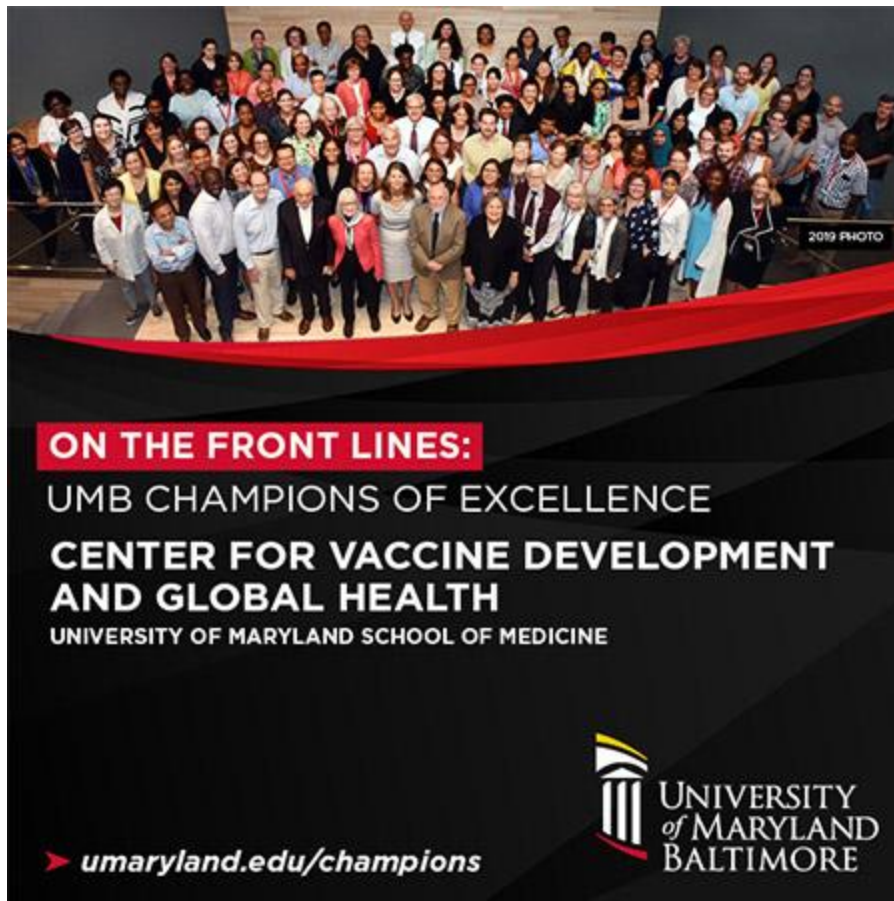




# UMB Champions of Excellence

## Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health



### Trials and Triumphs

*On the Front Lines:  
UMB Champions of Excellence  
Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health  
University of Maryland School of Medicine*

For more than a year, researchers at the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) have been working tirelessly on COVID-19 research, helping to pave the way for the use of vaccines and therapies that are being administered across the country.

Under the leadership of CVD director Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA,

the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH, Professor in Vaccinology at UMSOM, researchers quickly pivoted decades of vaccine and infectious disease research experience toward combating this deadly virus, which continues to impact millions of people around the world.

Faculty at CVD have served in critical leadership roles in U.S. and international research and policy efforts. For example, Neuzil co-chaired the COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network, a research network established by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in response to the pandemic.

Vaccine research at CVD continues, with an emphasis on reaching the populations most impacted by COVID-19 and testing pediatric vaccines. CVD experts have launched an expansive grassroots campaign to educate the community and reach those who have been hit the hardest by this terrible virus, including members of the Black and Brown communities, the elderly, and those with underlying health risks.

“Our CVD team has worked tirelessly and meticulously to advance COVID-19 vaccines and to ensure they are reaching the most affected populations,” Neuzil said. “Our work continues as we begin testing vaccines in children and investigate booster vaccines to address the risk of COVID-19 variants.”

CVD was selected as a University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Champion of Excellence for its yeoman efforts to combat the virus. Having seen CVD’s work up close as a participant in a COVID-19 vaccine trial, UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, says the honor is well-deserved.

“The Center for Vaccine Development has a spectacular reputation for being able to stand up vaccine clinical trials almost overnight, yet to do it in a highly efficient manner,” Jarrell said. “CVD has a really robust capability, and Marylanders should be proud to have a program like this in our state.”

In early spring 2020, CVD launched clinical trials for the antiviral drug remdesivir to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients. Results from the study quickly led to authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to administer this treatment to critically ill patients. In May, CVD was the first in the country to test messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine candidates developed by Pfizer. Since then, Pfizer has received FDA emergency use authorization for its vaccine, which is being administered to front-line workers, high-risk individuals, and others as the national vaccination program progresses.

CVD also conducted Phase 3 clinical trials of Moderna’s mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, enrolling hundreds of individuals and collaborating with hundreds of research sites across the country to drive the authorization of this vaccine, which also is being administered to millions around the world.

In December, CVD undertook its Phase 3 clinical trial of a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Maryland-based Novavax. This vaccine differs from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines because it uses spike protein from the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. And CVD researchers are gearing up to begin clinical trials on pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

CVD’s research is part of President Biden’s multi-agency collaboration led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that aims to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of medical countermeasures for COVID-19. Under this effort, thousands of volunteers have been enrolled in large-scale clinical trials, testing a variety of investigational vaccines intended to protect people from COVID-19.

**SHARE THIS PAGE**



<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Alain Agnememel, PhD	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Vaidehi Agrawal, PhD	<i>Health Program Manager</i>
Tania Akther, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Radhika Amin	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Mohammed Amin, PhD, MSc	<i>Research Associate</i>
Brigid Anderson-Snipe	<i>Community Interviewer</i>

Ethel Apolinario	<i>Laboratory Research Manager</i>
Olga Aquino	<i>Contracts and Grants Specialist</i>
Katrina Asbury	<i>Laboratory Research Technician</i>
Scott Baliban, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Robin Barnes, CRNP, CCRC	<i>Nurse Practitioner</i>
Eileen Barry, PhD	<i>Professor</i>
Jo Anna Becker, RN	<i>Nurse II</i>
Ming Bell, MD	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Tiania Bellamy	<i>Program Management Specialist</i>
Paula Bernal, PhD	<i>Laboratory Research Supervisor</i>
Andrea Berry, MD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Melissa Billington, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Shannon Bittner	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Cheilon Bolanos	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Jayaum Booth, PhD, MS	<i>Research Associate</i>
Colleen Boyce, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Khristine Bozylinski-Bulos, MS, MBA	<i>Program Administrator</i>
JT Campbell	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
James Campbell, MD	<i>Professor</i>
Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, FIDSA	<i>Professor</i>
Haiyan Chen, MD	<i>Laboratory Research Supervisor</i>
Myeongjin Choi, DVM, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Lisa Chrisley, RN	<i>Health Program Director</i>
Lauren Cohee, MD	<i>Instructor</i>
Daniel Cohen	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Levis Contreras	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Alan Cross, MD	<i>Professor</i>
Jefferson Crum, MBA	<i>Contracts and Grants Specialist</i>
Christopher Culbertson	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Ginny Cummings, MS, CRNP	<i>Nurse Practitioner</i>
Reva Datar, MPH	<i>Lead Research Data Analyst</i>
Shrimati Datta, PhD	<i>Program Manager</i>
Avanika Dave	<i>Program Manager</i>

Emily Deichsel, PhD, MPH	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Sachin Desai, MD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Benjamin Doggett	<i>Community Interviewer</i>
Brenda Dorsey, MS, BSN, RN, CCRP	<i>Director, Research Project Coordination</i>
Amanda Driscoll, PhD, MHS	<i>Research Associate</i>
Dylan Dunn	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Meagan Fitzpatrick, PhD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Jeffrey Floyd	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Heather Fox	<i>Laboratory Research Manager</i>
DeAnna Friedman-Klabanoff, MD	<i>Instructor</i>
James Galen, PhD	<i>Professor</i>
Shirley George, MHS, CCRP	<i>Clinical Research Specialist</i>
Eric Goldstein	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Tiara Graham	<i>Community Interviewer</i>
Christen Grassel	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Nancy Greenberg, RN, MS	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Elizabeth Hammershaimb, MD, MS	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Regina Harley, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Manager</i>
Shannon Harrison, PhD	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Ana Hebert	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Kristen Hinton	<i>Budget Analyst</i>
Leslie Howe, MA	<i>Clinic Coordinator</i>
Jingping Hu, PhD	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Fleesie Hubbard, MS	<i>Lead Clinical Research Specialist</i>
Sang Hyun, PhD	<i>Lead Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Deborah Ingram, MBA	<i>Director, Finance</i>
Dilara Islam, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Elise Jacobson	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Leslie Jamka, MS, MEM	<i>International Program Director</i>
Ifayet Johnson-Mayo, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Supervisor</i>
Sudhaunshu Joshi, MS	<i>Lead Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Caroline Kairo	<i>Senior Program Specialist</i>
Panagiota Komninou	<i>Program Management Specialist</i>

Karen Kotloff, MD	<i>Professor</i>
Alyson Kwon, MS, CCRC, ACRP-PM	<i>Manager, Research Project Coordination</i>
Miriam Laufer, MD, MPH	<i>Professor</i>
Rachel Laufer, MPH	<i>Lead Research Data Analyst</i>
Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Hanna LeBuhn	<i>Clinical Research Assistant</i>
P. Andrew Lees, PhD	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Jose Lemme Dumit, PhD	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Myron Levine, MD, DTPH	<i>Professor</i>
Meredith Lu, MPH, RN, CPEN	<i>General Associate</i>
Kun Luo, PhD	<i>Lead Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Kirsten Lyke, MD	<i>Professor</i>
Rosa MacBryde, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Aye Mar, MS	<i>Senior Accountant</i>
Carey Martin, MA, MBA, CRA	<i>Director, Clinical Business Operations</i>
Kaitlin Mason, RN, OCN, CEN	<i>Nurse Coordinator</i>
Monica McArthur, MD, PhD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Sherry McCammon	<i>Program Management Specialist</i>
Robert McCann, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Megan McGilvray, MN, CRNP	<i>Nurse Practitioner</i>
Ashka Mehta, MPH	<i>Lead Research Project Coordinator</i>
Rosangela Mezghanni, PhD	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Gillian Michaelson	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Sandra Molina, RN	<i>Nurse I</i>
Jonathan Moon	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Jeannie Murray, MS	<i>Health Program Manager</i>
Melissa Myers, MBA	<i>Senior Program Specialist</i>
Shamima Nasrin, PhD, MS, MSc	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Dilruba Nasrin, MBBS, PhD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Esther Ndungo, PhD, MS	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA	<i>Director and Professor</i>
Daniele Nitkowski	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Joseph Nkeze, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>

Ana Raquel Nunes Rosa Da Costa, MPH	<i>Program Director</i>
Justin Ortiz, MD, MS	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Jennifer Oshinsky	<i>Lead Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Amed Ouattara, PharmD, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Faith Pa'Ahana-Brown, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Marcela Pasetti, PhD	<i>Professor</i>
Jasnehta Permal Booth	<i>Laboratory Research Supervisor</i>
Thanh Pham, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Blanca Piedra	<i>Community Interviewer</i>
Oren Pincever	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Susana Portillo, PhD, LVN	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Helen Powell, PhD	<i>Research Associate</i>
Rekha Rapaka, MD, PhD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Mardi Reymann	<i>Laboratory Research Manager</i>
Lynnee Roane, MS, RN	<i>Program Manager</i>
Toni Robinson, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Christine Schoenberger, MHS	<i>Health Program Manager</i>
Andrew Schwartz	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Henry Seifert, MBA	<i>Chief Business Officer</i>
Sunil Sen, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Allison Shaffer, MSPH	<i>Lead Research Project Coordinator</i>
Terry Sharp	<i>Director, Contracts and Grants</i>
Shelby Sharp	<i>Senior Program Specialist</i>
Biraj Shrestha, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Surekha Shridhar, MS	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Mallory Shriver, MS	<i>Senior Research Project Coordinator</i>
Kenneth Simiyu, PhD	<i>Program Director</i>
Bethanne Smith	<i>Assistant to Institute Director</i>
Tajee Smith	<i>Laboratory Research Assistant</i>
Jennifer Snyder, PhD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Ki So	<i>Research Administrator</i>
Wanda Somrajit, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Erika Stiles	<i>Community Interviewer</i>

Kathleen Strauss	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Roohali Sukhavasi	<i>Community Interviewer</i>
Marcelo Sztein, MD	<i>Professor</i>
Julia Tallon	<i>Community Interviewer</i>
Milagritos Tapia, MD	<i>Professor</i>
Girmay Desalegn Tarekegn, PhD, MSc	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i>
Sharon Tennant, PhD	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Franklin Toapanta Yanchapaxi, MD, PhD	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Mark Travassos, MD, MSc	<i>Assistant Professor</i>
Alma Valle Maldonado, RN	<i>Nurse I</i>
Elva Valle Maldonado	<i>Clinical Research Technical Assistant</i>
Alythia Vo	<i>Community Outreach Worker</i>
Ann Wachira	<i>Community Interviewer</i>
Linda Wadsworth, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Rezwanul Wahid, MBBS, PhD	<i>Associate Professor</i>
Xiaochun Wang	<i>Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Mallory White	<i>Budget Analyst</i>
Tina Williams	<i>Administrative Assistant II</i>
John Wilson, MS	<i>Budget Analyst</i>
Tao Wu	<i>Lead Laboratory Research Specialist</i>
Nancy Wymer, RN	<i>Clinical Research Nurse</i>
Cheryl Young, RN, MBA	<i>Nurse Coordinator</i>

[Back to Main Champions of Excellence page](#)

The University of Maryland, Baltimore is the founding campus of the University System of Maryland.  
 620 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201 | 410-706-3100  
 © 2021 University of Maryland, Baltimore. All rights reserved.