

UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM.

Faculty, fellow and staff Meeting

January 27th, 2023

Good news



Gelare Ghajar-Rahimi:

- American Heart Association pre-doctoral fellowship funded.
- Mentor: Anupam Agarwal, MD

Good news



Abolfazi Zarjou, MD, PhD:

Awarded a \$2 million, 5-year R01 entitled “Regulation of Macrophage Phenotype by Ferritin Heavy Chain in CKD” from the NIDDK.

Congratulations Zarjou!



- **2022 Argus Award Winner for best educator in renal module** . This award provides the medical students the chance to honor mentors, professors, course and course directors for outstanding service to medical education. Faculty members are nominated by course evaluations and students vote to select award winners in each category.

Good news



**Arun Rajasekaran, MD and
Eric Wallace, MD:**

named Patient Experience
leaders for FY22, based on
averaging 95% or higher on
care satisfaction domain
within Medallia.



Good news



1/27/23, 7:53 AM

Nephrology Director Shares Ups, Downs of Participating in Kidney Care First



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Nephrology Director Shares Ups, Downs of Participating in Kidney Care First

Nov 5, 2022

By Allison Inserro



Conference | [Kidney Week](#)

It has been 3 years since new kidney care payment models were announced by HHS, and at a session at Kidney Week 2022, the associate division director of nephrology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham described his organization's participation in Kidney Care First, one of the value-based care models announced in 2019.

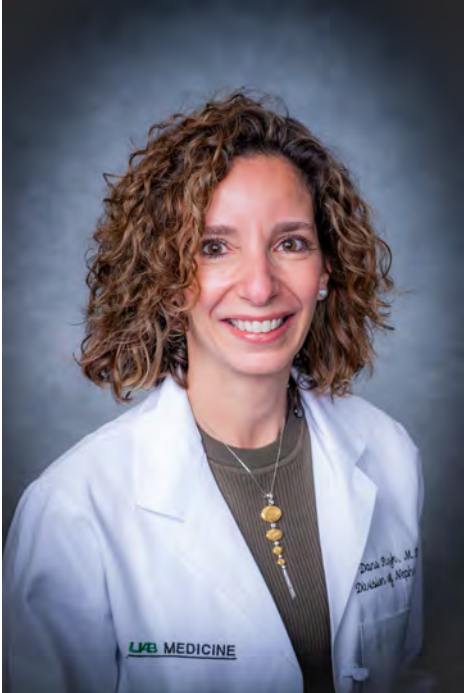
In 2019, [HHS announced](#) an overhaul of how kidney care is delivered and paid for in the United States in an effort to better align incentives and outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Advancing American Kidney Health initiative set forth 3 goals: a 25% decrease in kidney failure incidence by 2030; shifting to home dialysis or transplant for up to 80% of patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) by the end of 2025; and doubling the available kidneys for transplant by 2030.

At a Saturday session at [Kidney Week 2022](#), the associate division director of nephrology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) described his organization's participation in Kidney Care First (KCF), 1 of the 4 available models.

Guarav Jain, MD, FASN, described how UAB decided to join, what lessons they learned, and the successes and challenges they have experienced. Jain also co-leads the Alabama Physician Network, the accountable care organization (ACO) within the UAB health system.

Good News



UAB CureGN team:

Received two awards for **Data Quality** (least number of outstanding data queries) and **Highest SMS enrollment**. Asked to share experiences in achieving these successes to develop best practices consortium-wide.



Good News





Malgorzata (Gosia) Kasztan, PhD:
awarded the **2023 American
Physiological Society Renal Section
New Investigator Award .**

Also recently selected as a **2023
Pittman Scholar**

New kidney interest group

- Venu Reddy and Brody Rhodes plus 3 other first year medical students are founding members of **Students interested in Nephrology Group (SING)** . SING has 15 first year medical students on their mailing list and participants.
- SING has four core areas of interest as an organization: Education, Professional Development, Outreach, and Research.
- Host seminars for students to hear about nephrology careers and fellowships, emerging nephrology research from UAB and beyond, and discussions on nephrology health disparities as well as facilitating organized shadowing opportunities in the nephrology department and professional development workshops.
- Additional activities to further these goals include presentations for becoming a living kidney donor and collaboration with other organizations to table at screening events to talk about kidney health as well as connecting interested students to research opportunities to further their interests in the subject and improve the overall body of knowledge in the field.

Reminders

- Please prioritize conference attendance, particularly for fellow educational conferences