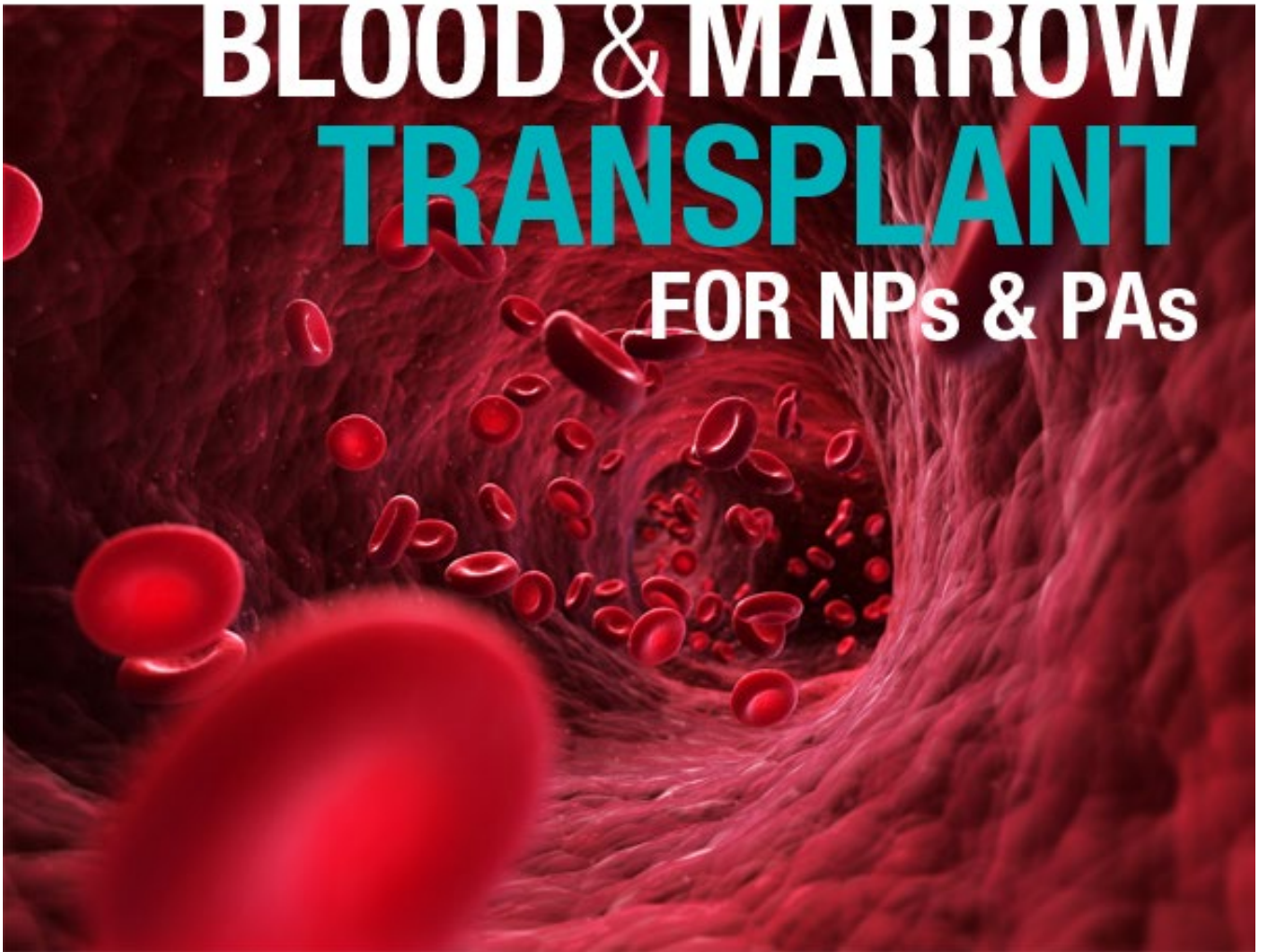


# **HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY &**

**BLOOD & MARROW**

**TRANSPLANT**

**FOR NPs & PAs**



**Faculty Biographies**



**Debbie L. Fuehrer, L.P.C.C.**

Debbie L. Fuehrer, MA, LPCC is employed as a Mind-Body Medicine Counselor in Integrative Medicine and Health at Mayo Clinic, working with Dr. Amit Sood since 2010. She has a master's degree in counseling and psychological services and is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with the academic rank of Instructor in Medicine, Mayo College of Medicine. She provides counseling services to patients, educational activities and presentations related to IMH Mind-Body practices, including the topics of stress management, anxiety reduction and hypnosis to other healthcare professionals and groups external to Mayo. She coordinates Integrative Medicine and Health, Mind-Body program/services including clinical practice, education and research initiatives. She provided crisis assessment and counseling for Olmsted County Diversion Program as a mental health professional through Zumbro Valley Health Center for several years. During her internship at the Federal Medical Center – Rochester, she started the theatre program for inmates at the mental health unit, directing plays and substituting for actors when needed. She co-wrote a play workshopped at FMC which was presented at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in January, 2019.



**James C. Andrews, M.D.**

James C. Andrews, MD, FISR is a Professor of Radiology in the Division of Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. His undergraduate degree is from Albion College, Albion Michigan, after which he obtained his MD degree at the University of Michigan. A residency in Diagnostic Radiology, and a fellowship in Interventional Radiology were completed also at the University of Michigan, after which he spent 8 years there on the medical faculty, focusing on the pharmacology of hepatic arterial drug infusions. In 1993 he joined the staff of the Mayo Clinic in the Division of Vascular and Interventional Radiology. Honors include Teacher of the Year (four times between the two medical schools), Fellow, Society for Interventional Radiology, and was named a Mayo Clinic Distinguished Clinician in 2020. He served as Division Chair, Vascular and Interventional Radiology, is on the residency selection committee for the Integrated VIR/DR residency and is an examiner for the American Board of Radiology oral examination. Clinical interests include complex hepatobiliary and portal system interventions, regional management of hepatic malignancies, venous sampling for the localization of endocrine disease, and the application of catheter-based procedures in the palliative care population.



**Jean F. Stahl, APRN, C.N.P.**

Jean is a nurse practitioner working in the department of Medical Oncology. Her background includes Oncology floor nursing, outpatient chemotherapy administration, breast cancer research, Nurse Practitioner in the Sarcoma care team and most recently working with the inpatient Oncology team as the lean Nurse Practitioner. She is an Instructor in Medical Oncology.



**Michelle L. Williamson, P.A.-C.**

NP/PA Supervisor, Department of Surgery

Physician Assistant, HPB Surgery Clinic, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreas Surgery

Michelle Williamson is a Physician Assistant in the Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery Clinic at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where she works with six HPB surgeons. Michelle received her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. She then received her Master's degree in Physician Assistant Practice from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, IL. She has been in her current role at the Mayo Clinic since 2005. Michelle is also a supervisor of the advanced practice providers in three surgical subspecialties. She has achieved Instructor in Surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. Throughout her career, Michelle has worked to successfully advance the role of the advanced practice provider within both her practice and the Department of Surgery.



**Carl M. Christensen, P.A.-C.**

Carl Christensen PA-C he is Physician Assistant, Instructor in Urology and has been at Mayo Clinic since 2001. His areas of expertise are urologic cancers. I perform office cystoscopies and office transperineal prostate biopsies. I enjoy mentoring, teach and quizzing students, fellows and new hires.



**Harry E. Fuentes Bayne, M.D., M.S.**

Dr. Fuentes received his MD degree from the Universidad de Guayaquil, Guayaquil, Ecuador (2005-2011). He subsequently completed a residency in internal medicine at John H. Stroger Jr, Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois (2014-2017). During his residency Dr. Fuentes obtained a master's in clinical research from Rush University. Dr. Fuentes remained at John H. Stroger Jr, Hospital for an additional year to serve as a chief resident (2017-2018). Dr. Fuentes then joined the Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Program at Mayo in 2018 and completed his fellowship in June 2021. During the third year of his fellowship, Dr. Fuentes has served as one of our two chief fellows. Dr. Fuentes will lead our general/unknown cancer practice at Mayo. He also supports the precision medicine and head & neck cancer practice. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Oncology



**Michelle R. Picconi, APRN, C.N.P. M.S.N.**

Michelle Picconi is a nurse practitioner with the inpatient Hematology service at Mayo Clinic Rochester. She completed her undergraduate education at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and spent the majority of her 7 year nursing career working with hematology and bone marrow transplant patients at the Colorado Blood Cancer Institute in Denver, Colorado. Michelle received her Masters of Science in nursing at Regis University in Denver, Colorado, and is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner. Clinical interests include myeloid disorders and bone marrow transplant.



**Aref Al-Kali, MD**

Hematologist, Associate Professor of Medicine, Section Head  
Department/Division: Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology  
Degree or Major/Minor: Doctor of Medicine  
Clinical Inteelrests: Myeloid and Premyeloid diseases



**Miriam A. Hobbs, APRN, C.N.P., D.N.P.**

Miriam Hobbs is a nurse practitioner in the dysproteinemia clinic within the division of hematology at Mayo Clinic Rochester. She obtained her doctor of nursing practice degree from the University of Minnesota and is certified as a family nurse practitioner. She worked as a nurse in blood and marrow transplant for 5 years before joining the dysproteinemia clinic in 2015 as a nurse practitioner. Clinical interests include the management of plasma cell disorders including multiple myeloma, amyloidosis, and Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia.



**Heidi D. Finnes, Pharm.D., R.Ph.**

Heidi D. Finnes, PharmD, BCOP is the Senior Manager Pharmacy Cancer Center Research at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center in Rochester, MN. Dr. Finnes obtained her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa in 1998 and her Board Certification in Oncology Pharmacy in 2003. Dr. Finnes is the Director of the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center Pharmacy Shared Resource and provides input on oncology clinical trials during protocol development, authors drug templates and offers recommendations for therapy and supportive care via a Medication Therapy Management Clinic. Dr. Finnes is the current chair of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology Pharmacy Committee and is active on the Alliance Neuro-Oncology, Cancer Control and Experimental Therapeutics Committees. She is a member of the Eastern Oncology Cooperative Group Pharmacy, Genitourinary and Melanoma committees. She is a member of the Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) served as a HOPA board member at-large from 2015 to 2019. She is also a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Order Template Style Guide Committee, Pain Committee, and Investigational Drug Services Work Group. Dr. Finnes has research interests in melanoma, immune checkpoint inhibitors and effects of concurrent medications on cancer treatment.



**Jessica L. Bleess, P.A.-C.**

Jessica L. Bleess is a Physician Assistant in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Jessica is an Instructor of Medicine in the Obstetrics of Gynecology College of Medicine. She has a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Biology. Her clinical interests include Fertility Preservation, Infertility, Quality Improvement, and Third Party

Reproduction. She is a Gold Mayo Quality Fellow. She began her career in GU oncology and has now worked in the REI Division for nearly 10 years.

**Saturday, August 22, 2020**

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**Rachel A. Eiring, P.A.-C.**

Rachel Eiring is an Assistant Professor of Oncology at Mayo Clinic. She works as a PA in the Oncology department seeing patients with gastrointestinal malignancies and has a subspecialty focus in neuroendocrine malignancies. Rachel supervises the Medical Oncology Advance Practice Provider group at Mayo. She has a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from UW-LaCrosse and BS in biochemistry. Clinical interests include neuroendocrine cancers, hepatobiliary malignancies, and survivorship care. She has a passion for quality improvement and how Advance Practice can be part of the solution.



**David A. Woodrum, M.D., Ph.D.**

My specialty is Interventional Radiology with emphasis on Oncology treatment and MR interventions. My background includes a B.S. in Physics, Ph.D. in Cellular Biology, and M.D. in Interventional Radiology. My clinical residency and fellowship were performed at Mayo Clinic Rochester with several additional months spent at Northwestern University and Johns Hopkins for more training in interventional MR techniques. I was offered a staff position at Mayo Clinic to advance the interventional MR clinical applications. At that time, we had MR guided focused ultrasound for uterine fibroids. Since then we have brought in MR compatible biopsy and ablation devices such as microwave ablation, laser ablation and cryoablation technology. We continue to pursue clinical application of many different MR compatible technologies to determine where it makes sense for clinical implementation. Our goal is to provide better and new treatment options for patients with cancer.

My Ph.D. research centered on the role of small heat shock proteins in vascular smooth muscle relaxation. Although the research focused on vascular smooth muscle, the role of heat shock proteins in cell signaling has again become a focus of my research in their role contributing to cellular resistance to thermal ablation. My clinical research was initially centered on translation of pre-clinical tools into the clinical application. However, in doing this, I realized that we did not understand well enough the biology of the systems that we are treating. Specifically, how does the tumor biology affect the outcomes of percutaneous or catheter-based tumor treatment? Although each tumor is different, we ablate all tumors the same. The tumor biology and the tumor history may play significant roles in how aggressive we should treat, and which therapy might be most appropriate. From this I have become more interested in how tumor biology affects focal therapy (i.e. percutaneous or catheter-based ablation). During our investigation, it has become apparent that AKT and heat shock proteins are key molecular factors promoting cancer cellular resistance. We continue to investigate how we can manipulate the molecule signaling to augment our ablation technology.



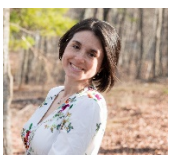
**Anna J. Schwecke, APRN, C.N.P., M.S.**

Anna graduated from Luther College and began her nursing career on an inpatient oncology and hospice floor at Mayo Rochester. She obtained her Masters degree from Winona State University and has been working as a nurse practitioner in the outpatient thoracic oncology clinic at Mayo since 2014. Anna's clinical practice also includes work in the immune checkpoint inhibitor clinic, a clinic developed and run by APPs to diagnose and manage side effects of immunotherapy. Anna is the assistant director of the Medical Oncology track of the Hematology/Oncology APP fellowship, a 12-month program to help APPs develop a knowledge base for subspecialized practice.



**Rachel Gentes, APRN, CNP, MSN, MA, ACHPN**

Rachel is a nurse practitioner with the inpatient palliative medicine consulting service. She has practiced palliative medicine for nearly 10 years. She obtained her MSN at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Prior to nursing education and career, Rachel attended seminary. Her education in nursing and theology has allowed a natural merging of Rachel's interests as she cares for patients with serious illness. Some of these interests include matters of faith and the human spirit's search for connection. Rachel's other interests involve the art of communication, the process of "meaning-making" and workplace sustainability.



**Christina G. O'Connor, PharmD, BCPS, AAHIV-P**

Dr. Christina O'Connor, née Rivera, obtained a Pharm.D. from The Ohio State University, then completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at University of Toledo in Ohio followed by a PGY2 Pharmacy Residency in Infectious Diseases at Mayo Clinic -Rochester. She is currently a practicing Infectious Diseases pharmacist at Mayo Clinic - Rochester. Dr. O'Connor is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine & Science and serves as adjunct faculty for Winona State Nursing School. Clinical interests include pharmacotherapy of antivirals, antifungals, treatment of mycobacterium and other infections of persons living with immune compromise.





**Demetria (Dee Dee) A. Clark, P.A.-C**

Dee Dee is an inpatient Hematology Physician Assistant. She started her career in medicine in 2011 as a medic in the Army, later commissioning as an officer in 2015. She joined the Mayo Clinic team in early 2019 and has a clinical interest in CAR-T and acute management of chemotherapy toxicities.



**Patricia (Patty) A. Gerber, APRN, C.N.P., M.S.N.**

Patty Gerber is a Nurse Practitioner in the Lymphoma Clinic in the Division of Hematology for two years at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She has a BSN and Master of Science in Nursing, and is certified as an Adult Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. Her clinical interests are Lymphoma and Survivorship visits.



**Amber B. Koehler, P.A.-C., M.S.**

Amber Koehler is a Physician Assistant and Assistant Professor of Medicine practicing in the Division of Hematology at Mayo Clinic Rochester. She specializes in caring for patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and is actively involved in both research and publications with this patient population. She is also committed to APP education through teaching at NP and PA programs, serving as a clinical preceptor, and presenting at several regional and national conferences, in addition to acting as a course director for the Annual Hematology, Oncology, and Blood and Marrow Transplant for NPs and PAs. PA Koehler is also a Senior Fellow in the Mayo Academy of Educational Excellence and a recipient of the Mayo Clinic Department of Medicine Outstanding Education award.



**Lindsay E. Young, DNP, APRN, CNP, FNP-BC, BMTCN®, OCN®**

Lindsay graduated from Elmhurst College in 2005 and started her career at Mayo as a staff RN in Hematology. She earned her MSN with a FNP focus from Winona State University in 2012 and subsequently was hired into a Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) NP position at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where she worked for the first five years of her NP career. In August of 2017, an opportunity to return to Mayo as a NP in BMT presented and she excitedly accepted the chance to return. She earned her DNP in December 2020 from the University of Minnesota and holds certifications as an Oncology and Blood and Marrow Transplant Certified Nurse. Her clinical interests include advance care planning for bone marrow transplant patients, medical mission, and volunteering with the University of Minnesota Medical Reserve Corps administering COVID-19 vaccines.



**Susan E. Lien, APRN, C.N.P., D.N.P.**

Susan Lien is an Adult-Geriatric Nurse Practitioner who has worked at Mayo Clinic Rochester in Blood and Marrow Transplant for eleven years. She received her BSN from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with honors in Geriatrics. She received her MSN and DNP from the University of Iowa. Susan's clinical interest is caring for patients in the continuum of blood and marrow transplant.

**Sunday, August 23, 2020**



**Jamie L. Carroll, APRN, C.N.P., M.S.N.**

Jamie Carroll is a nurse practice with a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner certification, currently working for Mayo Clinic in Breast Cancer since July 2015. She holds a masters degree for the University of Nebraska Medical Center, graduating in 2012. Her clinical interests are in quality improvement within the breast cancer teams as well as improving survivorship for breast cancer patients.



**Megan E. Grudem, APRN, C.N.P.**

Megan Grudem is an advanced practice nurse with a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner certification, currently working for Mayo Clinic's gynecological cancer care team. She holds a master's degree from the University of Colorado Denver and has worked at Mayo Clinic in Medical Oncology since May 2011. She is a professional member of the Society of Gynecology Oncology. The majority of her time is spent in clinical practice assessing patients with new diagnoses of ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancers, performing toxicity checks for patients on chemotherapy or receiving treatment on a clinical trial, and following patients who are in the observation phase of their disease. She holds authorship on 13 publications, stemming from the consent, education, and follow-up of patients participating in clinical trials, and is a co-investigator on 68 IRB protocols. She has earned the status of Assistant Professor through the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.



**Matthew (Matt) H. Clark, APRN, C.N.P.**

Mr. Clark graduated from Winona State University (WSU) with a Master's of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in 2018. His Master's capstone project focused on Palliative Care intervention in the Bone Marrow Transplant patient population. Mr. Clark was the first graduate from the Hematology specific Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He

started his career in Blood and Marrow Transplant in 2012 serving in multiple positions, including Certified Nursing Assistant, Registered Nurse, and most currently Certified Nurse Practitioner. His passion for transplant stems for a personal perspective as he underwent heart transplantation himself in 2009.



**Saad J. Kenderian, M.B., Ch.B.**

Dr. Kenderian is a consultant in hematology at the Mayo Clinic Rochester, with joint appointments in the Department of Immunology and Department of Molecular Medicine. He holds the academic rank of Assistant Professor of Medicine, Oncology, and Immunology in Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. As a physician-scientist, he directs a federally funded translational laboratory program focused on T cell biology, cellular engineering, and chimeric antigen receptor T (CART) cell therapy. In this context, he collaborates with multiple pharmaceutical and biotech companies. Since 2019, three clinical trials have been translated from his laboratory, two of them are multi-center trials. He has authored more than 90 manuscripts and book chapters and is the Principal Investigator on 5 active clinical trials.



**Anastasia Zekeridou, M.D., Ph.D.**

Dr. Zekeridou is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota. She finished her Medical School at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2007 and got her PhD degree from the University of Alexandroupolis in Greece in 2019. She completed her Neurology training in the University Hospital of Lausanne in Switzerland. She worked as a fellow in the French Reference Center for Paraneoplastic Neurological Diseases and the Mayo Clinic Neuroimmunology Laboratory under the mentorship of Dr. Vanda Lennon. She is currently a staff Neurologist at Mayo Clinic and researcher focusing on paraneoplastic autoimmunity, neurological autoimmunity in the context of checkpoint inhibitors and novel autoantibody discovery.