Courtney Jones, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (SMD)

Dr. Courtney Jones received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Rochester in 2014. Since then she has played an integral role in the conceptualization and development of a successfully funded NIA R01 randomized clinical trial to evaluate a paramedic-coached care transitions program for older adults treated in the ED and discharged home. She is also part of a similar ongoing collaboration with Livingston County EMS, funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, is implementing an ED-to-home care transitions program for older adults residing in rural settings.

As a Geriatric Faculty Scholar, she will bring content expertise in both the field of geriatric emergency medicine and in the common concerns and issues specific to the older adult ED patient. Currently, Emergency Medicine residents do not currently receive structured didactic education on common geriatric syndromes (e.g., prevention of delirium) or evidenced-based guidelines for evaluating common geriatric chief complaints (e.g., fall risk assessment). Dr. Jones will incorporate Geri-EM, a freely available validated online learning tool designed specifically to teach emergency medicine physicians about provision of optimal care for geriatric ED patients (http://geri-em.com/) into the academic learning environment for Emergency Medicine residents.

Caroline Thirukumaran, MBBS, MHA, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics (SMD) (primary)

After earning her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Mumbai, India, Dr. Caroline Thirukumaran earned her PhD in Health Services Research at the University of Rochester in 2016. Her current research focuses on investigating the impact of Medicare policies, and generating knowledge that will inform the design of these policies such they account for (i) the differing needs of the elderly and minority beneficiaries, and (ii) the unique characteristics of the facilities and providers that serve these patients.

Dr. Thirukumaran’s goal as a Geriatric Faculty Scholar is to generate knowledge that will favorably influence the care of Geriatric-Orthopaedic patients at UR. Her project will focus on the prospective identification of High-Need, High-Cost patients in Orthopaedics using risk scores, so that policy and practice interventions can then be preventively targeted towards them. Moreover, with the current UR emphasis on co-management of geriatric surgical patients, she anticipates that this new knowledge will
help in understanding several of the complex issues related to this population, and it can be directly translated into training materials for current and future clinicians.

**Max Yarowsky, MD**  
*Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine (SMD)*

As a hospitalist at Jones Memorial Hospital, Dr. Yarowsky’s duties were expanded to include daily nursing home care – thus his interest in geriatrics was fostered. Transitioning to FF Thompson as a hospitalist gave Dr. Yarowsky the opportunity to examine and influence change in how elderly patients are cared for when in the hospital. Antibiotic stewardship, specifically over-treatment of urinary tract infections (UTIs), is the focus of Dr. Yarowsky’s Geriatric Faculty Scholar project. The over-diagnosis and over-treatment of UTIs are a national problem and a public health issue. Dr. Yarowsky seeks to measure the rates of diagnosis, treatment and outcomes, compare to national standards, and educate other hospitalists on antibiotic stewardship interventions, and the best course of treatment for elderly patients at FF Thompson.

**January 2017 – December 2017**

**Carolanne Bianchi, DNP, RN, MBA, ANP-BC, CRRN**  
*Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, URMC School of Nursing*

Acute care experience, as well as a clinical and education background, has prepared Dr. Bianchi as a Geriatric Faculty Scholar. Recognizing that lack of mobility leads to functional decline in hospitalized older adults, Dr. Bianchi’s Geriatric Faculty Scholars project will work to develop and implement a protocol that encourages walking to prevent unnecessary functional decline.

**Ronald J. Maggiore, MD**  
*Assistant Professor, Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine*

As a recent addition to the URMC faculty, Dr. Maggiore brings expertise in geriatric oncology. He will focus his Geriatric Faculty Scholars efforts on expansion of geriatric assessment into cancer care delivery, and the development of a geriatric oncology curriculum for trainees and providers.

**Ahmad I. Manasra, MD**  
*Assistant Professor, Hospital Medicine, Department of Medicine*

A hospitalist at Strong Memorial Hospital since 2011, Dr. Manasra’s focus for the Geriatric Faculty Scholars project will be the perioperative optimization of geriatric patients that are co-managed by hospital medicine and surgical subspecialties.

**Fahad Saeed, MBBS, FASN**  
*Assistant Professor, Nephrology, Department of Medicine*

As a nephrologist and palliative care specialist, Dr. Saeed will focus his Geriatric Faculty Scholars project on chronic kidney disease in the geriatric population and development of educational interventions to bridge knowledge gaps and improve the care of the older renal patient.
Tamala David, PhD, MPA, MS, FMP  
Adjunct Faculty, SON

Dr. David is a native resident of Rochester, New York; an area with a large deaf population. She grew up in a household with a deaf grandmother (a sign language user) and is passionate about issues related to the health and well-being of deaf older adult sign language users. Dr. David’s Geriatric Faculty Scholar project involved the creation of an education program to address the needs and improve the care of Deaf older adults by increasing the knowledge and skill of nurses and physicians. Dr. David was awarded additional funding to continue this project for a second year.

Adina Jucan, DDS  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Dentistry, Eastman Institute for Oral Health

Dr. Adina Jucan moved to Rochester, NY in 2007 after many years of operating a private practice in her native Romania. She completed a General Practice Residency and Geriatric Fellowship at Strong Memorial Hospital and Eastman Institute for Oral Health. Dr. Jucan’s Geriatric Faculty Scholars project included creating and implementing a team-based oral health education program in nursing homes. Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) would be the primary learner and receive support and direction from the other medical staff. Dr. Jucan’s project was awarded a second year of continued funding.

Kyle Judd, MS, MD, FACS  
Assistant Professor, Orthopaedics, Department of Medicine

Part of the Division of Orthopaedic Trauma, Dr. Judd has special interests in the treatment of patients with multiple injuries and complex fractures, the management of fracture mal-union and non-union, osteomyelitis, geriatric trauma, and peri-prosthetic/fragility fractures. Dr. Judd will develop academic programs to standardize expedited geriatric fracture care particularly for the subset of patients at risk for surgical delays as his Geriatric Faculty Scholar project.

Elizabeth Palermo, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, ANP-BC  
Assistant Professor Of Clinical Nursing, SON

As an acute care nurse practitioner, Dr. Palermo completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in 2014. Her clinical scholarship project during that program was an educational intervention to improve the care of older adults in the acute care setting. This project was ideal for aligning her professional interests in geriatrics and acute care nursing.

Dr. Palermo’s Geriatric Faculty Scholar project aims to create a program of geriatrics consultation available to clinicians with questions or problems regarding geriatrics. An inter-professional consultation service could provide expert and best-practice advice for many geriatric issues, including medication, delirium, and perioperative management, as well as for nursing needs of the vulnerable older adult.