



SSCI Tinsley Harrison Scholars – 2025



Ruth Adekunle, MD, MSCR – Medical University of South Carolina, Division of Infectious Diseases

Dr. Adekunle's research is generally focused on HIV and HCV care continuums, infections in immunocompromised hosts, and improving access to organ transplantation for persons with HIV. Through the use of implementation science, Dr. Adekunle aims to improve the kidney transplant evaluation process for persons with HIV and end-stage renal disease.



Deepshikha Ashana, MD, MBA, MS – Duke University, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

Dr. Ashana studies inequities in critical care medicine. She utilizes mixed methods and descriptive epidemiology to identify clinician- and health-system level contributors to racial disparities in shared decision making and the care of pregnant women who become critically ill.



Kale Bongers, MD, PhD – University of Iowa, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Occupational Medicine

Dr. Bongers' research focuses on how the gut microbiome mediates clinical heterogeneity during sepsis and critical illness. He is particularly interested in how gut bacteria influence skeletal muscle atrophy and weakness after sepsis



Crystal Cobb, DO – Emory University School of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipids

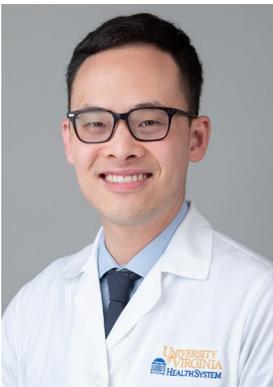
Dr. Cobb's research focuses on cystic fibrosis related endocrinopathies. She is currently studying endocrine outcomes in emerging adults with cystic fibrosis during the transition period from pediatric to adult care.

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Vinitha Jacob, MD, PhD – University of Michigan, Department of Emergency Medicine

Dr. Jacobs uses zebrafish as a tool to perform high throughput drug screening for anti-inflammatory agents and to understand cholesterol regulation as it relates to innate immunity and sepsis.



John Kim, MD, MS – University of Virginia, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

Dr. Kim's research is focused on incorporating multi-omics, radiomics, and clinical phenotype data to elucidate the spectrum of pulmonary fibrosis. The ultimate goal is to move towards precision medicine approaches in the diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of pulmonary fibrosis.



Swalha Khalid, MD – University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Division of Cardiovascular Disease

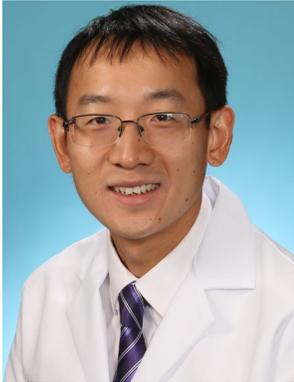
Dr. Khalid's research interests are primarily focused on Cardiometabolic diseases, guided by the principle that 'Prevention is Better than Cure.' I am also interested in Interventional Cardiology, specifically high-risk percutaneous coronary interventions and mechanical circulatory support.



M. Clarissa Tio, MD, MPH – University of Mississippi Medical Center, Division of Nephrology

Dr. Tio's research interests include chronic kidney disease epidemiology and the intersection between kidney disease and heart failure.

Returning 2024 SSCITinsley Harrison Scholar



Siyan “Stewart” Cao, MD, PhD – Washington University in St. Louis, Division of Gastroenterology

Dr. Cao's research focuses on the basic and translational medicine of inflammatory disease involving the digestive tract, including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and eosinophilic esophagitis. He uses pre-clinical models, patient samples, and multi-omics techniques to understand their pathophysiology and develop novel biomarkers and therapies.