I am amazed that there has been very little push back on the new military doctrine of placing women in direct combat situations. Was it brilliant timing on the Pentagon’s part for announcing this proximate to all the inauguration hoopla? Why were the “crazies” so quiet on this issue? Of course it would be very difficult to tell someone like Tammy Duckworth, newly elected congresswoman from Illinois, that this is a new edict. Congresswoman Duckworth was a helicopter pilot during the Iraq war and lost both her legs and injured her right arm during combat. The helicopter she was piloting was hit by a rocket grenade. This was probably called incidental contact at the time as it couldn’t be “combat.” She is the first Asian-American elected from Illinois, the first disabled woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the first member of Congress born in Thailand.

On Sunday January 27th an op-ed article appeared in The Washington Post arguing that “women do not belong in combat.” Women, because of their inferior physical capacities, having less than half the upper body strength of men, have a diminished opportunity for survival. The article points out that the lack of testosterone renders women less aggressive than males; (less distractible also.) However, the real reason that the article states for not allowing women in combat is that we are potentially talking about “your 18 year-old daughter, neighbor, sister or girlfriend” going to war. The article doesn’t discuss that the following countries allow women to be in combat roles: New Zealand, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Germany, Norway, Israel, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland. All war mongering countries. When was the last time Sweden attacked another country?

Well if you don’t go to war why does it matter who is allowed in combat? Exactly! This is what the op-ed writer doesn’t understand. Maybe if President Bush had to contemplate his daughters or anyone else’s daughters fighting in Iraq we wouldn’t have engaged in such a stupid wasteful affair. Is it any coincidence that Lyndon Johnson, who also had only daughters got us involved in Vietnam; followed by Richard Nixon, who brought us “peace with dishonor,” with two daughters? But alas, there would still have been competing interests. Prior to the Bush (43) Presidency, Halliburton stock that was essentially worthless was donated to the MFA. Less than four years later it was worth millions. Somehow you have to believe that the argument against women in combat wouldn’t stand a chance against the military-industrial complex. And Hagel’s nomination for Secretary of Defense is being demonized because his experience in Vietnam left him leery of being involved in any wars except when vital national interest are at stake. It sounds like he is not interested in having women or men involved in any unnecessary wars. Now that sounds like an op-ed column worth writing.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.
**Department of Medicine**  
**February 2013 Grand Rounds**

Feb 7  
**"Movement Disorders"**  
Aviva Ellenstein, MD, PhD  
Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology  
Director, Movement Disorders Program  
Department of Neurology  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates

Feb 14  
**"Sickle Cell Anemia: Past, Present and Future"**  
Griffin Rodgers, MD, MBA  
Chief, Molecular & Clinical Hematology Branch  
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland

Feb 21  
**"Neonatal Medicine"**  
Hany Aly, MD  
Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology & of Pediatrics  
Director of Neonatology  
Department of Neonatology  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates

Feb 28  
**"Preventative Health Services"**  
Paula Lantz, PhD  
Professor and Chair of Health Policy  
School of Public Health and Health Services  
George Washington University

**Cardiology Grand Rounds**  
5:00 PM, GWU Hospital, Conference Room 6-116

Feb 6  
**M & M**

Feb 13  
**Farzad Najam, MD**  
Associate Director of Cardiac Surgery  
The George Washington University Hospital  
Assistant Clinical Professor of Cardiac Surgery  
The George Washington University  
Washington, DC  
**Surgical Approach to Mitral Valve Disease**

Feb 20  
**Gurusher Panjrath, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Director, Heart Failure and Mechanical Assist Program  
The George Washington University Hospital and the Division of Cardiology  
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates  
**Heart Failure**

Feb 27  
**Charles Samenow, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
**Professionalism in Medicine**

**Resident Lecture Series**  
**February 2013 Noon Conference**

Feb 1  
**Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Feb 4  
**Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Feb 5  
**Journal Club**

Feb 6  
**Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Feb 7  
**Medicine Grand Rounds**

Feb 8  
**Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Feb 11  
**Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Feb 12  
**"Hepatitis C" - Dr. Marc Siegel**

Feb 13  
**Recruitment/Resident Luncheon**

Feb 14  
**Medicine Grand Rounds**

Feb 15  
**TBA**

Feb 18  
**"Endocarditis" - Dr. Marco Mercader**

Feb 19  
**CPC**

Feb 20  
**TBA**

Feb 21  
**Medicine Grand Rounds**

Feb 22  
**"Seronegative Arthropathies" - Dr. Nora Taylor**

Feb 25  
(HVCCC) Biostats II - Dr. Jillian Catalanotti

Feb 26  
**Morbidity & Mortality**

Feb 27  
**"MDS" - Dr. Khaled el-Shami**

Feb 28  
**Medicine Grand Rounds**

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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.
Introducing the Department’s Newest Faculty Member ... Dr. Gurusher Panjrath

Dr. Gurusher Panjrath recently joined the Division of Cardiology as the MFA and GWUH’s Director of Heart Failure and Mechanical Assist Program. Dr. Panjrath completed his general cardiology and heart failure and transplantation fellowships at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Panjrath also participated in an additional research fellowship in the Cardiac Energetics and Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Research Laboratory which led to ground-breaking work on muscle metabolism and energetics.

He is a graduate of Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India, and completed his residency, which included an additional Chief year, at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center of Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York City.

He is a young investigators award finalist for the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Physicians. He has authored or co-authored over fifty manuscripts, books, chapters and abstracts.

Dr. Panjrath is board certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease. His clinical and research interests include systolic and diastolic heart failure, advanced heart failure, mechanical circulatory support/left ventricular assist device, heart transplantation, cardiomyopathies, chemotherapy related cardiotoxicity, peri-partum cardiomyopathies, pulmonary hypertension (to name a few). Dr. Panjrath speaks Hindi, Punjabi and Gujarati.

Appointments can be made by calling (202) 741-3333. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Panjrath to the Department of Medicine and to the MFA.

Call for Abstracts for 18th Annual Research Day

The 18th Annual Research Day Symposium will be held on April 3rd. Abstracts are due by February 24th. The abstract submission form, instructions for abstracts and posters, and additional guidance is available at: http://research.gwu.edu/research-days-2013

All undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students, as well as faculty and residents are invited to participate in this annual event showcasing their research, creative scholarship, and cultural discovery through poster sessions, presentations and guest speakers.

For more information contact: resdays@gwu.edu

Attending Physicians Association Closes

The leadership of the Attending Physicians Association of The George Washington University Hospital has announced that it will be shutting down the organization. Attendance at the organization’s monthly meetings has decreased over the last year, signaling a decreased interest in the APA. Additionally, no one has come forward with a desire to lead the organization into the future. The Executive Committee believes that at this time with there being positive changes that have occurred within the hospital, that the APA should close. Though, as has happened in the past, the APA, may reorganize again, if the need arises. Remaining funds in the APA’s accounts will be donated to the GWUH Women’s Board.

2013 Subspecialty Matching Program a Success

Overall the 2013 Medical Specialties Matching Program (MSMP) included more certified programs and positions and the percentages of positions filled in most specialties were either higher or stable than in 2012. There were 53 fewer applicants in 2012 and 138 more positions, resulting in a 71% match rate. The results are good news for fellowship program directors, some of whom feared the later Match schedule would cause programs to fill more positions outside the Match.

Furthermore, more positions in more programs through the Match were filled at a higher rate than before the change in the timeline. Thus, the change in the timeline was a success. Future Projects for the AAIM Fellowship Match Working Group will include working to prevent overlap between the start date for fellowships and the end date for residency training.

Following is the Subspecialty Match Data Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>AY2012</th>
<th>AY2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>781</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>251</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>433</td>
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<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hematology/Oncology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>508</td>
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<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
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<td>98%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
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<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nephrology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulmonary Diseases / Critical Care</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
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<td>195</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Positions</td>
<td>3,329*</td>
<td>3,467*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Positions Filled</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* includes programs, such as straight Hematology, and Pulmonary Disease without Critical Care, that GWU does not offer.
Kudos & Congratulations

Kudos … to the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension for being awarded 2 of the 5 Research Awards by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute for Mentored Collaborative Pilot Studies that Promote Integration of Clinical and Research Efforts at GW/MFA. The recipients are: Harry Gill, PhD for “ApoL1 Variants as a Tool to Predict Chronic Kidney Disease” and Ali Ramezani, PhD for “Prebiotics, Gut Microbiota, and Endotoxemia in ESRD Patients.”

More Kudos … to the Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP), Ms. Mary Ellen Wolf, and the Division of Endocrinology for receiving “Education Recognition” from the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Recognition by the ADA ensures reimbursement for delivering diabetes education in an accredited DSMP program that meets national standards.

Yet More Kudos … to Dr. Susie Q. Lew, who appeared in the lead article of the School of Medicine’s “Medicine & Health” Magazine regarding an innovative research project in conjunction with Emergency Medicine’s tele-medicine services, which allows closer monitoring of peritoneal dialysis patients thereby reducing emergency room visits and improving patient outcomes.

Congratulations … to Dr. Jason Prior, Division of Hospital Medicine, and his wife on the birth of their daughter Ariella Rae born on 12/22/2012.

Congratulations also … to Dr. Adam Possner, General Internal Medicine, whose poem entitled, “Myth Dispelled,” about the flu vaccine, was published in JAMA in December and read on the radio by Garrison Keillor in January.

See you next month! The Editor