

# SECTION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND METABOLISM

## SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2021, our faculty were awarded four additional federal grants from the NIH and one from the Veterans Administration. Thanks to this, we rank second in NIH-funded grants awarded to the Department of Medicine's divisions and centers.
- Our faculties have been published in some of the top scientific journals, including *Nature*, and some of the top journals related to our discipline, such as *Diabetes*, the *Journal of the Endocrine Society*, *Endocrinology* and the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*.
- During the last year, our effort at Baylor Clinic has significantly increased after recruiting four additional endocrinologists.
- Dr. Ruchi Gaba became the new co-director of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Center at the Baylor Clinic in the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Dr. Bahar Force became the new medical director of the Pituitary Center at Baylor Clinic in Neurosurgery.
- Clearly and despite these trying times, our faculty remain committed to advancing the science and clinical practice of endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism to the next level.



**INTERIM SECTION CHIEF**

*Marco Marcelli, MD*

## FACULTY

### ***Section Leadership***

- Marco Marcelli, MD, Interim Chief; Medical Director, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
- Mandeep Bajaj, MD, Medical Director, Faculty Group Practice
- Ashok Balasubramanyam, MD, Vice President for Academic Integration and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine
- Nalini Ram, MBBS, Chief of Endocrine Service, Ben Taub Hospital
- Sanjay Mediwala, MD, Endocrine Fellowship Program Director
- Ruchi Gaba, MBBS, Endocrine Fellowship Program Deputy Director
- Siripoom McKay, MD, Medical Director, Young Adult Diabetes Clinic
- Bahar Force, MD, Medical Director, Pituitary Center, Baylor Clinic

## Faculty

### Professor

- Mandeep Bajaj, MD
- Ashok Balasubramanyam, MD
- Marco Marcelli, MD
- Massimo Pietropaolo, MD
- Nalini Ram, MB, BS
- Dennis Villareal, MD

### Associate Professor

- Michael Liebschner, PhD
- Pradip Saha, PhD
- Rajagopal Sekhar, PhD
- Susan Leanne Samson, MD, PhD
- Zheng Sun, PhD
- Reina Villareal, MD

### Assistant Professor

- Sara Bedrose, MD
- Jasmine Boparai, MB, BS
- Rui Chen, MD
- Dimpri Desai, MD
- Bahar Force, MD
- Ruchi Gaba, MB, BS
- Sean Hartig, PhD
- Bryan Jiang, MD
- Betty La, MD
- Siripoom McKay, MD
- Sanjay Navin Mediwala, MD
- Ha Nguyen, MD

- Elina Trofimovsky, MD
- Madhuri Vasudevan, MD, MPH
- Li Zhang, MD, PhD, MSc

### Instructor

- Maria Acevedo, PhD
- Neeti Agarwal, PhD
- Richard Cox, PhD
- Emilia Cordero, MS
- Nancy Greta Rene Dufrane, MPH, MSN
- Wenjun Zhou, PhD

### Secondary

- David Moore, PhD
- Kazuhiro Oka, PhD, MS
- Bert O'Malley, MD
- Joanne Richards, PhD
- Jeffrey Rosen, PhD
- Ming-Jer Tsai, PhD
- Sophia Tsai, PhD

### Adjunct

- Fareed Elhaj, MD
- Robert Gagel, MD
- Jose Manuel Garcia, MD, PhD
- Dinakar Iyer, PhD, MS
- Medhavi Jogi, MD
- Steven Sherman, MD
- Vijay Yechoor, MB, BS

## HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Mandeep Bajaj, MD

- 2020 Top Doctor (Endocrinology), *Houstonia* magazine
- 2021 Top Doctor (Endocrinology), *Houstonia* magazine
- BCM Master Clinician Award 2021

### Ashok Balasubramanyam, MD

- Chair, American Board of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes
- Councilor, American Board of Internal Medicine

**Sara Bedrose, MD**

- New faculty: Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

**Richard Cox, PhD**

- Reviewer, *Diabetes*

**Bahar Force, MD**

- New faculty: Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
- Medical Director, The Pituitary Center, Baylor College of Medicine

**Ruchi Gaba, MB, BS**

- Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Teaching and Evaluation
- Women in Excellence Award
- Best Teacher Award by Endocrinology Graduating Fellows of 2021
- 2021 Top Doctor (Endocrinology), *Houstonia* magazine
- Member of Planning Committee for Texas Endocrine Association

**Sean Hartig, PhD**

- 2020 Nancy Chang, PhD Award for Research Excellence
- Editorial Board, *Diabetes*
- Mail Reviewer, NIDDK DPI Catalyst Award Special Emphasis Panel
- Ad-hoc member, Pathophysiology of Obesity and Metabolic Disease Study Section
- Abstract reviewer, The Endocrine Society's 102nd Annual Meeting (virtual)

**Betty La, MD**

- New faculty: Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
- Case report published: La B., Tung C., Choi E., Nguyen H., "A Gigantic Uterine Leiomyoma and Big Bilateral Adrenal Myelolipomas as a Result of Untreated Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia," *AACE Clinical Case Reports*

**Marco Marcelli, MD**

- Editorial Board, *Journal of Investigative Medicine*
- Speaker, 2021 Endocrine University
- Member, Department of Medicine FAP Committee
- Fellow, Southern Society Clinical Investigation

**Massimo Pietropaolo, MD**

- Associate Editor, *Diabetes*
- Associate Editor, *PLoS One*
- Member, Immunology, Immunogenetics, & Transplantation Interest Group Team for the 2021 Annual Conference of the American Diabetes Association

- Reviewer, R01 applications, NIH/NIDDK; RFA-DK-20-021 “Mechanistic Studies of the Interaction between SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 and Diseases and Organ Systems of Interest to NIDDK
- Reviewer, T32, R21 and R03 applications, NIH/NIDDK; Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases B Subcommittee, DDK-B

**Nalini Ram, MB, BS**

- Director, MS2-2 Endocrine Course
- Director, Endocrine Elective Course
- America’s Best Physician
- Castle Connolly Top Doctor
- Castle Connolly Exceptional Women in Medicine

**Rajagopal Sekhar, MD**

- Reviewer, NIH applications
- Speaker, Brazilian Congress of Geriatrics National Conference
- Speaker, European Geriatrics Society International Conference
- Speaker, Gerontological Society of America National Conference

**Dennis Villareal, MD**

- Associate Editor, *Journal of Nutrition in Geriatrics and Gerontology*
- VA Merit Grant Reviewer, Clinical Science Research and Development
- NIH/NIA Clinical Trials Advisory Panelist
- Member, Data and Safety Monitoring Board – Empower, Force and Zest II
- Chairperson, Data and Safety Monitoring Board – Intercede

**Reina Villareal, MD**

- Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Endocrinology*
- Member, Endocrinology-Bone Merit Scientific Review, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Scientific Reviewer, Clinical Trials (R01) Review Panel, Special Emphasis Panel, NIH/NIA
- Scientific Reviewer, Integrated Integrative and Clinical Endocrinology and Reproduction Study Section, NIH
- Scientific Reviewer, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service grant proposals, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs

**Wenjun Zhou, PhD**

- Member, American Diabetes Association Membership

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Grants

#### Sean Hartig, PhD

- NIH/NIDDK; Role of FGF21 in the pathogenesis of HIV-associated metabolic disease; \$2181973
- Nancy Chang, PhD, Award for Research Excellence; \$30,000

#### Massimo Pietropaolo, MD

- NIH/NIDDK; Enhancement of biomarkers for Type 1 diabetes; \$470,841.
- NIH/NIDDK; Utilizing islet autoantibody signatures for precision medicine in Type 2 diabetes; \$59,275

#### Zheng Sun, PhD

- NIH/NHLBI; Cardiac circadian clock and dilated cardiomyopathy; \$1,200,000
- NIH/NIA; Circadian clock gene Rev-erb in memory dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease, \$1,000,000
- NIH/NIA; Enduring effects of high estrogen on Alzheimer's disease; \$200,000

#### Rajagopal Sekhar, MD

- NIH/NIA; Glutathione, brain metabolism and inflammation in Alzheimer's disease;
- \$4,014,755.
- NIH/NIA; Trial of GlyNAC in older adults with COVID-19: Glutathione, inflammation and recovery; \$520,848

#### Dennis Villareal, MD

- NIH; Does lifestyle intervention in obese older adults improve bone quality?; \$2,439,619
- VA Merit Grant; Lifestyle intervention plus metformin to treat frailty in older veterans with obesity; \$1,197,250

#### Wenjun Zhou, PhD

- ADA; Regulation of hepatic insulin sensitivity by the hypothalamic circadian clock; \$67,742

### Publications

- *Advanced Science* (15.656), 2
- *American Journal of Human Genetics* (10.5), 1
- *Annual Reviews of Medicine* (9.72), 1
- *Biomedicines* (6.3), 1
- *Brain* (13.5), 1
- *Circulation* (23.6), 1
- *Clinical and Translational Medicine* (11.5), 1
- *Diabetes* (7.72), 8
- *Diabetes Care* (16.2), 3

- *Diabetologia* (10.1), 1
- *EBioMedicine* (8.143), 2
- *Endocrinology* (4.736), 1
- *Genetics in Medicine* (10.45), 6
- *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* (5.958), 8
- *Journal of Gerontology and Biological Science Medicine Science* (6.053), 1
- *Journal of Neuroscience* (6.167), 1
- *Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry* (6.048), 1
- *Journal of the Endocrine Society* (19.871), 1
- *Liver International* (4.5), 1
- *Molecular Metabolism* (7.422), 3
- *Nature* (42.778), 2
- *Nature Communications* (11.878), 1
- *Nucleic Acids Research* (16.971), 1
- *Pediatric Diabetes* (4.267), 2
- *Scientific Data* (5.54), 1
- *Translational Psychiatry* (5.2), 2
- *Trends in Endocrinology and Metabolism* (7.71), 2

## **Books and Book Chapters**

### **Ashok Balasubramanyam, MD**

- Winograd D, Mody AN, Balasubramanyam A, Samson SL. Genetics of Diabetes and Endocrine Disorders. In: *Handbook of Genetic Disorders: A Practical Approach*

### **Ruchi Gaba, MB, BS**

- International Ophthalmology Clinics. *Primer on Graves' Disease—What the Ophthalmologist Should Know and Do*
- *Hyperaldosteronism-Conn's Current Therapy*

### **Rajagopal V. Sekhar MD**

- Lipodystrophy. In: *Fundamentals of HIV Medicine*
- Endocrine and Metabolic disorders. In: *Fundamentals of HIV Medicine*

## **CENTERS**

### ***Thyroid and Parathyroid Center***

The **Thyroid and Parathyroid Center** is a world-class medical facility in Houston where patients can be seen simultaneously by a surgeon and endocrinologist for treatment of both benign and malignant tumors of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, and endocrine pancreas. World-renowned endocrinologists work closely with a multidisciplinary team, including specialists in surgery, radiology, pathology, nuclear medicine, ear/nose/throat and oncology to provide you a personal treatment plan, all under one roof. These doctors work together for one, cohesive treatment plan. From routine medical endocrinology to

complex cancer care, to surgery of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and endocrine pancreas, the Thyroid & Parathyroid Center offers the highest-quality patient care with excellent outcomes. The center is located at the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center's Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at McNair Campus.