



GW Medicine Notes

A Monthly Publication of the GW Department of Medicine

Volume 18, Issue 6

June 2014

Perspectives in Oncology

GWUH's Department of Pharmacy will be hosting *Perspectives in Oncology* on June 14th at The George Washington University Hospital Auditorium. **Drs. Robert Siegel, Imad Tabbara, Khaled el-Shami, Jeanny Aragon-Ching, and Lauren Mauro**, Division of Hematology/Oncology, will be presenting on treatment strategies of ovarian cancer, renal cell carcinoma & Leukemia. Bone marrow transplant, immunology of cancer and oral chemotherapeutic agents and patient safety will be discussed as well.

This program was developed to meet the educational needs of physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. Registration deadline is June 9th. Seating is limited, please register early.

For more information please contact Sandra Moore at 202-715-5017 or by email: sandra.moore@gwu-hospital.com

SAVE THE DATE

**END-OF-THE-YEAR
PARTY**

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014

RITZ CARLTON HOTEL

From the Chairman

Dr. Jacob Varghese is retiring, and I am having trouble coming to grips with this event. I have been able to avoid this for the last few years by throwing big bucks at him to stay on but even that strategy has failed; he must have become independently wealthy working at GW. So after July 1 there will be no more Varghese to kick around. Richard Nixon said the same thing and then returned, to the detriment of this country, until he imploded, yet I think Jacob is no Richard Nixon (no John Kennedy either).

Jacob is one of the smartest people I have ever known but if you spent half your life in training and education the same could be said of you. He is either the most over-trained cardiologist or the most insecure. After completing Medical School, Internship and Residency in India he moved to the UK and spent another 4 years in Medicine/Cardiology. From there he came to the States for year of Cardiology research at Tufts then back to England for a year at the University of Bristol.

Finally deciding to get a job, he began his career as a Senior Research Associate and Instructor in the Department of Pediatric Cardiology at Johns Hopkins. Four years later found him in the faculty at the University of Amsterdam for a year followed by a year on the Cardiology staff of the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Staten Island. He then returned to Hopkins as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine before joining us at GW in 1979. Exhausted from all of the above he has remained at GW.

What is a legend? *A famous or important person who is known for doing something extremely well.* That leaves out Jacob. Although he may be important and does much extremely well, famous is a stretch. However, his CCU rounds are legendary. Starting promptly at 8:00 AM and covering minutes of every patient, every P wave, U wave and any abnormal axis; he was always looking for that elusive case of right ventricular dysplasia (which was often diagnosed but never proven). The line to empty your bladder started by 7:45 AM since rounds were over when they were over, often lasting well into the afternoon. I have seen grown men brought to tears begging to be freed. My favorite day was always June 23rd, the day the new interns started working. The over-under on the number of interns that Jacob would get to cry on the first day was 2 and the over usually won.

Jacob was a pioneer in Electrophysiology (*one who develops or be the first to use or apply a new method, area of knowledge, or activity*). Of course when he started EP docs were most interested in the P wave axis. But he was the treating doc, behind the scenes, when the first President Bush went into atrial fibrillation. More importantly he treated Yinka Dare, the 7 foot star GW basketball player when he went into atrial fibrillation. Jacob cardioverted him, told me about bradycardia induced atrial fib and then promised that Yinka wouldn't drop dead on national television two days later. He didn't. Yinka was drafted by the NJ. Nets in the first round of the NBA draft in 1994 and was a complete flop. Jacob gave him a medical clearance but never said he was any good.

For years Jacob saw every patient at GW with a congenital heart problem. No one else knew anything about congenital heart disease and Jacob claimed he did. Who knows, no one cared, we were just thrilled we didn't have to see them.

Why is he retiring? As far as I know he has no hobbies, doesn't play golf and probably can't sit still. He is the consummate (*showing a high degree of skill and flair; complete or perfect*) teacher and I can't imagine him not pontificating about something with students, residents or fellows. He can't retire, no one else knows how to calculate the P wave axis. He shouldn't retire, he should return, he will be missed. He is the BEST (*that which is the most excellent, outstanding, or desirable*).

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

Department of Medicine June 2014 Grand Rounds

June 5 **Tamagna Lecture: "Critical Appraisal for JNC8 Guidelines for Hypertension Management"**
Suzanne Oparil, MD

Professor of Medicine and Physiology & Biophysics
Chief of Vascular Biology and Hypertension
Director, Vascular Biology and Hypertension Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham

June 12 **"Accountable Care Organization: A Case Study of the Kidney"**

Allen R. Nissenson, MD

Emeritus Professor of Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Los Angeles, CA
Chief Medical Officer, Davita, Inc.

June 19 **Karl Wipplinger Memorial Lecture
"Bott Flies Infection"**

Shiv Pandya, MD, PGY-3

"Primary Immunodeficiencies for Internists"

Akilah Jefferson, MD, PGY3

Department of Medicine
GWU SMHS

June 26 **"Depression"**

James Griffith, MD

Leon M. Yochelson Professor
Chairman, Department of Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry
GW Medical Faculty Associates

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.

Medicine Team Contacts

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ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager

Cardiology Grand Rounds

5:00 PM, Ross Hall, Room # 104

June 4 **Mortality & Morbidity Conference**

June 11 **Jillian Catalanotti, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
GW Medical Faculty Associates
Milestones and NAS

June 18 **Issam Mikati, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine
Feinberg School of Medicine
Department of Cardiology
Northwestern Medical Group
Chicago, IL
Imaging in TAVR

June 25 **Summer Break**



Resident Lecture Series June 2014 Noon Conference

June 2	TBD
June 3	Journal Club
June 4	Core Curriculum
June 5	Medicine Grand Rounds
June 6	Cancelled
June 9	"Osteoporosis"- Dr. Mandana Hashefi
June 10	Mortality & Morbidity Conference- Drs. Wadha Al-Jaser and Nikila Kumar
June 11	EM/IM Conference
June 12	Medicine Grand Rounds
June 13	LGBT in Medicine- Dr. Katalin Roth
June 16	TBD
June 17	Financial planning for residents-Will Totten
June 18	Lung Cancer Cases- Dr. Antoine Finianos
June 19	Medicine Grand Rounds
June 20	Intern Hour
June 23	TBD
June 24	TBD
June 25	TBD
June 26	Medicine Grand Rounds
June 27	TBD
June 30	TBD

Emeritus Status

The GWU SMHS 2014 Diploma Ceremony was held at the Lisner Auditorium on May 18th, 2014. The Department of Medicine was well represented with 3 of our faculty receiving Emeritus Status:

Patience Haydock White, MD, MS, MA

Professor Emeritus, Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics

Dr. White joined the faculty of GWU in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics in 1980. She directed the care of rheumatology patients at Children's National Medical Center until 1977 when she was named associate dean for faculty affairs. She had served as the Director of the Division of Rheumatology here at GWU starting in 1985. In 2000, Dr. White left George Washington to become vice president for public health for the Arthritis Foundation. During her years at the Foundation, she led efforts to bring national attention to arthritis, the most common cause of disability in the US. In 2013, she was named the Foundation's vice president for policy and advocacy.

David B. Simon, MD

Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine

Dr. Simon has been affiliated with our institution ever since completion of a fellowship in pulmonary medicine in 1974. He entered private practice and was given a clinical appointment in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Simon placed a very high priority on remaining involved in the teaching of medical students and residents. During his time in community-based practice, Dr. Simon regularly served as a clinical mentor for medical students. After joining the GW Medical Faculty Associates in 2001, he played a key role in the training of students and residents. His service as a role model of a primary care physician with an academic perspective has inspired numerous students and housestaff.

Kenneth L. Becker, MD, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine

Dr. Becker moved to Washington DC in 1964 to serve as the chief of the endocrinology section of the Washington, DC Veterans Administration Medical Center and as a faculty member in the Department of Medicine at the George Washington University. He quickly established a reputation as an outstanding clinician, researcher, and educator, and published more than 200 papers on numerous subjects in endocrinology. Recently his work has focused on establishing procalcitonin as a highly specific biomarker that can be used in the diagnosis of bacterial infections. In recognition of his contributions, he received the John Phillips Memorial Award for Outstanding Work in Clinical Medicine from the American College of Physicians in 2013. His enormous contributions extend from the education of physicians at the bedside, in Grand Rounds, and through editorship of a highly-acclaimed endocrinology textbook. Until his retirement Dr. Becker was the longest serving division director of any specialty in the US.

GW Frontiers in Medicine Lecture

The GWU Frontiers in Medicine panel discussion took place on April 28th. A panel of GW medical experts explored new ways to deal with the effects of aging. Part II of the series featured GW experts on the effects of aging on sleep and sexual health.

The panelists included:

- Vivek Jain, MD
Medical Director of Center for Sleep Disorders
Assistant Professor of Medicine
- Michael S. Irwig, MD
Director of Andrology
Associate Professor of Medicine
- Patricia Smith, MD, FACOG
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Alan Wasserman, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, moderated the discussion.

The speakers spoke of the importance of sleep and how as we age, sleep patterns and sexual experiences can shift significantly.

AΩA Induction Dinner

The AΩA induction dinner on May 15th was moderated by **Alan Wasserman, M.D., M.A.C.P.**, chair of the Department of Medicine, Eugene Meyer Professor of Medicine at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) and Councilor of the GW Alpha Chapter of AΩA. Wasserman also serves on the Board of Directors of AΩA as a Councilor Director. The event was organized by **Angelike Liappis, M.D., F.I.D.S.A.**, '96 associate professor of Medicine at SMHS and secretary of the GW chapter of AΩA.

At the event, the annual AΩA Voluntary Faculty Award was presented to **Helen Burstin, M.D., M.P.H.** The award was established by the DC Alpha chapter of AΩA to recognize community-based clinicians who make significant contributions to the development and education of our medical students. Dr. Burstin serves to SMHS by precepting Internal Medical Residents and serves as a resource at the divisions weekly journal clubs.

Dr. Ann M. Laake, PGY5, fellow in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, was one of the four Housestaff inductees into AΩA this year. **Drs. Nancy Gaba** and **Robert Zeman** were the two GW Faculty inductees.

Transitions

Dr. Sara Wikstrom, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Hospital Medicine, will be taking over the GWU SMHS, Clerkship Director from **Dr. Juan Reyes**, Assistant Professor of Medicine effective July 1st.

Dr. Wikstrom began her training at GWU as an intern and was a GWU Hospital based Chief Resident for the 2011-2012 academic year. We are pleased that she will be our new clerkship director and expect to see less student grievances than under Dr. Reyes who was very strict with the students.

Dr. Juan Reyes will be leaving the MFA and supposedly joining the Hospitalist Division at Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. If not, Army will be providing for the family. He and his wife are looking forward to sharing more time with both of their families who all reside in Miami. They will be partaking in some beach/pool activities while down there. Best Wishes!

Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule June 2014

ACC Building 6B-411B (8:00 am - 9:00 am)
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

June 5	Journal Club Dr. Heidi Hanna
June 5	Didactic Sessions 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, 6th floor
June 12	Radiology Conference Dr. Kathleen Brindle Associate Professor of Radiology Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology
June 12	Didactic Sessions 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, 6th floor
June 19	Summer Recess; No Conference
June 26	Summer Recess; No Conference

Kudos & Congratulations

Congratulations... to **Dr. Cynthia Tracy**, Cardiology, on her participation on the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients with Atrial Fibrillation.

More Congratulations... to course directors, **Drs. Gurusher Panjrath and Marco Mercader**, Cardiology, for hosting their *First Annual Heart Failure and Arrhythmia Symposium* which took place on May 17th at the Fairmont Hotel. The goal of the symposium is to provide providers with the most clinically relevant information regarding heart failure, arrhythmias, and structural, ischemic and vascular issues.

Kudos... to **Dr. Letitia Carlson**, General Internal Medicine, for receiving a generous donation on her behalf to the *Thriving after Cancer Clinic*. Her patient wrote, "I consider myself very lucky, and I am sure other patients too, that Dr. Carlson is my primary care physician at GW Medical Faculty Associates."

More Kudos... to **Dr. Patrick Davidson**, PGY1, for receiving praise from a patient, "Dr. Davidson was a comfort to me every morning to discuss any concerns."

More more Kudos... to **Drs. Mohammad Houry**, PGY2, **Sanjay Shah**, just finished PGY3, and **Austin Smith**, PGY2, for being selected by GW medical students for induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Way to go!

Also Kudos... To **Reetika Morgan**, Orange team admin, for receiving praise from a patient, "Ms. Morgan was very professional and helpful with assisting her... she went the extra mile for her and was quite pleased with her efforts."

Even More Kudos... to **Dr. Jeanny Aragon-Ching and nurses**, Hematology & Oncology, for receiving immense praise in a speech from a patient at the Relay for Life event, "Dr. Aragon-Ching... proved to be a tiger in fighting my cancer...her smiling face and warm manner were most welcome."

See you next month! The Editor



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