



GW Medicine Notes

A Monthly Publication of the GW Department of Medicine

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February 2013

Intern Interview Season Comes to an End

We are slowly coming to the end of our longest intern interview season. We have hosted medical students from across the United States and many foreign countries. Interviews started in mid-November and will go until the second week of February.

On February 13th we will host a “happy hour” for all the GW students who are applying for an internship in Internal Medicine. This gives us a chance to hear about their experiences on the interview trail and also gives us a final chance to sell our program. We will also explain the process by which we will assist them in contacting their top choices. This is often the first time that many of the 4th year students have seen each other since they started travelling for interviews.

Following this meeting, our faculty will meet in an extended session to finalize our match list. Then the waiting starts. The envelopes will be open on March 15th and we and the students will discover how everyone did.

Once again I want to thank all those faculty members who gave time to interview applicants. This year went very smoothly with only minor hiccups. Special thanks once again go to **Tracie Bass** and **Tamara Lyons** for their early hours and hard work in making the process run easily.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2013

END-OF-THE-YEAR PARTY

**THE RITZ-CARLTON
WASHINGTON, DC HOTEL**

From the Chairman

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

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

WHITE TEAM	(202) 715-5669
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RED TEAM	(202) 715-6039
BLUE TEAM	(202) 715-6156
SILVER TEAM	(202) 715-6040
PURPLE TEAM	(202) 715-6042
GOLD TEAM	(202) 715-6044

ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager

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 Panjra, 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**

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 groundbreaking 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:

Specialty		AY2012	AY2013
Cardiovascular Disease	Certified Positions	779	781
	% of Positions Filled	98%	99%
Endocrinology	Certified Positions	235	251
	% of Positions Filled	93%	95%
Gastroenterology	Certified Positions	399	433
	% of Positions Filled	97%	97%
Hematology/Oncology	Certified Positions	486	508
	% of Positions Filled	98%	98%
Infectious Diseases	Certified Positions	328	334
	% of Positions Filled	79%	81%
Nephrology	Certified Positions	397	416
	% of Positions Filled	91%	89%
Pulmonary Diseases / Critical Care	Certified Positions	435	463
	% of Positions Filled	97%	99%
Rheumatology	Certified Positions	187	195
	% of Positions Filled	95%	95%
Overall	Certified Positions	3,329*	3,467*
	% of Positions Filled	94%	95%

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

Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule February 2013

Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 am ACC 6B-411B, 1:00 - 3:30 pm Hospital Rm 6-106
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

- Feb 7 "Care 2013 Retreat" - Conference Cancelled
- Feb 7 No Teaching Rounds
- Feb 14 *Intra-City Rheumatology Grand Rounds*
NOTE LOCATION: National Military Medical Center
NOTE TIME: 7:30 AM
- Feb 14 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106 (note time)
- Feb 21 **"Pathogenesis of Psoriasis"**
Sabrina Newman, MD
Assistant Professor of Dermatology
- Feb 21 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106 (note time)
- Feb 28 **"Immunology"**
Rodolfo Curiel, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine
- Feb 28 Didactic Sessions
"MSK Ultrasound Course"
Mahnaz Momeni, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106

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*



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