**Fall 2021 EPOR Speaker List**

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| **Class date** | **Speaker(s)** | **Subject** |
| **28-Sep** | Fredric Coe | Formulating Aims and Objectives for Clinical Research |
| **5-Oct** | Julie Johnson | Using the Electronic Medical Record and the Center for Research Informatics |
| **12-Oct** | Megan Huisingh-Scheetz | Fundamentals of Outcomes Research |
| **19-Oct** | Martha van Haitsma | Designing Surveys |
| **26-Oct** | Julian Solway | Resources of the Institute for Translational Medicine |
| **2-Nov** | Elaine Worcester | Testing a Hypothesis |
| **9-Nov** | Milda Saunders | Mentorship and Building Your Team |
| **16-Nov** | Elaine Worcester | Designing Clinical Research |
| **30-Nov** | George Bakris | Implementation and Recruitment for Clinical Trials |
| **7-Dec** | Mihai Giurcanu | Use of Secondary Data Sources |

*\*No class November 23*

**Fredric Coe, MD**

Dr. Coe is a nephrologist at the University of Chicago Medicine. He is the founder and Director of the University of Chicago Kidney Stone Evaluation and Treatment Program, which has provided care for over 5,000 patients since its creation in 1969, many of whom have remained under treatment and stone free for decades. Through its many scientific publications, reviews, chapters and books, the program has influenced medical practice throughout the world, and the achievements of Dr. Coe and his colleagues have been recognized with many honors as well as sustained National Institutes of Health research grants totaling, to date, over $20,000,000. Dr. Coe received his medical education at University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, completed his residency at Michael Reese Hospital and Fellowship at University of Texas Health Science Center.

**Julie Johnson, PhD, MPH, RN**

Julie is a trained nurse with over 20 years of experience in healthcare, research, and informatics. In her current role as Director of the Center for Research Informatics, she works directly with Faculty to identify and coordinate the development of informatics solutions to support clinical and translational research. Julie received a BS in 1999 from Georgetown University’s School of Nursing and Health Studies, a MPH in 2003 from The University of Illinois at Chicago’s (UIC) School of Public Health, and a PhD in 2018 from UIC’s College of Nursing.

**Megan Huisingh-Scheetz, MD, MPH**

Megan Huisingh-Scheetz is an Assistant Professor in the Section of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the University of Chicago. As a clinician investigator and NIA K23 recipient, her research has focused on understanding how objectively measured activity and sedentary behavior patterns, resting metabolic rate, and body composition relate to frailty progression and frailty-related outcomes. Through her work, she analyzes accelerometry data to assess and trend activity patterns as markers of frailty. In partnership with NORC and Orbita, Inc, Dr. Huisingh-Scheetz also developed and is studying the impact of EngAGE, a technology-based tool utilizing a voice assistant to deliver exercise programming to older adults in their home to reduce frailty. The program leverages caregivers to provide social motivation to the older adult to simultaneously combat loneliness. She also helped establish and now co-directs the Successful Aging and Frailty Evaluation™ (SAFE) clinic in which she assesses and manages frail older adults in consultation.

**Martha van Haitsma, PhD**

Martha has co-directed or directed the University of Chicago Survey Lab since its inception, and is currently the President of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO).   Martha earned her PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago and her MA from the University of Texas at Austin.  She has been teaching graduate-level survey and interview research methods courses at the University of Chicago since 1999.

**Julian Solway, MD**

Is the Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, and is Dean for Translational Medicine and founding Director of the Institute for Translational Medicine, home of the University of Chicago’s NIH/NCATS CTSA award. His research program addresses airway smooth muscle (ASM) function and dysfunction in asthma at the molecular, cellular, and functional levels in both animal models and humans. Additional studies address therapeutics in mechanistic and therapeutic clinical studies and preclinical development of novel asthma treatments. Dr. Solway led a consortium of investigators from 6 academic institutions plus NCATS that discovered a new class of small molecules that inhibit experimental allergen-induced airway constrictor hyperresponsiveness and airway remodeling, called “remodilins”; these are presently in preclinical development as a potential treatment for asthma. Recently, he has focused on the inhibition of breast cancer metastasis and on the inhibition of pulmonary fibrosis using the remodilins discovered in asthma studies. He has directed the University of Chicago's NHLBI- sponsored T32 Research Training Program in Respiratory Biology for 25 years, led or co-led two NHLBI Multidisciplinary K12 Training Programs, and currently co-leads an NIH Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) award.

**Milda Saunders, MD, MPH**

Milda Saunders is an Assistant Professor in the Section of General Internal Medicine, Faculty in the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics and Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at Pritzker School of Medicine. She uses her clinical, research and ethics expertise to serve as the Living Donor Advocate Physician for the Transplant Center, the Research Subject Advocate for the Institute of Translational Medicine and Co-Director for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) course. Her research focus is on reducing disparities and improving quality of care for patients with advanced chronic kidney disease. She is currently funded through the NIDDK in test a randomized trial of a patient education and referral program for hospitalized patients with advanced kidney disease and a computerized CKD patient education program. Dr. Saunders attended Brown University where she studied public policy. She worked as a policy analyst for at the Urban Institute and Abt Associates before attending medical school at University of Pennsylvania. After Penn, she obtained her MPH at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She then completed her combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency at the University of Chicago.

**Elaine Worcester, MD**

Director of the Essentials of Patient Oriented Research (EPOR) course sponsored by the Institute for Translational Medicine. The course is offered as three 10-week segments (Fall, Winter and Spring) covering topics relevant to clinical research including elements of study design, ethical aspects of translational medicine and the responsible conduct of research, and basics of statistics for human research. Lectures are given by many members of the Biological Science Division; many of them noted translational researchers.

Her research group investigates mechanisms of kidney stone formation, including studies of human

physiology, surgical mapping and biopsy of stone patients, and detailed histology of renal papillary tissue from stone formers of differing phenotypes to find the pathways that lead to stone growth in the kidneys, and potential targets for prevention and treatment. These studies involve collaboration between investigators from both clinical and basic science backgrounds, which will be the paradigm for most clinical researchers in future.

**George Bakris, MD**

Dr. Bakris specializes in the diagnosis and reduction of complicated and refractory high blood pressure patients. He is also a nephrologist has contributed to development of recent therapies to slow diabetic kidney disease. As director of the Am. Heart Assoc. Comprehensive Hypertension Center, he oversees the interpretation of Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) for the institution, a technique that provides information about blood pressure over the 24-hour period, including during sleep.

Dr. Bakris has been extensively involved as either a principal investigator or on the steering committees of national and international trials involving diabetic kidney disease progression and resistant hypertension. He was the principal investigator of the FIDELIO trial that was completed, recently and on the steering committee of the FIGARO trial recently reported and FIDELITY analysis. He is also on the steering committee of the FLOW trial evaluating a novel diabetes drug on diabetic kidney disease progression. Additionally, he is the principal investigator of a trial in resistant hypertension with a novel compound. He has served on many guideline committees over the past 15 years and is currently a member of the American Diabetes Association clinical Practice Guidelines and a member of the American Heart Association panel updating resistant hypertension guidelines. Dr. Bakris received the Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award to acknowledge his lifetime of outstanding achievements in the field of hypertension as well as the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois Lifetime Service Award.

**Mihai Giurcanu, PhD**

Mihai Giurcanu is a Research Associate Professor in the Biostat Lab of the Department of Public Health Sciences at University of Chicago. His research interests focus on computationally intensive methods and statistical models for moderate and high dimensional data. He developed statistical methods for high-dimensional regression models, bootstrap hypothesis testing, oracle inference for correctly specified and misspecified models, and nonparametric methods in survival analysis. He has an extensive statistical consulting experience for medical grant proposals including planning, power, and sample size calculation for clinical trials and experimental designs, description of statistical methods and models for specific aims and data analysis. He has a rich collaboration experience on multiple medical data analysis projects covering regression analysis, multivariate analysis, survival analysis, survey analysis, and time series analysis.