

# The Algorithm for Precision Medicine

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**MATT MIGHT, PHD**

Inaugural Director, Hugh Kaul Institute for Personalized Medicine at UAB

# Painful Weight Loss- Making the "Arcuate" Diagnosis

Stephen Stuart, MD; Ramya Singireddy, MS; Winter Williams, MD

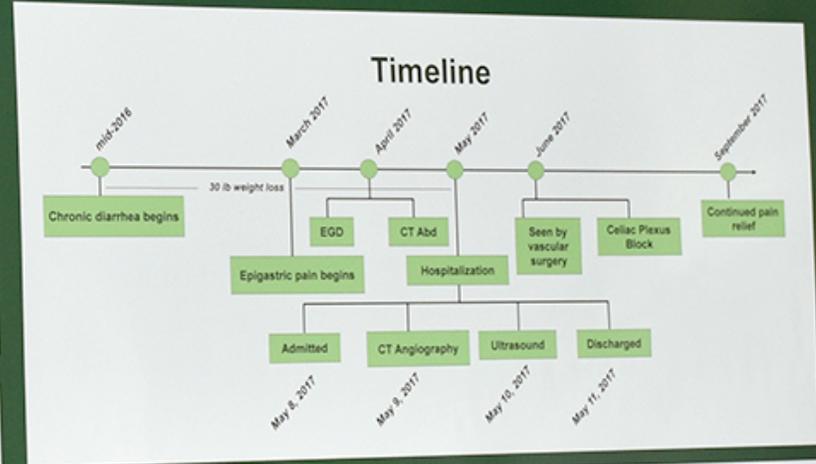


## Learning Objectives

1. Recognize MALS (Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome) as a cause of undiagnosed abdominal pain and weight loss.
2. Understand how to diagnose and treat MALS.

## Background

- MALS is a rare cause of abdominal pain via compression of celiac artery by the diaphragmatic crura
- Manifests as abdominal pain, weight loss, nausea and vomiting, and diarrhea
- Diagnosed by CT Angiography and Doppler ultrasound
- Treated by surgical celiac decompression or crurotomy



## Discussion

Our case illustrates the challenge of accurately diagnosing a rare cause of a common problem, particularly when facing multiple confounders such as prior *C. difficile* infection and CVID, which can itself manifest with gastrointestinal symptoms. This condition went undiagnosed for months despite an extensive workup and led to a significantly reduced quality of life for our patient. MALS should be considered for refractory abdominal pain that persists despite an unrevealing initial workup given the effectiveness of diagnostic modalities and treatment.

## Work up Prior to D

- Imaging: CT Abdomen/Pelvis
- Procedure: EGD
- Malabsorption: Fecal fat, carotene, WBC
- Labs: TSH/T4, AST/ALT, INR, Bilirubin, BUN/Cr
- Infectious: Fecal Culture, Giardia, C.diff

## Take Home Points

- Myriad of causes of abdominal pain
- Consider vascular compression in patients with refractory abdominal pain





# New Drug Shown to Lower Risk of Fracture in Women with Osteoporosis

*New England Journal of Medicine* study demonstrates romosozumab boosts bone growth and provides significant reduction in fragility fractures.

**Kenneth G. Saag, MD, MSc**

Professor, Clinical Immunology & Rheumatology



## Buford Earns 2 RO1 Awards

Each study is focused on understanding the role of the renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in age-related declines in physical function.

### **Thomas Buford, PhD**

Associate Professor, Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care



## Troponin Assays... To Test or Not to Test?

Commentary in *American Journal of Medicine* cautions against overuse of of troponin assays and suggests practical means for improving use of diagnostic testing.

**Gregory D. Chapman, MD**  
Professor, Cardiovascular Disease



## NIH Fellowship Award for Nephrology Research

Christian Faul, PhD (Associate Professor, Nephrology) and his pre-doctoral fellow Christopher Yanucil are exploring the mechanisms of cardiac injury in the context of chronic kidney disease.

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Geriatric Quality Symposium



Dr. Clifford Ko



Dr. Cynthia Brown



Dr. Deb Cleeter-Bailey

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Celebrate the graduation of Geriatric Scholars  
and hear from distinguished national specialists!

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**Thursday, September 21**

**Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium**

## Poster Session

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Posters, storyboards, and  
video presentations  
summarizing quality  
improvement projects.

## Formal Program

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Recognizing UAB's work  
supporting national quality efforts,  
scholars and community donors,  
outcomes reports, awards.

## Panel Discussion

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

*Quality and Age-Friendly Health Systems*  
with guests Drs. Ko, Brown, and Cleeter-Bailey

**West Pavilion Conference Room E.**

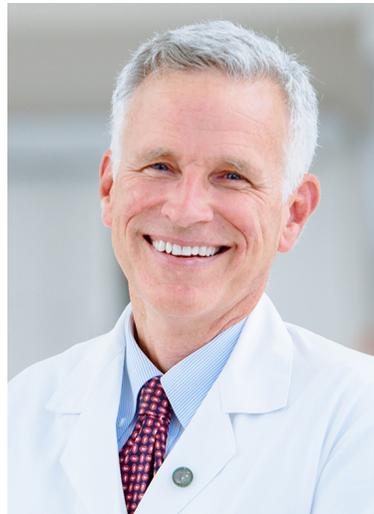
\*Lunch available for first 100 attendees

# Medical Grand Rounds

Wednesday,  
September 27, 2017

12:00 P.M. in  
Margaret Cameron  
Spain Auditorium

## Annual State of the Department Address



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**Seth Landefeld, MD**

Professor and Chair,  
UAB Department of Medicine

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