

Curriculum Vitae

Rinald Paloka

Education and Training

- 2018 – 2022 Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Candidate: Class of 2022: Graduation April 2022.
Honors Commendation
- 2013 – 2016 University of North Florida
B.S. Biology: Biomedical Sciences, Psychology Minor, December 2016,
GPA: 3.94 - *Summa Cum Laude*

Research Experience

- 2020 – Present **Boca Raton Regional Hospital**
Department of Cardiology
Brijeshwar Maini, M.D.
Adithya Mathews, M.D.
Investigate role of TELEstar monitoring on patient experiences and perception of care following TAVR procedures. Clinical research on the role of MitraClip on iatrogenic atrial septal defect formation.
- 2020 – 2021 **Retina Associates of Cleveland Inc.**
David G. Miller, M.D.
Projects including investigation of the presence and symptoms of silicone oil droplets following intravitreal bevacizumab injections using BD and Norm-Ject syringes; Migration of dexamethasone containing implant to the anterior chamber in patients with sutured intraocular lenses; and endophthalmitis rates in association with patient facemask usage during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2018; Summer 2019 **Mayo Clinic Jacksonville**
Cardiovascular Medicine
Delisa Fairweather, Ph. D.
Multiple projects: Translational and clinical research on sex differences in vitamin D and myocarditis, identifying biomarkers in diagnosis of myocarditis, regenerative medicine therapy for DCM and myocarditis, investigating the role of sex differences in inflammatory disease.

Honors and Awards

- 2021 **Mayo Clinic Diversity Scholarship** awarded to visiting students demonstrating significant commitment to advancing equity for students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine
- 2020 **Honors Commendation:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Awarded to students who ranked in the top 25th percentile in Year 1 and 2 examinations, graded projects, and other work contributing to numerical grades
- 2018 – 2022 **Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine Scholarship** for outstanding leadership, service, and academic standing
- 2013 – 2016 **UNF: President's Honor Roll** inaugural award to students who maintain a 4.00 GPA during the school year
- 2013 – 2016 **UNF: National Dean's List**
- 2013 – 2016 **First Generation Scholarship** awarded to first generation college students

Publications

1. Boserup B, Sutherland M, **Paloka R**, McKenney M, Elkbuli A. The Effects of Body Mass Index and Seatbelt Use on Pediatric Chest and Abdominal Injuries after Motor Vehicle Collisions. *The American Surgeon*. 2021. PMID: 33870738
2. Bruno KA, Macomb LP, Morales-Lara CA, Matthews JE, Frisancho JA, Beetler DJ, Salomon GR, Hill AR, DiFlorio DN, Whelan ER, Jain A, Hewa-Pahinduwege C, Scott AJ, Greyner HD, Molina FA, Greenaway MS, Cooper GM, Sousou JM, Mease AA, Auda ME, Keegan KC, Patel J, Watford ST, Chekuri I, Demi SL, Saikali NE, **Paloka R**, Fairweather D. 2021. Plastic caging alone increases acute myocarditis in male mice similar to high dose BPA, but not through mast cell activation as in females. *International Journal of Molecular Science*. 2021, 22, x. <https://doi.org/10.3390/xxxxx>. *Manuscript under review*.
3. Bruno KA, Morales-Lara CA, Patel J, Sousou JM, Salomon GR, **Paloka R**, Watford ST, Rozen TD, Seim LA, Bittencourt EB, Atwal PS, Dorsher PT, Fairweather D. Sex differences in comorbidities associated with Sjögren's syndrome. *Biology of Sex Differences*. 2021. BOSD-D-19-00083. *Manuscript to be submitted*.

Oral Presentations

- 2021 Oral Presentation at the Research & Scholarship Day at FAU COM on February 26th in Boca Raton, FL.
Title: Purified Exosomal Product (PEP) as a regenerative therapy for myocarditis.

Abstracts and Presentations

1. **Paloka R**, Gorelov D, Bruno KA, Di Florio DN, Tian M, Wolfram J, Fairweather D. 2021. Adipose Derived Extracellular Vesicles as a Regenerative Therapy for Viral Myocarditis. Poster Presentation at the Florida Medical Association Research Symposium. July 2021.
2. **Paloka R**, Douglass EA, Salomon G, Jain A, Cooper LT, Coronado MJ, Kew RR, Fairweather D, Bruno KA. 2021. Title: Vitamin D Binding Protein as a Potential Biomarker for Heart Failure In Myocarditis: Translational Animal Model Reveals Mechanism. Poster Presentation at the American College of Physicians Florida Chapter Residents and Medical Students. May 2021.
3. Wilneff M, **Paloka R**, Wuller A, Wuller D, Miller CW, Wuller S, Miller DG. The Effect of Patient Facemask Usage on Post-Injection Endophthalmitis Among Intravitreally Injected Patients in Ohio from 2019-2020. *The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology: Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. May 2021.
4. **Paloka R**, Wilneff M, Wuller A, Wuller D, Miller C, Wuller S, Miller DG. The Effect of Patient Facemask Usage on Post-Injection Endophthalmitis Among Intravitreally Injected Patients in Ohio from 2019-2020. *Society of Hospital Medicine Florida Summit RIV Virtual Competition*. April 2021.
5. **Paloka R**, Wilneff M, Miller CW, Wuller A, Platt S, Schartman J, Lewis S, Rao L, Wuller S, Miller DG. Frequency and Symptoms of Intravitreal Silicone Oil Droplets following Becton Dickinson and Norm-Ject Bevacizumab Injections. *Palm Beach County Medical Society 2021 Virtual Poster Showcase*. April 2021.

6. **Paloka R**, Wilneff M, Wuller A, Wuller D, Miller C, Wuller S, Miller DG. The Effect of Patient Facemask Usage on Post-Injection Endophthalmitis Among Intravitreally Injected Patients in Ohio from 2019-2020. Palm Beach County Medical Society 2021 Virtual Poster Showcase. April 2021.
7. **Paloka R**, Bruno KA, Jain A, Stalboerger PG, Behfar A, Cooper LT, Fairweather D. 2021. Title: Purified Exosomal Product (PEP) as a regenerative therapy for myocarditis. Oral Presentation at the Florida Atlantic University College of Medicine Research & Scholarship Day held in Boca Raton, FL on February 26.
8. **Paloka R**, Douglass EA, Salomon G, Jain A, Cooper LT, Coronado MJ, Kew RR, Fairweather D, Bruno KA. 2021. Title: Vitamin D Binding Protein as a Potential Biomarker for Heart Failure In Myocarditis: Translational Animal Model Reveals Mechanism. Virtual Poster Presentation at the Florida Atlantic University College of Medicine Research & Scholarship Day held in Boca Raton, FL on February 22-26.
9. **Paloka R**, Bruno KA, Salomon GR, Morales-Lara C, Di Florio DN, Mease AA, Landolfo C, Norton N, Fairweather D. 2020. Title: TRPC6 Knock-Out Reverses Doxorubicin-induced Cardiotoxicity and Cardiomyopathy. Poster Presentation at the Florida Atlantic University College of Medicine Research & Scholarship Day held in Boca Raton, FL on February 27.
10. **Paloka R**, Bruno KA, Sousou JM, Di Florio DN, Fairweather D. 2020. Title: Sex Differences in Vitamin D Deficiency and/or Supplementation in Patients with Hypertension. Poster Presentation at the Florida Atlantic University College of Medicine Research & Scholarship Day held in Boca Raton, FL on February 27.
11. Bruno KA, **Paloka R**, Courson NA, Dorsher PT, Rozen TD, Bittencourt EB, Seim LA, Fairweather D, 2019. Title: Sex differences in comorbidities associated with fibromyalgia and hypermobility syndromes. Poster presentation at the Celebration of Women's Health Research held in Rochester, MN on September 13.
12. Jain A, Salomon GR, Bruno KA, Di Florio DN, **Paloka R**, Rozen TD, Bittencourt EB, Leschitz J, Fairweather D. 2019. Title: Sex Differences in Primary Headache Syndromes. Poster presentation at the Celebration of Women's Health Research Annual Meeting held in Rochester, MN on October 4.
13. Patel J, Bruno KA, Morales-Lara, AC, Sousou JM, Salomon G, **Paloka R**, Dorsher PT, Rozen TD, Bittencourt EB, Atwal PS, Seim LA, Fairweather D. 2019. Title: Women with Sjögren's Syndrome and Low Vitamin D Levels are at Increased Risk for Cardiac and Autoimmune Diseases and Chronic Pain. Poster Presentation at the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Annual Meeting held in Washington, D.C on May 5-8.
14. Watford ST, Bruno KA, Morales-Lara AC, **Paloka R**, Sousou JM, Patel J, Mease A, et al. 2019. Title: Sex Differences in Comorbidities Associated with Fibromyalgia and Hypermobility Syndromes. Poster presentation at the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on May 5-8.
15. Bruno KA, Morales-Lara AC, **Paloka R**, Sousou JM, Patel J, Fairweather D, et al. 2019. Title: Sex Differences in Invisible Illnesses: Chronic Pain, Fibromyalgia, and Hypermobility Disorders. Poster presentation at the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on May 5-8.

16. Patel J, Bruno KA, Morales-Lara AC, Sousou JM, Salomen G, **Paloka R**, Dorsher PT, Rozen TD, Bittencourt EB, Atwal PS, Seim LA, Fairweather D. 2019. Title: Women with Sjogren's Syndrome and Low Vitamin D Levels Are at Increased Risk for Cardiac and Autoimmune Diseases and Chronic Pain. Poster presentation at the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on May 5-8.
17. Watford ST, Bruno KA, Morales-Lara AC, **Paloka R**, Sousou JM, Patel JB, Mease AA, Courson NA, Dorsher PT, Rozen TD, Bittencourt EB, Seim LA Fairweather D, 2019. Title: Sex Differences in Comorbidities Associated with Fibromyalgia and Hypermobility Syndromes. Poster presentation at the University of North Florida Showcase of Osprey Advancements in Research and Scholarship (SOARS) held in Jacksonville, FL on April 3.
18. **Paloka R**, Courson NA, Dorsher PT, Rozen TD, Fairweather D, Seim, LA, Bittencourt EB, Bruno KA. 2018. Title: Sex differences in comorbidities associated with fibromyalgia and hypermobility syndromes. Poster Presentation at the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences Annual Meeting held in Atlanta, GA on April 30 – May 3.

Leadership and Professional Associations

2019 – 2021 Admissions Committee Board Member

Accepted into the inaugural cohort of medical students in the FAU COM admissions committee. Holistically review student applications to determine interview selections. Vote on acceptance status following interviews. Participate in monthly board meetings to review, discuss, or veto voting results as a member of a nine-person committee. Aided in giving rise to the most diverse class in the college of medicine's history: Class of 2024.

2020 Medications for Addiction Treatment Certification Course by The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

Participated and received certification in the basic science and philosophy behind treatment for addiction and use of opioid medications in addiction treatment.

2020 ACLS and BLS Certification

2019 – 2020 Advanced Clinical Ultrasound Experience Tutor

Tutored and instructed medical students in the ACLUE program. Instructed students on basic technique, knobology, basic science behind ultrasound equipment and clinical findings.

2018 College of Medicine Owl Ambassador

Connect with interviewing and prospective medical students. Participate in lunch talks and tours.

Memberships

2021 – current	American College of Radiology
2018 – current	Palm Beach County Medical Society
2018 – current	American College of Physicians Florida Chapter
2018 – current	Organization for the Study of Sex Differences

Work and Volunteer Experiences

2022	Academic Medicine Florida Atlantic University – Academic Rotation Function as facilitator in group-based problem learning sessions. Guide first and
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second your students in clinical skills courses. Assist in ethical and social seminars.

- 2020 **Healthcare and Science Stars of Tomorrow – Student Leader**
Hosted by Dr. Roger L. Duncan III, the goal of the annual *Healthcare and Science Stars of Tomorrow Career Symposium* is to provide mentoring opportunities to underserved middle and high school students in the Palm Beach County area. As a group of three medical students, we secured a room to share our experiences in hopes of inspiring and guiding students who are planning on pursuing a career medicine.
- 2019 **Milagro Center – Service-Learning Project**
The Milagro center is a non-profit community center that provides afterschool day-care programs for underserved and academically at-risk children grades K-12 living in Palm Beach County. We worked as a four-student group mentoring third grade students once a week. Each week, we would focus on a different organ system, discussing its processes while helping them paste anatomical cut-outs on traced human bodies.
- 2018 **UF Health Jacksonville – Emergency Department Scribe**
Duties: Record history of patient interactions, aid in recording patient encounters, and demonstrate understanding of medical terminology
- 2017 – 2018 **Mayo Clinic Jacksonville – Patient Service Specialist**
Delegated Patient Experience Champion. Full-time position with responsibilities that included accommodating and communicating with patients who had complaints regarding their appointments. Additional duties included scheduling appointments, rooming patients, and taking vitals. Position required regular communication with physicians, patients, and other health care staff.
- 2017 – 2018 **Community Hospice & Palliative Care – Social Relief Volunteer**
Weekly inpatient social relief visits at a hospice care facility in Jacksonville, Florida. The experience involved building lasting relationships with hospice patients and family members. Accommodating them when possible and being a listening ear, giving family opportunities to tend to their responsibilities.
- 2010 – 2018 **Santioni’s Cucina Italiana – Server, Cook, and Manager**
Duties: Manage teams in front of house and kitchen, cater to customer needs and complaints, provide quality service in demanding a work environment.
- 2017 **St. Francis Soup Kitchen – Volunteer**
Aid in coordinating, preparing, and serving weekly warm meals to at risk populations in downtown Jacksonville.
- 2016 – 2017 **Student Tutor– STEM Tutor UNF**
Lead group and individual tutoring sessions in undergraduate science and introductory math courses. Tutoring experience in general high school courses.
- 2015 **Mayo Clinic ENT Department – Student Volunteer**
Aid in transporting patients, cleaning and preparing rooms, and other miscellaneous tasks to help staff efficiently cater to patients.

Interests & Hobbies

Cooking Italian and Mediterranean Cuisine, Boxing Coaching and Training, Intramural Soccer, Albanian Shota (Traditional Dance), DIY Home Renovation, Studying History, Hiking, Exploring Trails and Nature Preserves, Travel and Experiencing Local Culture.