



Proceedings of the Inaugural Meritus Scholar-Con

March 13, 2025

MSOM.ORG

“Welcome to the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine’s Scholar-Con 2025! This inaugural event highlights the research and scholarly activity of our Meritus community, including our MSOM faculty and Meritus Health providers and staff in addition to the larger Meritus community of residents and rotating clinical students. Posters and podium talks will be presented in six key areas: Clinical Research, Quality Improvement, or Health Systems Science; Clinical Case Studies; Biomedical and Translational Science; Population, Community, and Health Equity; Medical Education; and Outreach. We are grateful that you could join us as we support these scholars and celebrate this exciting MSOM milestone!”

Dr. Murray Berkowitz
Interim Dean



We extend our deepest gratitude to our abstract review committee and poster assessment panel for their invaluable contributions.

Abstract Review Committee

- Faisal Akram, MBBS
- Venkata Atluri, PhD, MSc
- Maxim Crasta, PhD, MSc
- Joseph Outmezguine, MD
- Chante' Richardson, PhD, MBA
- Tim Shipley, PhD
- Shawn White, PhD

Poster Assessment Panel

The following individuals will serve on the poster assessment panel, providing valuable feedback to our presenters:

- Venkata Atluri, PhD, MSc
- Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP
- Beth Fields Dowdell, DNP, CRNP, CEN, NRP
- Mary Jo Martin, MD, MT (ASCP)
- Sridhar Gona, MHA, MS, BS.Pharm
- Brad Miller, DO, FAAFP
- Geoffrey Sanyi, DO
- Shawn White, PhD
- Amenu Wirtu, PhD

Organizers



Audrey Vasauskas, PhD
Associate Dean of Research
Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine



Brianna Golden, MPH
Administrative Research Coordinator
Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine

SCHEDULE

4:00-4:30 Check-In

4:30-5:45 Poster Presentations

5:45-6:00 Break

6:00-7:25 Podium Presentations

4.1. Go for Bold: Improving Health Outcomes One Pound at a Time
Allen Twigg, LCPC & Remi Patel, MHA

1.9. Improving Utilization of PHQ-9 and GAD-7 Scoring in a Family Medicine Residency Clinic
Ralitza Tacheva, MD & Talia Smith, DO

2.8. Fixing a Broken Heart: A Case of Suspected Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy Presenting to the ED
Manuel Linarte, BS, OMS-III

3.2. NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation by Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP695) and Its Swedish Mutant: Implications for Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis
Venkata Atluri, PhD

5.2. A Comprehensive Review of Clinical Experiences and Extracurricular Activities Among U.S. Premedical Students Applying to Osteopathic Medical Schools
Samuel Kadavakollu, PhD, MSc

6.1. Eradicating the Loneliness Epidemic: One Phone Call at a Time
Maulik Joshi, DrPH & Lynnae Messner, CPhT, MBA

7:25-7:30 Closing Remarks

Clinical Research, Quality Improvement, or Health Systems Science

1.1. Association Between Psychiatric Comorbidity and Symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder: Findings from NIMH CAT-D Study

Faisal Akram, MBBS

1.3. Implementing Fluoride Varnish Treatment for Pediatric Patients in a Family Medicine Residency Clinic

Ariel Lim-Sharpe, DO; Joseph Outmezguine, MD

1.4. Meritus Health's Alcohol Withdrawal Protocol for the ED: A Novel Protocol for the Management of Alcohol Withdrawal

Heather P.M. Theibert, DO; Marsha A. Hickey, BSN, RN, CCM; Joshua T. McClain, MD; Matthew G. Wagner, MD

1.5. The Impact of Obesity on Surgical Outcomes in Trauma Patients with Penetrating Injury: A Retrospective Analysis

Grace Perry, BS, OMS-III; Danielle Strawn, DO; David Metcalf, MA; Sylvester Paulasir, MD, MBA, FACS

1.6. Increasing Pneumonia Vaccination Rates in a Family Medicine Residency Clinic

Viraj Patel, DO; Justin Brandt, DO; Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP

1.7. Examining the Connection Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Development of Fibromyalgia

Ashley Moats, DO; Lawrence Barnoski, DO

1.8. Increasing Flu Vaccination Rates in a Family Medicine Residency Clinic

Ali Zarandazchi, MD; Paige Cobb, MD; Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP

1.9. Improving Utilization of PHQ-9 and GAD-7 Scoring in a Family Medicine Residency Clinic

Talia Smith, DO; Ralitza Tacheva, MD; Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP

1.10. Trauma Patient Assessment Performance Improvement KATA

Kyle N. Remick, MD, FACS; Pathya Kunthy, MPH; Tamara C. Baughman, BSN, RN, CEN, TCRN

1.11. A Preliminary Analysis of Low-Titer O-Negative Whole Blood Use at Meritus Medical Center: A Quality Improvement Review

Kyle N. Remick, MD, FACS; Grace Perry, BS, OMS-III; Junius A. Rosario, BS, OMS-III; Tamara C. Baughman, BSN, RN, CEN, TCRN

1.12. Bridging the Gap Between Inpatient and Outpatient Communication of Malnutrition

Amy Rost, DO; Uvindu Waniachchige, DO; Kelly Bright, RD; Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP

1.13. Surgical Outcomes in Acute Cholecystitis: A Gender-Based Retrospective Analysis

Krupesh G. Patel, OMS-III, MS; Chase Stauffer, DO; David Metcalf, MA; Sylvester Paulasir, MD, MBA, FACS

1.14. Assessing the Impact of Faculty Development on Didactic Teaching in a Family Medicine Residency: A Six-Month Follow-Up Study

Helen Harrington, DO; Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP; Ashika Chaluvadi, DO

Clinical Case Studies

2.1. A General Overview of New MIGS (Micro-Invasive Glaucoma Surgery)

Jessica McLean, RN; Sidney T. Chang, MD

2.2. Case Report: The Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Pain Utilizing Topical Amitriptyline- Ketamine Compound Cream

Chiemeka Onyima, MD, DABA; Junius A. Rosario, BS, OMS-III

2.3. The Prevalence of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernias in Patients with a 15q11.2 Microduplication

Andre Budianto, OMS-III; Rebecca Bilokon, OMS-III; Jennifer Read, OMS-III; Michael Watcher, OMS-III; Eleanor Smith, MD

2.4. Case Study: Managing Type 1 Diabetes in a Patient With Paranoid Schizophrenia

Deekshitha Tella, OMS-III; Zainab Calcuttawala, OMS-III; Yousuf Almadhoun, OMS-III; Ayodeji Somefun, MD

2.5. Case Report: Ocular Syphilis with Rapid Loss of Visual Acuity

Pathya Kunthy, MPH; John M. Roach, MD

2.6. Superficial CD34-Positive Fibroblastic Tumor: A Case Study

Nishi Patel, BA; Susan Sharpe, MD

2.8. Fixing a Broken Heart: A Case of Suspected Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy Presenting to the ED

Manuel Linarte, BS, OMS-III; Christopher Vaccari, MD

2.9. A Case Report: Goblet Cell Carcinoma of the Appendix

Krupesh G. Patel, OMS-III, MS; Asim Shabbir, DO

2.10. Robotic-Assisted Repair of a Concomitant Paraesophageal and Left Diaphragmatic Hernia

Krupesh G. Patel, OMS-III, MS; Stephen Kavic, MD; Mohammad Jamal, MD; Sridhar Gona, MHA, MS, BSPHarm; Hugo J.R. Bonatti, MD

2.11. First Case of Acute Cholecystitis due to *Veillonella* spp. and Report of a Series of Infections due to the Elusive Anaerobe at a Community Hospital Center

Junius A. Rosario, BS, OMS-III; Neerav Patel, MD, FRCS; Sridhar Gona, MS, MHA, BSPHarm; Aaron George, DO; Stephen Kavic, MD; Hugo JR Bonatti, MD

2.12. A Case of Large B-Cell Lymphoma in a Patient with Morbid Obesity, Lymphedema, and Recurrent Cellulitis

Meghana Annadata, MD; Carmina Rogelio, MD; Daniel Deaton, MD, FAAFP

2.13. Hand Sanitizer Intoxication in Disguise: A Case Study

Evan Curry, MS; Michael Nickasch, MD; Heather P.M. Theibert, DO

2.14. Massive Myocardial Infarction and Ventricular Rupture Following Laparoscopic Colectomy for Colorectal Cancer: A Devastating Complication

Siam Shabbir, BS; Manuel Linarte, BS, OMS-III; Sridhar Gona, MHA, MS, BS.Pharm; Aaron George, DO; Hugo J.R. Bonatti, MD

2.15. Single Center Experience with Infections due to *Raoultella*: An Emerging Surgical Pathogen

Krupesh G. Patel, OMS-III, MS; John Kessler, MD; Sridhar Gona, MHA, MS, BSPHarm; Aaron George DO, Hugo J.R. Bonatti, MD

Biomedical and Translational Science

3.1. Examination of Umbilical Cord and Its Vessels in Preeclampsia

Elsabet Mohammed, MSc; Mekbeb Afework, PhD; Kiflom Tesfaye, MD; Wondwossen Ergete, MD; Amenu T. Wirtu, PhD

3.2. NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation by Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP695) and Its Swedish Mutant: Implications for Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis

Venkata Athuri, PhD, MSc; Samuel Kadavakollu, PhD, MSc; Braydon Black, BS; Nestor Cruz, BS; Sydney Sands, BS; Elizabeth Sarkisian, BS

3.3. Impact of Suboccipital Release Osteopathic Manipulation on Autonomic Nervous System: A Study of Short-Term QT Interval Changes in Healthy Young Adults

Ryan Witzak, MS; Jennifer Kachelmeyer, MS; Kristina Cummings, DO

3.5. Spectrum of Pathogens involved in Eye Infections Observed at a Rural Hospital

Pathya Kunthy, MPH; Junius Rosario BS, OMS-III; Sridhar Gona, MHA, MS, BSPHarm; Aaron George, DO, Hugo J.R. Bonatti, MD

3.6 Synergistic Role of Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy and Finasteride in Epigenetic Regulation of ChAT and SIRT1 Genes Expression: A Gateway to Alleviation of Symptoms Associated with Huntington's Disease

Churchill Ihentuge, PhD, MD, MSC, MBA

3.7 Epigenetic Effects on Altered Sperm Motility Initiation by Finasteride-Induced Modulation of Akt and CCND1 Gene Methylation

Churchill Ihentuge, PhD, MD, MSC, MBA

Population, Community, and Health Equity

4.1. Go for Bold: Improving Health Outcomes One Pound at a Time

Remi Patel, MHA; Allen Twigg, LCPC; Maulik Joshi, DrPH

4.2. What Matters to You, Matters to Us

Carly Critchfield, MHA; Vignesh Prasad; Maulik Joshi, DrPH

4.3. Bacteremia in Pediatric Patients - A Critical Review of 107 Patients in the Community Setting

Junius A. Rosario, BS, OMS-III; Anand Budi, MD; Sridhar Gona, MS, MHA, BSPHarm; Nicole Kus, MD; Hugo J.R. Bonatti, MD

4.4. A Series of Roseomonas Gilardi Bacteremias at a Rural Hospital

Manuel Linarte, BS, OMS-III; Pooja Ajith; Sridhar Gona, MS, MHA, BSPHarm; Hugo J.R. Bonatti, MD; Aaron George, DO

4.5. Correlation of the Public Perception and Reality of Pandemic Policy Formation in Washington County, Maryland

Shawn White, PhD

4.6. Perceptions of Opioid Use and Treatment in Rural Appalachia: A Quantitative Review of the Literature

Heather P.M. Theibert, DO; Evan Curry, MS; Ajay Bhandari, MD

Medical Education

5.1. How to Prepare for the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation (COMLEX-USA Level 2-CCE)

Samuel Kadavakollu, PhD, MSc; Aaron George, DO; Venkata Atluri, PhD, MSc; Paula Gregory, DO

5.2. A Comprehensive Review of Clinical Experiences and Extracurricular Activities Among U.S. Premedical Students Applying to Osteopathic Medical Schools

Samuel Kadavakollu, PhD; Thu Dang, BS; Jasleen Bains, BS; Jared Ham-Ying, DO; Boris Boyanovsky, MD; Mahboob Qureshi, MD; John Graneto, DO; Sherese Richards, MD

Outreach

6.1. Eradicating the Loneliness Epidemic: One Phone Call at a Time

Ethan Feldmiller, MHA; Sridhar Gona, MHA, MS, BSPHarm; Maulik Joshi, DrPH; Lynnae Messner, CPhT, MBA

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