

IN THE LOUPES



THE MARYLAND
NEUROSURGERY
NEWSLETTER

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

01 Congratulations Graduates!

02 Highlights & Spotlights

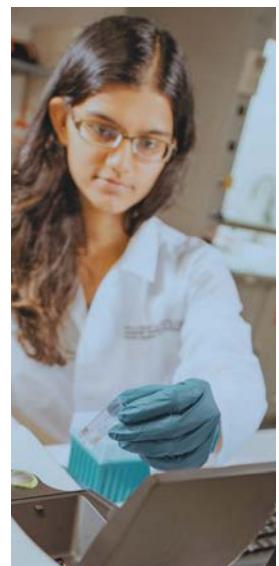
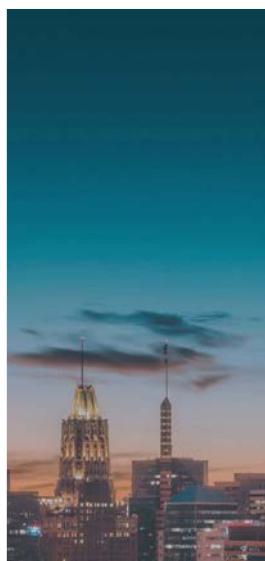
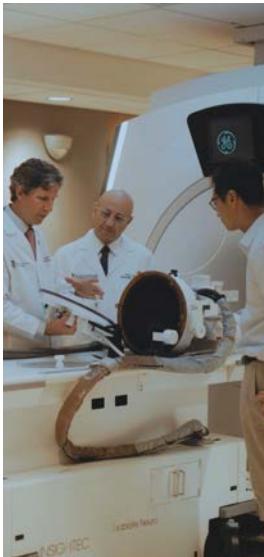
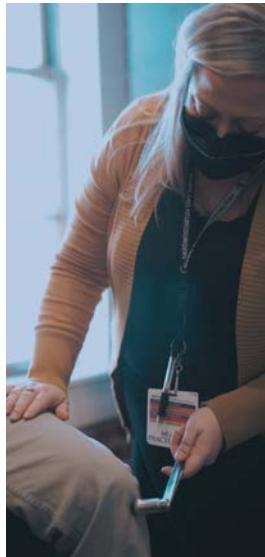
03 Excellence in Nursing

05 Race to the Finish Line!

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Interested in writing a column?

Wanting to share what type of news you want to hear more of? Email Neurosurgery.Communications@som.umaryland.edu



**Timothy Chryssikos, MD, PhD****Gregory Cannarsa, MD**

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We're so proud of our graduates for all they have accomplished over the past seven years of residency. We expect great things from these two emerging leaders in the field of neurosurgery! **Congratulations Greg and Tim!**

Timothy Chryssikos, MD, PhD

Undergraduate: Swarthmore College

Graduate School: Rice University

Medical School: University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dr. Chryssikos grew up in Maryland and joined the residency program after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he was elected to the AOA Honors Medical Society and received the Raymond K. Thompson Award from the Department of Neurosurgery. He completed a PhD in anthropology at Rice University on the social relations of scientific research, for which he received the John W. Gardner Award for best dissertation in the School of Social Sciences. Most recently, he was also awarded the best abstract by AANS related to spinal cord injury. His clinical and research interests in neurosurgery include trauma and spine. Dr. Chryssikos will pursue a fellowship in spine surgery at the University of California, San Francisco upon completion of the residency program.

Gregory Cannarsa, MD

Undergraduate: Saint Joseph's University

Medical School: Jefferson Medical College

Dr. Cannarsa is most interested in vascular neurosurgery, both open and endovascular, as well as trauma neurosurgery. His research interests include middle meningeal artery embolization for chronic subdural hematoma, mechanical thrombectomy for ischemic stroke, the toxicity of blood in the CNS, and techniques for surgical evacuation of intracerebral, subarachnoid, and intra-ventricular hemorrhage. Dr. Cannarsa plans to pursue a career as a dual-trained vascular neurosurgeon and has accepted a position at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute for a combined open vascular/endovascular neurosurgery fellowship.



RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT

Henderson Research Award Recipient!

On May 12th during the 2022 Henderson Lecture featuring Dr. Dennis Spencer, **Riccardo Serra, MD, PGY-2**, was presented the Henderson Research Award! This award is presented to the resident who has performed over the past 12 months the most substantive neurosurgery or neuroscience research. Riccardo received the award for his two first-author publications: "Disulfiram and Copper Combination Therapy Targets NPL4, Cancer Stem Cells and Extends Survival in a Medulloblastoma Model," published in *PLOS One*, and "Combination of Intracranial Acriflavine, Temozolomide and Radiation extends Long-Term Survival in Rat Glioma Model," published in the *European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics*.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Amazing Work, Darrian McAfee!

Muznabu Bachani from Dr. Ksendzovsky's Lab wanted to highlight the amazing achievements of **Darrian McAfee** this month! Darrian is an M1 student, and is a recipient of a multitude of recognitions:

- He has been selected for the 2022 Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship. AOA is the national medical honors society committed to leadership, scholarship, research, and more. This year-long fellowship supports his research endeavors and provides him with an opportunity to present his work at a national conference.
- He has also received the 2022 Neurosurgical Society of the Virginias (NSV) Medical Student Summer Research Fellowship! His summer research findings will be presented at their upcoming conference in West Virginia in January 2023.

- Darrian was awarded the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Program for Research Initiated by Students and Mentors (PRISM) Merit Award to participate in this year's PRISM summer research program. In addition to pursuing research, the program aims to enrich the student's career through seminars, a research retreat, and a presentation of research findings at the end of the summer.

"Darrian is well on his way to making great strides in neurosurgery research - studying the link between metabolism and epilepsy through Dr. K's mentorship!" Muzna says. *Congratulations Darrian!*



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FUS EXCLUSIVE!

Published on May 5th, **Graeme Woodworth, MD** was quoted in *National Geographic* in the article "New Method Delivers Life-Saving Drugs to the Brain-Using Sound Waves," which highlights how focused ultrasound may revolutionize treatment of fatal or hard-to-cure conditions, from cancer to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. "We can perform treatments monthly, we can accomplish this with a high degree of control and safety, and the patients tolerate it quite well each month," Dr. Woodworth says. The potential to personalize the treatments is "very exciting," he adds. "That's a game-changing concept in managing diseases like glioblastoma." You can access and read the full article [here!](#)



Following the National Geographic article, on Monday May 9th, **Dr. Woodworth, Dr. Dheeraj Gandhi**, and the multidisciplinary treating team received approval to use a new 'frameless' method to secure patients to the ExAblate Neuro system for blood brain barrier disruption (BBBD) treatments. ***They will be the FIRST in the world to conduct a BBBB treatment using this new frameless option!***

The frameless options uses a dental mold to help secure the patients head and prevent movement during the treatment. "This is a major step forward to making these types of treatments more accessible to patients—with the goal of improving the patients experience by reducing discomfort as well as prep and recovery

time," Charlie Klontz says. "We also have a couple of exciting upcoming trials further exploring the use of focused ultrasound for blood brain barrier disruption. Dr. Woodworth and the multidisciplinary team supporting these treatments are leading the way in the investigation of these novel therapies and have continued to demonstrate a fierce commitment towards improving patient care."

EXCELLENCE IN NURSING RECIPIENTS!

The Medical System in partnership with the University of Maryland School of Nursing announced the 2022 "Excellence in Nursing" honorees as recognized by Baltimore magazine! Congratulations **Lyndsi Hiler, CRNP** and **Colleen Gaffney, CRNP**! We appreciate all of your dedication and hard work -- you both truly embody what it takes to be an excellent nurse!



LYNDSI HILER, CRNP



COLLEEN GAFFNEY, CRNP



PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Graeme Woodworth's article titled: "Implementation of Minimally Invasive Brain Tumor Resection in Rodents for High Viability Tissue Collection," was published in *JoVE* on May 9th. You can access the publication [here](#).





DR. KURTOM COMPLETES 126TH BOSTON MARATHON!



On April 18th, **Khalid Kurtom, MD** spent his 44th birthday joining 25,000 competitors in running the 126th Boston Marathon! His 11-year old son and 9-year old daughter attended as well to support! Dr. Kurtom finished the race in 3 hours and 28 seconds, which is well within the top 13 percent of who crossed the finish line and placing 536 in his age group. *Amazing determination and hard work, Dr. Kurtom! Congrats!*



KEEP PUNCHING TEAM MARYLAND!

In honor and support of our brain tumor patients, our department attended the Keep Punching 5K/1 Miler on May 22nd! Keep Punching is a local, non-profit organization started in honor of Dr. Howard Eisenberg's patient, Daron Fisher, who lost his battle with a glioblastoma in 2013. Daron's wife, Beth Fisher, founded the organization. "We are incredibly honored to have an ongoing partnership with Keep Punching," **Liz Cahill** says, "they have been a big supporter of our patients, as well as contributing to our LITT/Radiation Therapy protocol." *Great work team!*

MAY 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

EVENTS

Fri, April 29 - Tue, May 3	AANS 2022
Sun, May 1 7:00 AM - 10:15 AM	25th Annual Race for Hope DC Washington DC
Thu, May 12 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Henderson Lecture feat. Dr. Spencer Davidge Hall
Sun, May 22 8:30 AM	9th Annual Keep Punching 5K, 1 Miler Goucher College, Towson
Fri, June 10 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Graduation!

<i>May</i>						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

GRAND ROUNDS

Thu, May 5 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	David Eisenman, MD 12th Floor & Zoom
Thu, May 12 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Henderson Lecture: Dennis Spencer, MD 12th Floor & Zoom
Thu, May 19 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Michael Sughrue, MD 12th Floor & Zoom
Thu, May 26 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	M&M w/ Gary Schwartzbauer, MD, PhD 12th Floor & Zoom

<i>Holidays</i>	
Brain Cancer Awareness Month	Sunday, May 1, 2022
Cinco de Mayo	Thursday, May 5, 2022
National Nurses Week	Friday, May 6, 2022
Mother's Day	Sunday, May 8, 2022
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30, 2022



HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO SHARE?



We are looking for stories, achievements, heroics, tidbits, and fun stuff to feature in *In the Loupes* and to share within University of Maryland and our surrounding communities. If you are interested in writing a column or want to share what type of news you want to hear more, feel free to email at rcmcgowan@som.umd.edu

If you would like to submit your news via the Neurosurgery News Portal, scan the QR code or copy and paste the link below into your browser.

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE
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CONGRATULATIONS GREG & TIM!!!

