Welcome to New CHF Endowed Chairs

CHF Herring/Seeley, MD, PhD/Chiles Chair in Genetics

Chun-Hui “Anne” Tsai, MD

Dr. Tsai came to us from the University of Colorado in Denver, where she was Professor of Pediatrics. She was director of the Medical Genetics Residency Program for four years and the Director of Genetic Education since 2004. She now serves as Medical Director for the Genetics Clinic and as Program Director for the Medical Genetics and Genomics Residency Program at OU College of Medicine. Dr. Tsai has 25 years of experience in clinical genetics, clinical biochemical genetics and pediatrics. She was previously at the Children’s Hospital Colorado for 20 years, working as a pediatric geneticist specializing in dysmorphology, rare disease diagnosis, and autism. She is a skillful diagnostician and well trained in research at both the graduate and post-doctoral level. Dr. Tsai has experience with multicenter clinical trials, Center for Disease Control studies, and serves on the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) work group focused on the utility of exome testing.

Dr. Geoffrey P. Altshuler Founders Chair in Genetics

Dharambir K. Sanghera, PhD

Dr. Sanghera came to OU College of Medicine in 2007 as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics from the University of Pittsburgh, where she was Assistant Professor of Human Genetics. She was awarded tenure at OU College of Medicine in 2011 and was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Pediatrics in 2015. Her research is focused on uncovering the genetic epidemiology and molecular basis of cardiometabolic syndrome. Working with, and even in some cases leading, large international consortia, her research has resulted in many landmark advances. She has co-authored nearly 80 publications, including in leading journals such as Nature and Nature Genetics. Dr. Sanghera has established a world-class research program. In recognition of her unique contributions, she was awarded the OU Regents Award for Superior Research and Creative Activity in 2019. Dr. Sanghera’s research program has continued to garner competitive research funding throughout her academic career. She has also served as an ad hoc member on many other NIH study sections, and the UK’s Medical Research Council.
Welcome to New Faculty

Danielle DeMarzo, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. DeMarzo came to genetics from an OB-GYN background, completing her OB-GYN Residency training at The University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine in Tulsa with vast exposure to high risk cases and research in gestational diabetes. She completed her medical genetics fellowship at the University of Miami, where she assisted in writing long term management protocols for metabolic patients and presented research posters with a variety of unique cases at national conferences during her training. While her clinical work is primarily focused in general pediatric genetics, her areas of interest include neurogenetics, oncology, and rare disease diagnosis. She is a thorough clinician with an eye for detail. With her background in OB-GYN she is well-positioned for her interest in advancing reproductive genetic technologies.

Yazmin Enchautegui-Colon, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Enchautegui-Colon comes to us from Kaiser Colorado Permanente where she was a Clinical Genetics Attending Physician. Dr. Enchautegui-Colon has an internal medicine background and completed her Internal Medicine Residency at Hospital de la Concepcion in Puerto Rico in 2014. She completed her Medical Genetics Residency at the University of Colorado in 2016. She enjoys seeing patients of all ages. She enjoys general genetics, areas of particular interest include dysmorphology, craniofacial genetics, chromosomal abnormalities and genetics of intellectual disabilities. In the past she has also worked with research patients in Clinical trials.

Congratulations to All of The Recent Board Exam Successes

Danielle DeMarzo, MD
Clinical Genetics and Genomics
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics

Hui Pang, MD
Clinical Cytogenetics and Genomics
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics

Young Mi Kim, PhD
Clinical Cytogenetics and Genomics
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics

HongCheng Wang, MD, PhD
Clinical Molecular Genetics
American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics

Congratulations to our 2019 Genetic Counseling Graduates

- Ashlee Byrnes: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
- Jada Jackson: OUHSC Specialty Clinic, Oklahoma City, OK
- Cheryl Reeves: Medical City, Houston, TX
- Lauren Taylor: Integrated Genetics, Houston, TX
- Kelsey Watson: Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA

For more information about the Genetics Section visit: www.ouhsc.edu/genetics
Welcome to the Many New Members of the Genetics Team

Welcome to Baby Reagan Wadley
Alex Wadley’s newest addition born on 8/5/2019.

Jada Jackson, MS, LCGC
2019 MSGC Graduate
New Genetic Counselor

James Muniu
Research Technician

Dr. Sanghera’s Lab

Shiwali Goyal
Research Scholar

The Genetics Lab

Hang Cheng
Research Scholar

Jiazhi Ye
Research Scholar

Sherrill Marble
Research Technician

Not pictured: Research Scholars Xiying Fu and Bin Wang

Meihua Sun
Research Scholar

Guangda Xin
Research Scholar

Carlos Garcia
Clinical Lab Technician

Trista Gipson Hoehne, MS
Program Coordinator

MSGC Class of 2021

Erin Coffman
Missouri State U.

Courtney Mills
Carroll University

Caroline Say
U. of Wisconsin

David Shim
U. of Texas- Austin

Rachel Villegas
U. of North Texas

Genetics Clinical Staff
Michelle Peters, RN
LTFU Coordinator/Case Manager

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Dr. Sanghera received the Regents’ Award for Superior Research and Creative Activity at the Spring Faculty Award April, 2019

Dr. Bidichandani received the Dewayne Andrews, MD Excellence in Teaching Award in October, 2019 at the ATS Annual Education Week Reception

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD:
Outstanding Teacher Award for Clinical Ethics Course for the 2017-2018 Academic Year by the Preclinical Curriculum Subcommittee

Layne Rodden: (an OCNS doctoral student in Sanjay Bidichandani’s lab)
OUHSC Graduate College Dean’s Award for Scientific Excellence at the GREAT symposium (April, 2019)
Best Flash Talk Award, OUHSC GREAT Symposium (April, 2019)
Best Flash Talk Award, 12th Annual Friedreich Ataxia Symposium; Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (October, 2019)
Friedreich Ataxia Research Alliance young investigator bursary to attend and present at Int. Ataxia Research Conference in Washington, DC (November, 2019)
Dharambir Sanghera, PhD, FAHA participated as a Standing Member in NIH/Study Section -Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Disease B Subcommittee in March 6-8, 2019.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served on the programmatic review and vision setting panel of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs’ Neurofibromatosis Research Program (Washington DC; January 14-15, 2019)

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served as an expert reviewer for the “PENN Diabetes Research Center” Pilot Grants program (Feb 2019)

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served as a judge for the DNA Day national high school essay Competition on human genetics & genomics conducted by the American Society of Human Genetics (March 2019)

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served on the Friedreich Ataxia Advisory Panel for Reata Pharmaceutical Inc. (Philadelphia; March 14-15, 2019)

Dharambir Sanghera, PhD, FAHA participated as a Standing Member in NIH/Study Section -Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Disease B Subcommittee in March 6-8, 2019.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD co-Chaired the session entitled “Genetics & Epigenetics” at the 10th World DNA and Genome Day Conference in Nanjing, China, April 25-27, 2019.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served on the Program Planning Committee and the Abstract Selection Committee for the International Ataxia Research Conference (November 2019).

Dharambir Sanghera, PhD, FAHA has been appointed to serve on the American Society of Human Genetics’ Awards Committee. The appointment is for three years starting January 2020 to December 2022.

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served on the Faculty Promotions and Tenure committee, OU College of Medicine (December 2019)

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served as Chair of an “Ethics in Research” committee at OUHSC (Aug - Dec 2019)

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD served on the programmatic review committee and vision setting panel of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs’ Neurofibromatosis Research Program (Washington DC; November 5-6, 2019)

New Grants

Dharambir Sanghera, PhD, FAHA was awarded the PHF-HHDC grant entitled “Genome, metabolome, ancestry and diabetes health disparity on May 6, 2019. (see below for new NIH/ R01)

Sanjay Bidichandani, MBBS, PhD Title: Epigenetic Silencing in Friedreich ataxia: Muscular Dystrophy Association: Bidichandani (PI) 02/01/2019 - 01/31/2022 Amount: $300,000

Awards and Recognitions (cont.)

The office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) of the Department of Defense manages Special Interest Medical Research Programs encompassing breast, prostate, and ovarian cancers, neurofibromatosis, military health, and other specified areas. The Neurofibromatosis Research Program, which has invested over $330 million over the past 20 years, is focused on advancing and testing promising therapeutics, and increasing research capacity. Sanjay Bidichandani was elected as the Chair of the Programmatic Committee for the CDMRP Neurofibromatosis Research Program (2020-2022).

Dharambir Sanghera, PhD, FAHA has recently received a new R01 for over $2.5 million from NIH-NIDDK. The study will use genome-metabolome technologies to identify genetically driven metabolite markers using DNA and biological specimens from over 3000 individuals. The goals are to identify novel biomarkers of therapeutic importance that may predict a subtype of T2D risk linked to early onset at lower obesity thresholds in relevance to multi-ethnic US populations.”

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