

DIVISION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES AND METABOLISM



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RESEARCH

The Endocrine Department is the Primary investigator at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center for the “Testosterone Replacement therapy for Assessment of long-term Vascular Events and efficacy ResponSE in hypogonadal men (TRAVERSE) Study” a phase IV multicenter, placebo-controlled cardiovascular outcome study to assess the safety and efficacy of treatment with testosterone replacement therapy in symptomatic hypogonadal men who are at high risk for cardiovascular disease. This study which with a planned enrollment of 6,000 subjects will follow participants for up to five years.

Our Basic science research programs include studies on the hormone modulation of bone metabolism, stem cell regeneration, signal transduction of aldosterone secretion and genetic mutations in primary hyperaldosteronism.

Regenerative medicine and stem cell biology are also important areas of research. Extramural funding in the Department includes a Program Project Award (P01AG036675) sponsored by the National Institutes on Aging focused on the impact of aging on nutrient sensing. A critical barrier to correcting the problem of musculoskeletal (MSK) dysfunction with aging is a poor understanding of how nutrient-related stimuli and epigenetic mechanisms interact to induce bone and muscle loss. Findings from the Endocrine faculty demonstrate that aging is associated with epigenetic modifications of musculoskeletal stem cells, and these modifications may be responsible for the impaired age-related nutrient sensing. The central hypothesis is that aging alters epigenetic regulatory systems (e.g., miRNA, acetylation) that act through nutrient signaling pathways on stem cells to affect musculoskeletal development and function. The Endocrine Department has strong collaborations with the Basic Science Departments and there are numerous ongoing collaborations with the Basic Sciences.

CLINICAL/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our physicians have a broad range of clinical experience with special focus in areas of diabetes, metabolic bone disease, pituitary and thyroid disease.

The Diabetes Clinic delivers multidisciplinary care for type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and specializes in patients that require multi-drug therapy. New diabetics undertake a comprehensive evaluation by an Endocrinology Team that includes a Certified Diabetes Educator to provide counseling and training. We assist patients and their primary care providers to formulate a treatment plan using new insulins and other injectable therapies, and cutting-edge technologies to include Bluetooth Glucose Meters, Continuous Glucose Monitors and Insulin Pumps.

The Metabolic Bone Disease Clinic provides care for patients with the full spectrum of bone disorders. The Center has facilities for bone biopsy and bone densitometry analysis (DEXA).

The Multidisciplinary Pituitary Clinic provides patients with pituitary tumors and other neuroendocrinologic disorders a single point of service with access to physicians with neuroendocrine and neurosurgical expertise. In a single visit, patients can undergo their required imaging, and meet with the specialists appropriate for their care.

The Metabolic Kidney Stone Center offers a comprehensive approach to kidney stone management. Medical doctors, urologists, dieticians and radiologists work together to ensure that patients receive the most up to date treatment of their particular type of kidney stone.

The Augusta University Thyroid/Parathyroid Center is a specialized multidisciplinary center including the expertise of endocrinologists, surgeons and radiologists dedicated to providing outstanding medical and surgical care for patients with thyroid and parathyroid disease. This “one-stop care” approach serves patients with the full range of structural and functional thyroid and parathyroid disorders. State-of-the-art diagnostic tests include advanced techniques such as endoscopic (minimally invasive) thyroid and parathyroid surgery, and ultrasound-guided fine needle biopsy for the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid and parathyroid conditions such as thyroid nodules, multinodular goiters, thyroid cancer, hyperthyroidism, hyperparathyroidism and hypercalcemia.

EDUCATION

The Endocrinology Fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta, GA is a two year ACGME accredited program designed to deliver well-rounded clinical training in Endocrinology for the exceptional individual pursuing a highly successful career in private Endocrine practice or Academic Medicine. Our Fellowship has maintained a Board Pass Rate of 100%.

Our faculty excel in teaching medical students, residents and fellows in the classroom and at the bedside. This year, Dr. Edward Chin and Dr. Anthony L. Mulloy received the “2017 Exemplary Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching in Undergraduate Medical Education”.

Our faculty are actively involved in education on the national level. Dr. Bridget Sinnott has served as a Beta Tester for ABIM Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism self-assessment modules since 2014. Dr. David Terris serves as the Vice Chair for the ACGME Residency Review Committee Review Committee for Otolaryngology.