: Medical Fellow Sasha Prisco of the Prins lab has earned first place in the Northwestern Cardiovascular Young Investigator Competition for her entry titled “GP130 Signaling Promotes Right Ventricular Dysfunction in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.”
Recipient of the 2020 Charles Bolles Bolles-Rogers Award: Daniel J. Weisdorf, MD, a professor in the Department of Medicine and deputy director of the U of M Clinical and Translational Institute, received the award from the Twin Cities Medical Society Foundation. Read Story

Forum Kamdar, MD, FACC, in the Department of Medicine is one of 17 physician scientists in the U.S. to receive a $495,000 award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to expand on her research that hopes to improve therapy for those with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Read Story

Teaching Medical Students how to Combat Misinformation on Social Media: Kristina Krohn, MD, Assistant Professor with the division of General Internal Medicine, started a four-week course that teaches medical students how to use social media and their medical education to connect others with timely and accurate public health information online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read Story

Dr. Mark Rosenberg received the President’s Award for Outstanding Service. About The Award