Dr. David Simon Retires

We are sad to announce that Dr. David Simon, Division of General Internal Medicine, has decided to retire from clinical practice. He holds the rank as Clinical Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Simon is a graduate of The George Washington University School of Medicine in 1967. He went on to do his internship and residency at the Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia but finished his final year of medical residency at The George Washington University Hospital. David then went on to do a two-year fellowship in pulmonary diseases at the Veteran Administration Hospital affiliated with The George Washington University in Washington, DC. After a few years in the US Navy, David returned to the Washington, DC area where he combined a large private practice with his educational mission of teaching students and residents.

(Continued on Page 3)

From the Chairman

I always find it fascinating that whenever it gets cold, politicians discover that there are homeless people. I guess they think that in the summer these people may just be camping out, but it doesn’t look good if people are found frozen to death in their locality. My favorite cold weather joke (and obviously there are thousands of answers to “how cold is it?”) comes from listening to WTOP. One of their reporters, talking about the overnight temperatures, said “if you are homeless please go on our Web site www.wtop.com to look for open shelters.” Somehow I doubt there are many homeless out on freezing evenings busy on their iPad or better yet have access to Wi-Fi. Seriously? It is like saying; we need to give public service announcements but not really.

Yet hypothermia is no joking matter this winter. In many places in the U.S., the temperatures are below that on Mars (the warmer parts of Mars, but still). Of course, the people on Mars were smarter, they moved and probably not to Minnesota where in International Falls, the average yearly temperature is a robust 38 degrees with an all-time low of -57. Or consider Green Bay, Wisconsin, where the average low temperature in January is 9 degrees with an all-time low of -37.

Hypothermia has its own movie entitled: Hypothermia (2010). The write up for the movie says it all, “Ray Pelletier just wants to spend a pleasant and relaxing weekend ice fishing with his family.” Who wouldn’t rush out to see that? By the way, it is a horror movie and the horror is more than just ice fishing which you would think would be enough.

But hypothermia is a serious medical problem that can cause changes on the ECG. The Osborn wave is a deflection with a dome or hump configuration occurring at the R-ST junction (J point) on the ECG and is indicative of hypothermia. Of course you need to know the core body temperature since Osborn waves can also occur with hypercalcemia, brain injury, subarachnoid hemorrhage, cardiopulmonary arrest from over sedation, vasospastic angina, or idiopathic ventricular fibrillation. John Osborn, in 1953 described this ECG abnormality in hypothermia (hence the name). However, the first reference in the literature came in 1938 by Tomashewski, but his report was in French and therefore ignored. Almost 80 years later and the French still have a chip on their shoulders and now you know how it started.

Certain medications such as anti-psychotics, anti-depressants and sedatives may make it harder for the body to regulate temperature, but by far alcohol is the worst. Alcohol may make your body feel warm inside, but because it makes your blood vessels dilate, or expand, it results in more rapid heat loss from the surface of the skin. Symptoms of hypothermia may be vague, but mental confusion is universal and may lead to bizarre behaviors such as wearing cheese on one’s head. It is a wonder that people aren’t dropping like flies at Green Bay Packers games.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.
**Department of Medicine**  
**February 2014 Grand Rounds**

Feb 6  “Role of Stem Cells beyond a Regenerative Tool and as a Bio-Marker”  
*Sabyasachi Sen, MD*  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Division of Endocrinology  
Department of Medicine  
GW Medical Faculty Associates

Feb 13  “Movement Disorders”  
*Pritha Ghosh, MD*  
Assistant Professor of Neurology  
Department of Neurology  
GW Medical Faculty Associates

Feb 20  “Brain and Death”  
*Lakhmir S. Chawla, MD*  
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine  
Department of Anesthesiology  
GW Medical Faculty Associates

Feb 27  “Medical Malpractice”  
*Steven A. Farmer, MD*  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Division of Cardiology  
Department of Medicine  
GW Medical Faculty Associates

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

Feb 5  Mortality & Morbidity Conference

Feb 12  David Mendelowitz, Ph.D.  
Professor and Vice Chairman  
Department of Pharmacology and Physiology  
GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences  
*Can Oxytocin be Beneficial for Treating Cardiovascular Diseases*

Feb 19  Allen Solomon, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Division of Cardiology  
Department of Medicine  
GW Medical Faculty Associates  
*Left Atrial Appendage Closure*

Feb 26  TBA

**Resident Lecture Series**  
**February 2014 Noon Conference**

Feb 3  “Memory and Dementia”- Dr. James Cooper  
Journal Club

Feb 4  GME Core Curriculum lectures

Feb 5  Medicine Grand Rounds

Feb 6  Introduction to Podiatry– Dr. Michael Stempel  
TBD

Feb 10  Clinicopathologic Conference–  
Drs. Sheliza Lalani and Aundrea Tunstall

Feb 11  GME Core Curriculum lectures

Feb 12  Medicine Grand Rounds

Feb 13  Chairman’s Rounds

Feb 14  Holiday– No Conference

Feb 17  Clinicopathologic Conference–  
Drs. Alexander Ross and Maram Alkhatib

Feb 19  “Back Pain”- Dr. Rodolfo Curiel

Feb 20  Medicine Grand Rounds

Feb 21  Introduction to Epilepsy– Dr. Uma Menon

Feb 24  “Atrial Fibrillation”– Dr. Marco Mercader

Feb 25  Mortality & Morbidity–  
Drs. Suliman Alamro and John Duronville

Feb 26  Dr. Balbus– TBD

Feb 27  Medicine Grand Rounds

Feb 28  TBD

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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 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.
Dr. Simon Retires
(continued from page 1)

In 1974, he was appointed as Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine and in 1979 was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine. David advanced to Clinical Professor of Medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine in 1993, a title which he continues to hold.

David joined the Medical Faculty Associates in 2001; during this time, he has served as an active mentor and teacher to countless numbers of medical students and residents. He served as a preceptor in the outpatient clinic as well as an educator in multiple courses including practice of medicine and problem-based learning. He was also a preceptor in our third-year medical student primary care clerkship program as well as mentor of multiple CAP students in their first and second years of medical school.

Beyond his teaching load for the medical school, David has also been on almost every hospital administrative committee over the many years that he has practiced at The George Washington University Hospital. He chaired the critical care committee, has been on the peer review committee and the department’s appointments, promotions and tenure committee, just to name a few. He is a role model for students and house staff of an academic primary care doctor and he will be sorely missed. Dr. Simon has given us the used excuse of retiring to spend more time with his family.

Intern Interview Season Comes to an End

That’s it for another year. Thanks to everyone who helped with the interview process. Now we will be meeting to get together our Match list while all the students do the same. Then the waiting starts until March 14th (first time on a Friday) when those envelopes get opened and everyone’s life changes. Special thanks to Jacqueline Cole Miles and Tamara Lyons for all the hard work they did in making this interview season go so smoothly.

GW University Hospital Receives CON to start Renal Transplant Program

On January 27th, the GW Hospital Certificate of Need (CON) to perform Kidney and Pancreas Transplants was approved by an administrative law judge following the initial denial by a District agency. Until now, there was only one place in the District to pursue a transplant. Research indicates that the need for transplant surgery is growing based on the large number of dialysis patients in the region. All aspects of the kidney and pancreas donation and transplant process will be performed at GW Hospital and MFA, from initial evaluations to surgical procedures and the necessary after-care.

We are thrilled to be able to start a program that has been championed by Dr. Dominic Raj, our director of the Division of Nephrology. Much thanks goes out to the hospital administrators including Barry Wolfman and Kim Russo who have worked continuously since the summer to get this done. The detailed planning will now begin to operationalize the program as soon as possible. More information will be available as the process develops.

Chairman’s Rounds
GWU Hospital Auditorium, 12:00 Noon
All Faculty Invited to Attend

Feb 14  Dr. Tudi Al Sabban
Dr. Natasha Ang
Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule
February 2014
ACC Building 6B-411B (8:00 am - 9:00 am)
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

Feb 6  Journal Club
       Dr. Heidi Hanna

Feb 6  Didactic Sessions
       1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, 6th floor

Feb 13  Simple Concepts for Studying Diseases
       Dr. S. Pillemer

Feb 13  Didactic Sessions
       1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, 6th floor

Feb 20  Intra-City Rheumatology Grand Rounds
       NOTE LOCATION: Navy Hospital
       NOTE TIME: 7:30 AM

Feb 20  Didactic Sessions
       1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, 6th floor

Feb 27  Radiology Conference
       Dr. Kathleen Brindle, Associate Professor of Radiology
       Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology

Feb 27  Didactic Sessions
       1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, 6th floor

Kudos & Congratulations

Congratulations...to Dr. Stuart Kassan, GW Board of
Trustees member and alumnus, for named a 'Distinguished
Clinical Professor of Medicine' by the University of Colorado
School of Medicine. This is the highest honor for clinical
faculty at CU.

More Congratulations...to Drs. Chad Henson, PGY3, Abd-
dulhameed (Tudi) Al-Sabban, PGY3, and Ashley Free-
man, PGY3, for representing GWU and the entire ACP DC
Chapter at this year's 'Medical Jeopardy' competition at the
annual ACP meeting in Orlando in April. Way to go!

Kudos... to Dr. Nathan Punwani, PGY1, on his Letter to the
Editor, "Bashing a health insurer 'bailout' for political expe-
dience," which in the January 7issue of The Washington
Post.

More Kudos... to Dr. Marie Borum, Gastroenterology, Dr.
Jessica Davis, PGY2, and Dr. Samir Vermani, PGY3, on
having their abstract, "Cervical Dysplasia in Women with
Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Impact of Race, Type of IBD
and Medication Regimen," accepted for inclusion in the
Scientific Poster Session for Women's Health Congress
2014.

Even more Kudos... to Dr. Jehan El-Bayoumi, General In-
ternal Medicine, and Cristina Burgos, who received a let-
ter from a patient thanking them for helping to coordinate
care for her and her family.

See you next month! The Editor

The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates
Department of Medicine, Suite 8-416
2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC  20037