



Winter is coming and with the snow flurries are a flurry of changes for researchers. We have drafted a new policy and procedure for individuals who would like to *volunteer* to work on research projects. We hope to have the policy in Policy Stat soon, but until then, if you have any questions or want to involve a volunteer in a research project, please feel free to contact me.

In the next few months, SJPHS will also be instituting a new policy and form for obtaining informed consent for case reports. The requirement for informed consent for case reports is becoming more common and many journals are asking if consent was obtained before accepting a case report for publication. Stay tuned for more information!

In October, we held our first “Research Onboarding” session, a three-part seminar that goes over the basics of protocol approval, IRB submission and study start-up. While this course is targeted to new researchers or to people who need to dust off some skills, all are welcome. We plan to offer “Research Onboarding” every quarter and CME credits are awarded.

Early in 2018, we plan to have a St. John Research Expo. The Research Expo will be a friendly, informal venue for St. John researchers and fellows to present their research to others. We do a lot of great work in research at St. John, but often we don’t share it—even within our own hospital. Please consider presenting your work as a poster or an oral presentation at the Expo—more details to come.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need guidance with your scholarly research endeavors. If you have suggestions for the newsletter, please contact me or Alice Mar.

Dr. Susanna Szpunar

Director, Biomedical Investigations and Research

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Research Notes

When conducting a study that requires an informed consent, there are several key items to keep in mind:

1. Consent is a process, not merely a document. The process should include a discussion with the patient/family about the research study and an explanation (in lay terms) of the information in the consent form. Patients should have time to think about whether or not they want to consent to participate.
2. The consent form must be signed and dated by the patient or the patient’s legally authorized representative (LAR). The witness, the person obtaining consent, or the PI cannot date the consent form for the patient.
3. After a patient signs the consent form, the consent should be photocopied and a copy should be given to the patient.
4. Only individuals who are on the IRB-approved team list (also know as a delegation log) with the role of obtaining consent should consent patients for a study.

Fast Stats

Bayesian Statistics

Increasingly, we are reading and hearing more about data being analyzed using Bayesian techniques. The Reverend Thomas Bayes (1701-1761) devised Bayes Theorem and proved it in the context of horse racing.

There are generally two types of statisticians: *Frequentists* and *Bayesians*. The main difference is that frequentists consider probability to be a property of the physical world, whereas Bayesians consider probability to be a measure of uncertainty regarding our knowledge of the physical world.

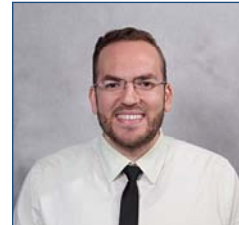
Thus, Bayesians use the idea of *a priori* probabilities to help compute the probability of another event occurring.

So, which is correct? Both! Bayesian statistics are only as good as the data upon which the *a priori* probabilities were calculated. On the other hand, ignoring *a priori* probabilities can lead to poor estimates of future performance or risk.

ACP Competition Winners

The Annual American College of Physician’s Michigan Chapter meeting was held on October 19-22 in Traverse City. Congratulations to two of our Fellows and a medical student for an outstanding job!

Dr. Jason Mouabbi won First Place for his oral presentation in the category of research for his study: “Neutrophil to Lymphocyte Ratio and Platelet to Lymphocyte Ratio as Predictive Markers for Unprovoked Deep Vein Thrombosis”. Dr. Mouabbi found that both NLR and PLR were *better predictors of the presence of absence of DVT compared to the standard D-dimer test*. NLR was found to be most useful in ruling-out a DVT; whereas PLR was most useful in ruling-in a DVT. When both the NLR and PLR values were positive, the test had 89% sensitivity and 100% specificity. Dr. Mouabbi has been invited to present his research in Sydney, Australia by CHEST, the Journal of the American College of Chest Physicians.



Jason Mouabbi, M.D.
Hematology/Oncology



Rami Zein, M.D.
Cardiology

Dr. Rami Zein won Second Place for his poster presentation in the category of research for his study: “The Association of Clinical and Echocardiographic Findings with New Onset Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction”.

Stephanie Saravolatz, MS-1, WSU, won first place in the student competition for a project that she completed with Dr. Leonard Johnson. Stephanie’s project assessed the role of psychiatric medications on compliance with HIV therapy. Stephanie found that the use of anti-depressants was associated with better compliance with HIV therapy.

Both Jason and Stephanie will present their work at the National ACP meeting in New Orleans.

Kudos

Congratulations to Karen Hagglund, M.S. of Graduate Medical Education! She received the **Excellence in Medical Education Award** by the Southeast Michigan Center for Medical Education (SEMCME) Board of Directors on September 12, 2017. Karen has been a valuable member of the SJH&MC Graduate Medical Education Research Department for 26 years. This is the 14th year this honor has been awarded.



Karen Hagglund, M.S.

Also, congratulations to Lee Booze-Battle, M.P.A., C.I.P. of the Institutional Review Board. Ms. Booze-Battle was awarded \$2,500 for school fees from the Ninth Annual Healthcare Education Fund. The funds will be used to help Lee earn her doctoral degree.

SJH&MC Alumni in the News

Former SJH&MC residents Kevin Menes (MD) (class of 2008) and Charles Lin (class of 2017) are both Emergency Medicine attending physicians at Sunrise Medical Center, the only trauma center on the Las Vegas strip. On the evening of the tragic shooting, Dr. Menes was on duty. With multiple critical patients, the supply of ventilators was short. Dr. Menes remembered the research project of a fellow resident (Dr. Greg Neyman, 2007; faculty mentor Charlene Babcock) that demonstrated that one could place multiple patients on a single ventilator in the event of a disaster. Dr. Menes was able to double the hospital’s ventilator capacity with his fellow resident’s idea. Drs. Menes and Lin saved many patients that night and proudly credit their SJH&MC EM training and *research requirement* for giving them this ability.



Research Investigator Spotlight

Dr. Daniel Lebovic, in conjunction with Dr. Deborah Doherty (Oakland University) and Dr. Lori Boright (SJH&MC/Oakland University), have received faculty funding to study the utility of prehabilitation on chemotherapy completion in patients with lymphoma.

Prehabilitation is the concept of providing education, nutrition and exercises prior to chemotherapy, with the hope that patients in better overall health will be more likely to complete their full course of chemotherapy without modification of the protocol.

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Patients with peripheral artery disease often experience a significant decline in quality of life resulting from this condition. Several of our cardiology fellows are examining the quality of life in patients who underwent peripheral angioplasty at SJH&MC, using local data from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Cardiovascular Consortium Percutaneous Vascular Intervention Quality Improvement Initiative (BMC2-PVI). Two publications have resulted from this work so far, with more to come. Congratulations to Drs. Saif Al-Najafi, Anwar Zaitoun, Sudarshan Paudel, Hank Rosman, Rajendra Mehta, Dawn Light, Susanna Szpunar and the many residents who have assisted with data collection so far.

## SEMCME 2017-2018 Research Workshop Series

This series was developed for residents at SEMCME member hospitals to learn fundamentals of research methodology. There is one more workshop in this series to attend.

**Workshop III (Dec. 6):** Written and Oral Presentation of Scientific Research

Click here for the course information [brochure](#) and to [register online](#). If you are a resident interested in attending the Research Workshops, please speak to your residency program coordinator before registering.

Click here for the [SEMCME website](#).

## Upcoming CME Seminars

**Radiology Seminar** – March 22, 2018

**Pediatric Seminar** - May 2, 2018

**Internal Medicine Seminar** - June 6, 2018

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

For information about the CME program at St. John Hospital, click here <http://www.stjohnprovidence.org/sjhccme>

## Upcoming CAML Lectures:

**January 19, 2018:**

**Statistical Testing Part 1**

Dr. Susanna Szpunar, SJH&MC Auditorium

**February 17, 2018:**

**Statistical Testing Part 2**

Dr. Susanna Szpunar, SJH&MC Auditorium

### Upcoming Events:

**Research Onboarding: February, 2018**

**SJH&MC Staff Investigator and Fellow Research Expo: February, 2018**

**More Details and Registration Info to come!**

## Recent Publications:

Anwar Zaitoun, Saif Al-Najafi, Thaer Musa, Susan Szpunar, Dawn Light, Thomas Lalonde, Hiroshi Yamasaki, Rajendra H Mehta, Howard S Rosman. The association of race with quality of health in peripheral artery disease following peripheral vascular intervention: The Q-PAD Study. *Vascular Medicine* 2017 Oct (ahead of print). <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1358863X17733065>

Sudarshan Paudel, Anwar Zaitoun, Saif Al-Najafi, Thaer Musa, Susan Szpunar, Dawn Light, Rajendra H. Mehta, Howard S. Rosman. The association of gender with quality of health in peripheral arterial disease following peripheral vascular intervention. *Vascular Disease Management* 2017;14(10):E218-E224

