



This is a very special edition of the newsletter as we welcome our new DIO, Dr. Ali Dabaja. Dr. Dabaja is from HFH-Detroit, where he is a urologist, specializing in male reproductive health and microsurgery. Dr. Dabaja has a wealth of experience in GME, serving as the Program Director of the Urology Residency at HFH-Detroit and on ACGME committees. Dr. Dabaja is also the current chair of the Medical Executive Committee and Chief of Staff at HFH-Detroit.

Dr. Dabaja’s main areas of interests (after GME, of course!) are male infertility and men’s health, peer review, quality improvement, microsurgery, oncofertility, and faculty development.

The Research Department is excited to collaborate with Dr. Dabaja in research, quality improvement and faculty development. Dr. Dabaja will be one of our Research Day Judges, so make sure to give him a warm welcome!

From all of us: Welcome to St. John!

Dr. Susanna Szpunar

Director, Biomedical Investigations and Research
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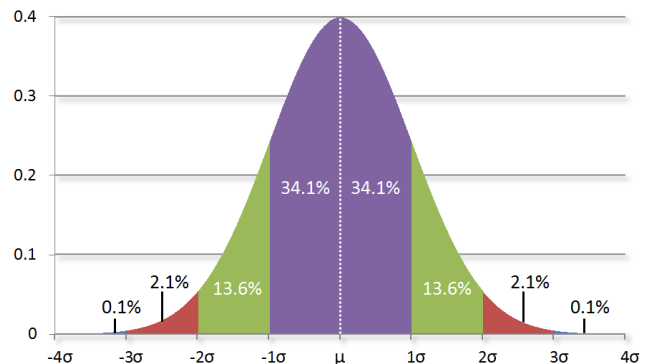


Fast Stats

Its great to be normal!

The normal distribution occupies the central position in statistical theory and methods. So, what’s so special about the normal distribution?

1. The term “normal” does not mean “usual”, “standard” or “most common”. No observable random variable follows the normal distribution exactly and many variables occurring in normal experience do not tend to follow the normal distribution.
2. The dominance and usefulness of the distribution lie in its convenient mathematical properties, leading directly to much of the theory of statistics available for practice, its availability as an approximation to other distributions and its application to many random variables that are either approximately normally distributed or can be easily transformed to approximate normal variables.
3. The curve is bell-shaped and has a single peak or mode at $x=\mu$ (the mean). The area under the curve is 1. The points at which the direction of concavity change are called inflection points; these are located σ (the standard deviation) units above or below the mean.
4. The **Central Limit** theorem gives the normal distribution its critical importance. The theorem states that for random variables from any underlying distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2 , however non-normal it may be, the sampling distribution of the sample mean for random samples of size n , is approximately normal,





Research Day, 2026

- ☆ This year, the hospital-wide Research Day for residents is April 29, 2026! Please mark your calendars to join us on that day, in the auditorium.
- ☆ Lunch will be served for participants.
- ☆ Our winners will advance to the SEMCME Research Day.

Henry Ford Research Symposium 2026

HENRY FORD HEALTHSM 23rd ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Friday, May 15, 2026

Henry Ford Health Hospital: Ford Hall
2799 W Grand Boulevard, Detroit Michigan 48202



Synergy in Space
Fostering Discovery & Collaborative Science

Reminders for Graduating Residents

- You need to complete your research project, QA/QI project or Track II plan prior to graduation.
- You will need to submit your manuscript to the Research Department by the end of May, 2026 so that the Research staff can review and approve them. Instructions will be emailed to you soon.
- Remember that we will need to take care of any “IRB business” before you leave—the Research Staff will be asking you if you want to close your project or continue it and we will fill out the appropriate forms for you.
- Remember that the use of AI to write your manuscripts is NOT allowed.



Happy Easter, Blessed Passover, Eid Mubarak!



Recent Publications

- Bhargava A, Patel H, Szpunar S, Sharma M, Somero M, Moudgil S, Saravolatz L.** Fatigue severity, cognitive strain, and psychological health in long COVID: Untangling the interconnected aftermath from a dedicated long COVID clinic. *Viruses*. 2025 Nov 27;17(12):1551. doi: 10.3390/v17121551. PMID: 41472222; PMCID: PMC12737736.
- Dobry P, Lane R, Whittaker P, Gwaltney A, Smith S, Hudson B, Carabetta S, Brual R, Sawyer L, Perez M, Truong M, DeVier M, Dalton K, Edwin SB, Giuliano C, Haan BJ, Daley M.** Two paths to paralysis: A multicenter comparison of cisatracurium to atracurium in the management of acute respiratory distress syndrome. *J Crit Care*. 2026 Feb;91:155227. doi: 10.1016/j.jcrc.2025.155227. Epub 2025 Aug 22. PMID: 40848334.
- Garg I, Said N, **Shaik A**, Seby R, Alasmar R, Alhammouri H, Elbenawi H, Mahmoud AK, Pham HN, Abdelnabi M, Ibrahim R. Hypertensive retinopathy and differential cardiovascular risk in black and white populations. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 2026 Mar-Apr 01;32(2):245-252. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000002313. Epub 2025 Dec 8. PMID: 41364488.
- Siwicki A, Adams RM, Cabasa K, Madan S, Ouillette H.** Postpartum pain management for women undergoing cesarean sections using a multimodal pain control protocol: a retrospective study. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2025 Dec 24;25(1):1318. doi: 10.1186/s12884-025-07607-y. PMID: 41444541; PMCID: PMC12729063.
- Ammar A, Edwin SB, Whitney R, Lipari M, Giuliano C.** Updates in chronic kidney disease management: a systematic review. *Pharmacotherapy* 2025 May;45(5):291-306. DOI: 10.1002/phar.70014 PMID: 40152479
- Sharma M, Szpunar SM, Tanveer F, Arcobello J, Revanakar S, Bhargava A.** Predictors for true *Actinomyces* bacteremia. *J Med Microbiol* 2025 June;74(6):002026 DOI: 10.1099/jmm.o.002026; PMCID: PMC12137913; PMID: 40465468
- Khan HH, Kumar S, Lyons H.** Practices of North American pediatric gastroenterologists in the management of celiac disease-a survey study. *JPGN Repors* 2025 March;6(2):137-45. DOI: 10.1002/jpr3.12166; PMCID: PMC12078043; PMID: 40386323
- Bhargava A, Szpunar SM, Sharma M, Saravolatz LD.** Risk factors for seeking medical care following Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid) treatment for COVID-19: "Symptom-Rebound". *Viruses* 2025 May;17(6):782. DOI: 10.3390/v17060782; PMCID: PMC12197524; PMID: 4057337
- Bhargava A, Patel H, Szpunar SM, Sharma M, Somero M, Moudgil S, Saravolatz LD.** Fatigue Severity, Cognitive Strain, and Psychological Health in Long COVID: Untangling the Interconnected Aftermath from a Dedicated Long COVID Clinic. *Viruses* 2025 Nov;17(12):1551. DOI: 10.3390/v17121551; PMCID: PMC12737736; PMID: 41472222
- Silvapalan S, **Chuba P, Szpunar SM**, Berdi K, **Dul CL, Falk JS, Aref A.** All-cause mortality by race and socioeconomic status among women treated for breast cancer in metropolitan Detroit. *Cancer Epidemiol* 2026 April; 101:103013. DOI: 10.1016/j.canep.2026.103013; PMID: 41637848
- Jannette AM, Lunde A, Siblino T, Hagglund K, Aslam MF.** Does the Use of a Rigid Catheter Guide During Midurethral Sling Placement Impact Cystotomy Rates? A Retrospective Cohort Study. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2025 Jul;47(7):102927. DOI: 10.1016/j.jogc.2025.102927; PMID: 40383181



Consent for Case Reports

The consent form has been updated with the new hospital name; contact Dr. Szpunar if you need a copy!

It is required that you obtain consent from patients or next-of-kin when you plan to write a case report. We have a standard consent form that should be used. The consent needs to be in writing; a verbal consent is not sufficient. Please remember to both sign and date the consent form as the requesting author. Remember that none of the 18 elements of PHI should ever be included in a case report. The 18 elements are:

1. Patient names
2. Geographical elements
3. Dates related to the health or identity of individuals
4. Telephone numbers
5. Fax numbers
6. Email addresses
7. Social security numbers
8. Medical record numbers
9. Health insurance beneficiary numbers
10. Account numbers
11. Certificate/license numbers
12. Vehicle identifiers
13. Device attributes or serial numbers
14. Digital identifiers, such as website URLs
15. IP addresses
16. Biometric Identifiers
17. Full face photographic images
18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic or code

Upcoming SEMCME Programs

SEMCME & MAME Residency GME Professionals Conference

April 17, 2026

9:00 to 3:00 pm EST

Laurel Manor Conference Center, Livonia, MI

[Click here to register!](#)

37th Annual Chief & Senior Resident Workshop

April 24, 2026 I 8:00-3:00pm EST

Henry Ford Warren & Madison Heights Hospital, Warren, MI

[Click here for more information!](#)

48th Research Forum & 11th Michigan Summit on Quality Improvement, Patient Safety & High Value Care

May 20, 2026

8:00—1:00 pm EST

Somerset Inn, Troy, MI

SAVE THE DATE!

For more information: <https://semcme.org/>

Upcoming CME Programs

Endoscopy Conference

May 9th, 2026

(save the date)

Pediatric Conference

June 3, 2026

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial

For more information: nderita1@hfhs.org

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