



**W**elcome to all of our new students, residents and fellows!

On behalf of the Research Department and the Institutional Review Board, we want to extend our assistance and support as you work on your research endeavors and scholarly activity.

There are many educational opportunities for Ascension St. John personnel at all levels of training. For students, residents and fellows, I will be giving a lecture to every department regarding the research process, support available to you and research compliance. For study coordinators, nurses and faculty investigators, we will continue to conduct our quarterly "Research Onboarding" lectures for anyone new to St. John or new to research. If you have any requests for other educational lectures, please let me know.

For our new trainees, please make sure to stop by the library and meet our librarians, Karin and Debbie. They both will provide expert assistance to you with literature searches and with obtaining copies of articles that are not in our electronic collection.

During 2017-18, Ascension St. John Hospital had over 170 publications in journals indexed in PubMed. These include journals such as the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC). I hope that we will all keep up this fantastic research scholarship in the coming year.

Once again,



*Dr. Susanna Szpunar*

Director, Biomedical Investigations and Research

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## Fast Stats

**Measures of Association** are values that show us the direction and strength of the association between a risk factor and a disease. There are several common measures of association that arise from different study designs.

**Odds Ratio (OR):** The Odds Ratio can be computed from any study design. It is the ratio of the odds of a case patient being exposed to a factor divided by the odds of a control patient being exposed. The OR is a good estimator of the relative risk when the disease is rare. The null value is 1.

**Relative Risk (RR):** The relative risk is the ratio of the probability of disease in the exposed versus the probability in those unexposed to a risk factor. It can only be computed from prospective studies. This measure shows us the strength of the association between a risk factor and a disease. The null value is 1.

**Risk Difference (RD) or Absolute Risk Reduction (ARR):** This measure is simply the difference in the probability of disease in the exposed and the probability in the unexposed. On a population level, this measure helps us to know how much disease can be prevented if the risk is removed. The null value is 0.

**Number Needed to Treat (NNT):** This value is 100/the ARR when the ARR is expressed as a percentage. This value tells us the number of patients we would need to treat to prevent one case of disease.

**Hazards Ratio (HR):** The Hazards Ratio is computed from survival data. The probability of events occurring at any point in time is called a Hazard for that group and the weighted RR during the entire study duration is known as the Hazards Ratio. The null value is 1.

Which measure do I use?

- The RR, RD and HR can only be computed from prospective studies.
- The HR comes from studies that have time as a component in the analysis.
- The OR can be computed from any study type, however, it will often overestimate the RR when the disease is rare.

## Congratulations are in order....

Dr. Premchand Anne, Pediatric Cardiologist and Program Director for the Pediatric Residency Program at Ascension St. John Hospital, has been appointed to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Pediatric Advisory Committee. This committee advises and makes recommendations to the Commissioner of the FDA on matters related to pediatric therapeutics, medical devices, pediatric research, pediatric ethical issues and other matters involving children for which the FDA has regulatory responsibility. Dr. Anne is a member of the Ascension St. John Institutional Review Board and the GME Research Committee. Since Dr. Anne has joined the faculty, our pediatric residents have had tremendous success in local and regional research competitions. Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Anne!



As seen in **MI Connection 6/7/18**, Dr. Jeffrey Falk, another member of the Ascension St. John Hospital IRB, was recognized for his outstanding patient care:

### **Except from a patient letter sent to Jeffrey Falk, MD, Van Elslander Cancer Center**

*Dear Dr. Falk:*

*You initially had the very hard job of telling me I had breast cancer in August of 2008. Thanks to the biopsy you ordered and the lumpectomy and sentinel node biopsy done in September of that year, I will be celebrating 10 years as a cancer survivor this fall. Please know how much I appreciate all that you did back in 2008 and what you continue to do today for other cancer patients. Your bedside manner made me so comfortable I was never scared for a moment!*

## Excellence in Research

Dr. Ali Bazzi, an Ascension St. John OB/GYN resident, received the ICGO 2018 certificate of "Best Presentation Award" at the 20th International Conference on Gynecology and Obstetrics, for his paper: *Grade and Maximum Tumor Dimension as Determinants of Lymphadenectomy in Patients with Endometrial Cancer*. His co-investigators included Dr. Ameer Hamza, Riley O'Hara, Kimberly Kade, Karen Hagglund, Lamia Fatallah and Robert Morris.

## SEMCME

Congratulations to our residents who presented at the 40th Annual SEMCME Research Forum held in May, 2018:

- Dr. Ameer Hamza (Pathology): *Factors Affecting the Concordance of Radiologic, Gross and Microscopic Pathologic Tumor Size in Breast Carcinoma.*
- Dr. Matthew Wilkins (Internal Medicine): *Can Internal Medicine Residents Accurately Detect Inpatient Lower Extremity Deep Venous Thrombosis with Compression Ultrasonography?*
- Dr. Jessica Scholey (Obstetrics & Gynecology): *The Likelihood of Primary Cesarean Section by Body Mass Index Category in a Community-Based Michigan Hospital.*
- Dr. Mary MacLeod (Pediatrics): *Investigating the Efficacy of Interventions to Improve Parental/Guardian Acceptance of the Influenza Vaccine for Pediatric Patients.*

### Pediatric Research Forum (May, 2018)

- Dr. Azeel Zeidan won 2nd place for her project: *Maternal Postpartum Depression Screening: a Randomized Controlled Study.*



## Recent Publications

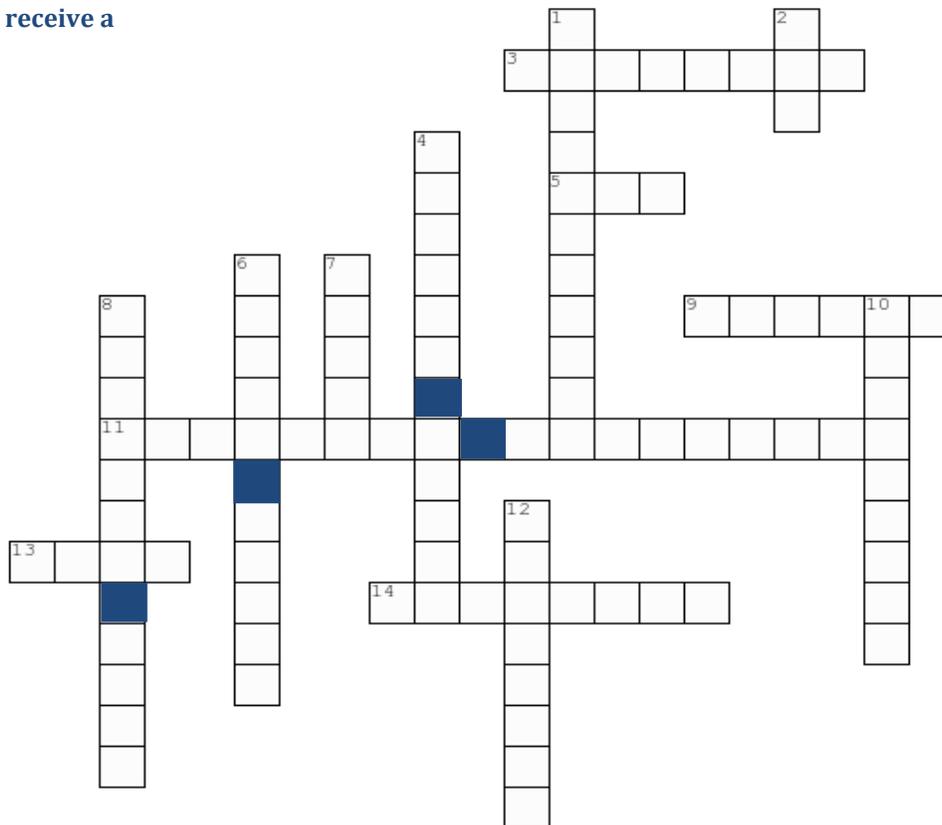
1. Saravolatz L, Labalo V, Fishbain J, Szpunar S, Johnson L. Lack of effect of antibiotics on biopsy culture results in vertebral osteomyelitis. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis* 2018;91(3):273-4.
2. Vasicek B, Szpunar S, Manz-Dulac L. Patient knowledge of sunscreen guidelines and frequency of physician counseling: A cross-sectional study. *J Clin Aesthet Dermatol* 2018;11(1):35-40.
3. Neupane S, Edla S, Maidona E, Sweet M, Szpunar S, Davis T, et al. Long-term outcomes of patients with diabetes mellitus undergoing percutaneous intervention for popliteal and infrapopliteal peripheral arterial disease. *Catheter Cardiovasc Inter* 2018;00:1-7.

### BE A WINNER:

The first 5 people who send Dr. Szpunar a correct crossword puzzle will receive a surprise!

## Test Your Research IQ!

Complete the crossword below



Created with [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://TheTeachersCorner.net)

### Across

3. Your research plan
5. The acronym for patient health information that we safeguard
9. Distribution that looks like a bell-shaped curve
11. A measure of variance
13. Human Subjects Training Sponsor
14. Never keep data on a \_\_\_\_\_ computer

### Down

1. A study design that looks forward in time
2. The Research Office is in what building?
4. Who is our IRB chair?
6. Who is our CMO?
7. Acronym for law that protects patient information
8. Patients who want to be in a clinical study need to sign a \_\_\_\_\_
10. IRB form used to make changes to a study
12. A short summary of research that is sent as part of an application to present at a meeting



## Institutional Review Board News

### New Short Form Consent Documents

Participants who have limited or no English aptitude may be enrolled in research if an investigator has the resources to communicate effectively during the recruitment process, while obtaining consent, and for the duration of the study. The short form consent is typically used when an unexpected potential participant does not speak English and there is not enough time to translate the English version of the approved consent document into a language the potential participant comprehends.

A short form consent document attests that the elements of informed consent, as required by DHHS and the FDA, have been presented orally to either the participant or the participant's legally authorized representative. Please refer to the Short Form Guidance located in [IRBNet](#) or call the IRB office for information on when the document may be used. The Short Form Consent Templates are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. If the language you need is not available in IRBNet, please contact the IRB office immediately.

The short form procedure may be used twice for a language per study. After the second use of the short form consent process, the full informed consent document must be translated into the needed language and you must submit an amendment form to enroll non-English speaking persons as it will then be anticipated that you will encounter additional potential participants that understand that language.

## Upcoming CME Seminars

**September 12, 2018**

**Updates in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery**

**November 7, 2018**

**Family Medicine seminar (TBD)**

Physicians wishing to complete their mandatory requirements for CME go to [WWW.MI.CME.EDU](http://www.MI.CME.EDU) to access the courses.

For information about the CME program at Ascension St. John Hospital, click here:

<http://www.stjohnprovidence.org/sjhmccme>

## Research Staff

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## Upcoming Lectures

**August 17, 2018:**

Introduction to Research Design-Dr. Szpunar

**September 21, 2018:**

Understanding Statistical Analysis-Dr. Szpunar



THINGS GOT REALLY INTERESTING WHEN THE STATISTICIAN STARTED DOING WARD ROUNDS.