



# GW Medicine Notes

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## Intern Recruitment in Full Swing

When you see 12-15 young men and women walking thru the building in dark suits for the next three months remember it is not a funeral but interview season.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from now until the first week of February (with a week off for the holidays) we will be interviewing prospective interns for our three programs; categorical, preliminary and primary care.

The most important thing about interviewing for the faculty to remember is to be on time and be prepared. We are distributing the folders of the students you will be interviewing the day before so you have time to review their personal statements, CV and letters of recommendation. Remember, if for any reason you cannot make an interview that you have scheduled it is your responsibility to find a substitute and to let Tracie know who that will be. Given the large number of students we will be seeing over the next few months we need everyone's cooperation to get this done right.

The students' day starts with morning report followed by a PowerPoint presentation describing the program by one of next year's chief residents. They are then brought over to the ACC building for two interviews followed by a short discussion with Dr. Wasserman and then Drs. El-Bayoumi and Barbour review the program and answer questions. This is followed by lunch, a tour and a final farewell.

Please be on time for your interview and please end your interview on time. And thanks to everyone for helping in this important effort.

HOUSESTAFF/FACULTY

HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 12, 2012

## From the Chairman

The problem (or at least one of the problems) with Internal Medicine is that for too long we have called it the "Cognitive Specialty." We usually think before we act. We take complex patients with unexplained symptoms and logically go through examination and testing to come to a diagnosis. (For all those who sent me those kind e-mails last month, I have temporarily resurrected the physical exam.)

So what's the problem? Thinking doesn't pay! An internist or even a specialist can spend an hour with a difficult new patient; develop a diagnostic plan; wait for results to decipher and then, hopefully, formulate a diagnosis. All for the amazing reimbursement of, on average, \$xxxx. We then usually re-see the patient and spend more time formulating a treatment plan which may add as much as \$xxx to pad our pockets. Probably these two visits are combined with multiple phone calls for which since the time of Alexander Graham Bell someone decided do not deserve to be charged. We must have lost the coin toss to the lawyers.

But help is on the way. Internists should see an increase in Medicare payments next year, according to the new fee schedule released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS.) Reimbursement rates should increase by about 4-5 % in 2013. Before you rush out and buy that Mercedes, there is a small other issue. In practices with 100 or more physicians (and everyone starting in 2017) reimbursement will be modified (meaning decreased) depending on how well a physician scores on measures of cost and quality of service. Don't want to give those big bucks without a catch. Will doctors start thinking twice about ordering expensive studies (even if they are indicated)? Will doctors be penalized if patients are non-compliant so their BP remains elevated or their HgA1C doesn't fall within the normal range?

Of course there is one other chronic problem. The Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula calls for a reimbursement rate cut of more than 26% if the SGR is not overridden by Congress for 2013. Congress has used physicians as a political football since 2003 and although they have overridden the rate cut every year since 2003, once again we will have to sit up and beg. What amazes me is that politicians seem to have no idea that many physicians have stopped taking Medicare because of both the low reimbursement and the ongoing uncertainty.

Shouldn't the SGR be fixed again this year in the usual fashion with a last minute compromise that extends current rates for another 6 months to a year? Probably, except things may be a little more complex this year with something called the "fiscal cliff" just over the next hill (month). Maybe it's time to take our cognitive ability and put it to use by standing up to the politicians who just don't get it. Let's stop seeing or treating any politician until they fix the system. Since we usually over-order studies on VIP's, this should help with our individual cost analysis profile.

*Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.*

## Department of Medicine December 2012 Grand Rounds

Dec 6 **"Persecution of Health Care Workers and the Doctrine of Medical Neutrality"**

**Katalin Roth, MD, JD**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Director, Division of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates

Dec 13 **"Psoriasis"**

**Alison Ehrlich, MD**

Professor of Dermatology  
Chairman, Department of Dermatology  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates

Dec 20 **"Managing the Message: Palliative Medicine and Prognostication"**

**Danielle Doberman, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates

Dec 27 **Cancelled for Winter Holiday**

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. GWUMC designates this continuing medical education activity on an hour-for-hour basis in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

## Medicine Team Contacts

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GOLD TEAM	(202) 715-6044

## Cardiology Grand Rounds

5:00 PM, GWU Hospital, Conference Room 6-116

Dec 5 **M & M**

Dec 12 **Ferid Murad, MD, PhD**

University Professor  
Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology, 1988  
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
GWU SMHS  
**Nitric Oxide**

Dec 19 **Tiffany M. Powell, MD, MPH**

Assistant Clinical Investigator  
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Branch  
National Heart Lung and Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland  
**Obesity and the Heart**

Dec 26 **No Conference  
Winter Holiday**



## Resident Lecture Series December 2012 Noon Conference

Dec 3 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 4 **Journal Club**

Dec 5 **GME Core Curriculum &  
Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 6 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Dec 7 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 10 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 11 **CPC**

Dec 12 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 13 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Dec 14 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 17 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 18 **Mortality & Morbidity**

Dec 19 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 20 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Dec 21 **Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Dec 24 **Holiday Week - No Conference**

Dec 25 **Holiday Week - No Conference**

Dec 26 **Holiday Week - No Conference**

Dec 27 **Holiday Week - No Conference**

Dec 28 **Holiday Week - No Conference**

## Medicine Faculty Receive ACP-DC Chapter Awards

The DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians has awarded **Dr. Robert Jablonover**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, with the **“Sol Katz, MD Memorial Teaching Award”**. This award was named for Dr. Katz, who was Chief of Pulmonary Disease at Georgetown and Chief of the Medical Service at the VA for 50 years as he was known to his countless students as the consummate teacher and mentor.

Dr. Jablonover completed his undergraduate degree at Duke and then went on to medical school at the University of the North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduating, he completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Maryland followed by a two-year fellowship in general internal medicine at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. During that time, Dr. Jablonover received training in faculty development, facilitator training programs, teaching skills for clinician educators and curriculum development. Dr. Jablonover is board- certified in internal medicine.

After completing all of this training, Dr. Jablonover joined the Division of Internal Medicine at the Sinai Hospital in Baltimore for approximately three years and then moved over to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. In 1999, Rob became the associate residency program director in Internal Medicine at Hahnemann University (now Drexel University) in Philadelphia. In 2005, Dr. Jablonover came to the Department of Medicine at the George Washington University to take over as an inpatient student clerkship director. He remained in that position until the end of the last academic year. Rob revolutionized the clerkship training program at GW and within a short period of time developed an integrated curriculum across all major teaching centers. Rob was a major addition to the George Washington University teaching program. He received excellent evaluations from the students for his individual teaching and, most importantly, the overall clerkship experience. These evaluations were so positive that at the end of 2007 having been at GW for just two years, Rob received the Golden Apple Teaching Award from the GWU medical students. Additionally, since the beginning of the last academic year, he has been the primary care clerkship director. Rob undertook this new assignment with the same amount of enthusiasm with which he entered GW in 2005.

Therefore, because of Dr. Jablonover's excellence in teaching, his unprecedented display in improving medical educational by being a Program Director for not one, but now two major clerkships in the School of Medicine, he is extremely worthy and richly deserving of the Sol Katz Teaching Award. Finally, just to highlight the regard in which the George Washington University holds Dr. Jablonover, at graduation this past year he received the Medical Center's Distinguished Teaching Award, a singular honor received by only one clinician every year.

Also at the 2012 ACP DC Chapter meeting in November, **Dr. Elise Riley**, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine was awarded the **“Volunteerism and Community Service Award”**. Dr. Riley received her MD degree from SUNY Buffalo and then completed her residency in Internal Medicine. From 1982, she was appointed Attending Physician at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University, and in 2009, she joined the faculty at USUHS. Since 1998 Dr. Riley has been at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD

For many years starting in 1998, Dr. Riley assisted in the management of the George Washington Medical School Internal Medicine Residency programs at Holy Cross Hospital where she was responsible for hundreds of medical students and internal medicine residents.

In 2003, she was appointed Medical Director of the Holy Cross Hospital Health Center. In this role Dr. Riley has been a leader in providing care to the indigent, homeless, and others lacking healthcare, and in teaching interns, residents and nurse practitioners about the challenges and rewards of this work. Since its founding in 2003, the clinic has been instrumental in providing access to quality healthcare for many who cannot obtain medical care anywhere else. The Health Center has also become a sought after clinical site for students and residents who are eager to learn under Dr. Riley's mentorship.

**Dr. Jerry Meyer, MD, FACP**, Clinical Professor of Medicine received the ACP-DC Leadership Award for his, “persistent and untiring interest and support of the role of the practicing physician in today's medical environment.” Dr. Meyer received his medical degree at the University of Chicago where he also completed an internal medicine residency and a public health fellowship in cardiology. After nine years at GWU he became the Associate Chief of Cardiology at Providence Hospital. Dr. Meyer has served on numerous committees through the DC Medical Society, the American and Washington Heart Associations, and continues to serve the ACP-DC Chapter on several committees. He is a 2002 recipient of the chapter's Laureate Award.

### Residents Present at ACP-DC Associates Mtg

At the ACP-DC Associates Meeting on November 17, the GWU Internal Medicine Residency Program was represented by the following; **Dr. Alex Ross**, PGY1, **Dr. Phuong Luu**, PGY3, **Dr. Chino Mannikarottu**, PGY3, **Dr. Faysal Haroun**, PGY3 and **Dr. Mohammad Alkadi**, PGY3.

Dr. Mannikarottu won a cash prize for her poster, “An Unusual Etiology for Shoulder Pain in a Health Adult: Sternoclavicular Joint Osteomyelitis.”

Dr. Haroun also won a cash prize for his poster entitled, “The Role of Genetic Polymorphisms in Breast Cancer Treatment that Includes Cyclophosphamide.”

**Drs. April Barbour, Anne Lesburg, Suzanne Sweidan** and **Gigi El-Bayoumi** served as faculty judges. As did **Dr. Shirley Kalwaney** for Inova Fairfax Hospital.

**Rheumatology  
Academic Conference Schedule  
December 2012**

Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 am ACC 1-401, 1:30 - 3:30 pm Hospital Rm 6-106  
*Questions? Call (202) 741-2488*

- Dec 6 **Dr. Kathleen Brindle**,  
Associate Professor of Radiology  
Radiology Conference
- Didactic Sessions  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Dec 13 **Journal Club**  
**Dr. Tina Shah**
- Didactic Sessions  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Dec 20 **Intra-City Grand Rounds**  
Location: Washington Hospital Center  
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.
- Didactic Sessions  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Dec 27 **Cancelled - Winter Holiday**

## *Kudos and Congratulations*

**Kudos ... to Dr. Anne Laake**, Infectious Diseases fellow and former GW Internal Medicine resident, who was a recent star at morning report, presenting an engaging talk with her infectious teaching ability that had the residents excited and engaged.

**More kudos ... to Dr. Nisha Nathan**, PGY3, who is on an ABC News elective in New York City and has had an article published online at abcnews.com entitled, "Doctor Shortage Could Cause Health Care Crash".

**Even more kudos...** to **Dr. Samir Patel**, Associate Professor, Division of Renal Diseases, who has been invited to join the editorial board of the journal "Advances in Kidney Diseases", an official journal of the National Kidney Foundation, as the Associate Editor.

**Congratulations ... to Dr. Christina Puchalski**, Professor of Medicine and Director of the GW Institute for Spirituality and Health, whose textbook, "**Oxford Textbook of Spirituality and Healthcare**," was published in October.

**Congratulations also ...** to the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension which had more than 15 abstracts, a poster presentation and a podium presentation at the recent American Society of Nephrology annual conference. All of the MFA-based faculty members (**Drs. Samir Patel, Nicolas Guzman, Susie Lew, Manuel Velasquez, and Dominic Raj**) had at least one presentation, with additional presenters including; **Dr. Shari Lewis**, fellow; **Dr. Harry Gill, PhD** and **Dr. Maria Wing, PhD**, research faculty; **Dr. Ashte' Collins**, Greenbelt Renal Office; and **Dr. Carlos Palant** of the VAMC.

*See you next month! The Editor*



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