Medical School Leadership

On January 4, 2013 the Expedited Search Committee for the VP and Dean of the Medical School will meet and will make a permanent recommendation to President Knapp and Provost Lerman. Obviously, Dr. Jeffrey Akman, Interim Vice President and Dean, is the leading candidate for this position. Jeff’s achievements have been nothing short of remarkable these last two years while serving in an Interim position.

He has overseen the separation of the Schools of Nursing and Public Health from the Medical School, each with their independent Deans. He has presided over the development of new bylaws for the Medical School and the establishment of an executive committee. He completed the recruitments for the chairman of surgery and neurology and has initiated a search for Ob/Gyn.

As importantly, he has brought transparency to the Medical School in every way. Endowments which have been hidden for years have now been appropriately allocated according to the donors’ wishes and he has spent a significant amount of time on fund raising activities. As, or more importantly, he has restored the morale of the school and re-invigorated the students and faculty. Let’s hope that the Search Committee has the wisdom to recognize his accomplishments and continue the upward trajectory that he has inspired.

From the Chairman

"Have you ever been declared incompetent or involuntarily committed to a mental institution?"

This is the question that appears on the Federal gun-purchase application. That’s it. Yet conservative whacko’s such as the leadership of the NRA would like to turn this current debate away from the societal need for automatic Uzi’s to issues of mental health. If you answer no to the question above the gun is yours.

Some states do require an additional question which usually is, “Have you ever been acquitted of a violent crime by reason of insanity?” There is either a time limit on this, in the last five years for example, or it can be overridden with a doctor’s note (just like if you miss a day of work or school). It is estimated that there have been 3 million Americans who have been involuntarily committed but less than 100,000 listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Why you ask? HIPAA I say. You can’t release those records to non-health workers.

Not that this would do any good if it could be released since obviously the law on commitment is based on no data. Legislation on health without data, not surprising since it’s no different than saying that making birth control pills available over the counter will lead to increased promiscuity. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) states “checking for involuntary commitments … doesn't make sense because past mental illness does not predict future violence.” They go on to confirm that “psychiatrists have no special knowledge or ability with which to predict dangerous behavior” by patients. Either they are amazingly honest or trying their best to prevent litigation against psychiatrists.

Why not just prohibit anyone with a mental illness from purchasing a gun? That would only exclude about 20% (sounds low to me) of the population according to the Surgeon General of the United States. One state does get very specific in regard to psychiatric disorders: diagnosis at any time by a licensed physician that the person suffers or has suffered from a psychiatric disorder or condition consisting of or relating to: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, chronic dementia, dissociative identity disorder, intermittent explosive disorder or antisocial personality disorder. That’s right; Texas has one of the strictest gun control provisions for mental health in the country. But since they have no minimal legal age for acquiring a gun they are considered one of four states weakest on gun control (Alaska, Louisiana and Maine are the others.)

Of course another problem with excluding anyone with a defined mental illness is how many police would we have left? What if we used the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) as a reference? This is a manual published by the APA that includes all currently recognized mental health disorders. Where do I start; 305.1 Cigarette addiction, 292.89 caffeine related anxiety (or Starbucks’ disorder), 407.6 Bed Wetting, or the one that would exclude most of our children, 314.0 Attention Deficit Disorder. 

So I am not saying we ignore this issue but it should fall under the general category of people with violent psychiatric disorders need help. The rest of this discussion is a sham to distract attention from doing something that makes sense, bringing back the ban on assault weapons. Who needs automatic shotguns which Wikipedia states “have a high rate of fire and relatively low recoil, making them ideal for engaging multiple targets in fast paced combat situations”? Answer: the Marines!

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Cancelled for Winter Holiday</td>
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</table>
| Jan 10| "Value Based Purchasing"                        | Katherine Goodrich, MD  
Senior Technical Advisor, Office of Standards and Quality  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and  
Division of Hospital Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates |
| Jan 17| "Cardiometabolic Syndromes"                     | Nehal Mehta MD  
Chief, Section of Inflammation & Cardiometabolic Diseases, Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Diseases Branch  
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Branch  
National Heart Lung and Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland |
| Jan 24| "Massive Blood Transfusions"                    | Babak Saran, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Chief of Trauma and Acute Surgery  
Department of Surgery  
George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates |
| Jan 31| "What Does Disaster Response Teach Us About Health?" | Allen R. Dyer, MD, PhD  
Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health  
Department Psychiatry and Behavioral Health  
George Washington University 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 I of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

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**Cardiology Grand Rounds**

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

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<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>No Conference - New Year’s Holiday</td>
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| Jan 16| Nehal Mehta, MD                                 | Chief, Section of Inflammation & Cardiometabolic Diseases, Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Diseases Branch  
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Branch  
National Heart Lung and Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland |
| Jan 23| "Obesity and the Heart"                         | Tiffany M. Powell, MD, MPH  
Assistant Clinical Investigator  
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Branch  
National Heart Lung and Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland |
| Jan 30| Janine Austin Clayton, MD                       | Director, Office of Research on Women’s Health  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland |

**Resident Lecture Series**  
**January 2013 Noon Conference**

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<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Holiday Week - No Conference</td>
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<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Recruitment/Resident Luncheon</td>
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<td>Jan 7</td>
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<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Hospitalists Lecture Series - Dr. Juan Reyes</td>
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<td>GME Core Curriculum &amp; Recruitment/Resident Luncheon</td>
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<td>Jan 14</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Recruitment/Resident Luncheon</td>
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<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>MLK Holiday - No Conference</td>
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<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Chairman’s Rounds</td>
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<td>Jan 28</td>
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<td>Jan 31</td>
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**Medicine Team Contacts**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITE TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-5669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREEN TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUE TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILVER TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPLE TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLD TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-6044</td>
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The 2013 Medical Subspecialties Fellowship Match Day included 4,616 applicants for 3,467 positions in 1,158 programs. All subspecialties except infectious diseases and nephrology filled programs at 90% or higher. About 71% of all applicants matched into their subspecialties, with both international medical graduates and US graduates matching at a slightly higher rate than 2012. It is becoming increasingly difficult to match into many subspecialties and this will only continue to get worse as the significant number of new medical schools start to graduate students. There are no plans to increase the number of fellowship positions, if anything, we will be lucky if there are not cuts to funding mandated by Congress.

However, once again our residents had a very good match as is evident by the following:

**Cardiology**
Dr. Ju Kim – GWU  
Dr. Gurpreet Sodhi – GWU

**Endocrinology**
Dr. Nisha Nathan – Georgetown University  
Dr. Ishita Prakash – GWU

**Gastroenterology**
Dr. Amy Doran – UVA  
Dr. Pia Prakash – GWU  
Dr. Nitin Sardana – West Penn Alleghany Health Sys.

**General Internal Medicine**
Dr. Phoung Luu – Johns Hopkins University

**Hematology & Oncology**
Dr. Feras Abdul-Khalek – Georgetown University  
Dr. Ehab Elbahesh - GWU  
Dr. Fiorina Kyritsi – Washington Hospital Center

**Infectious Diseases**
Dr. Janie Caplan - UCLA  
Dr. Alicia Myers – GWU

**Pulmonary/Critical Care**
Dr. Cody Benthin – Oregon Health & Science University  
Dr. Anna McLean - GWU

**Nephrology**
Dr. Mohamad Alkadi – Cornell University  
Dr. Jun Shoji – GWU

The department staff and faculty enjoyed food and festivities on Friday December 14th in celebration of the holiday season. The cooking contest once again generated a lot of competition with about a dozen entrees from appetizers to deserts.

The following staff received prizes for the Cooking Contest:

1st Prize of $200: Darneisha Murphy (4th floor clinic) for her Lasagna

2nd Prize of $150: Ed Jennings (Pharmacy) for his Harvest Cake

3rd Prize of $100 (each, due to a tie): Nadine Yancey (GI Admin) for her Sweet Potato Cheese Cake and Willie Dunn (DGIM Admin) for his Egg Nog Ice Cream Pie

4th Prize of $75 (each, due to a tie): Recina Joyner (Reimbursement) for her Banana Pudding and Helen Babb (Renal Admin) for her Salmon Croquettes

The drawing for the Door Prizes created its own anticipation with the following lucky winners:

Shari Alford (Cardiology Admin) received a Nikon Coolpix Camera

Rich Balin (Pharmacy) received an Apple iPod Nano

Michael Custodio (Sleep Center) received a Sony Blu Ray Player

Lulit Gebrehiwot (Cancer Center) received an Insignia 32” TV

Susan Reyes (DGIM M Street) received a Sony Blu Ray Player

Teresa Stewart (Podiatry Admin) received a Kindle Fire HD

Cecilia Locke (Reimbursement) received the Grand Prize of an Apple iPad Mini

Unlike in years past, the Grand Prize was chosen first so that everyone had a chance at winning it this year, though it was announced last to keep everyone guessing.

Congratulations everyone and happy new year!!

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

Jan 22  
Dr. Chad Henson  
Dr. Jenny Hamilton
Rheumatology
Academic Conference Schedule
January 2013
Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 am ACC 1-401, 1:30 - 3:30 pm Hospital Rm 6-106
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

Jan 3  Cancelled - Winter Holiday

Jan 10  Journal Club
       Dr. Tina Shah

       Didactic Sessions
       1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106

Jan 17  Intra-City Grand Rounds
       Location: NIH
       Time: 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

       Didactic Sessions
       1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106

Jan 24  Radiology Conference
       Dr. Kathleen Brindle
       Associate Professor of Radiology

       Didactic Sessions
       1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106

Jan 31  Immunology
       Rodolfo Curiel, MD
       Associate Professor of Medicine

       Didactic Sessions
       1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106

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Kudos and Congratulations

Kudos ... to Dr. Mudit Tyagi, PhD, Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, who was recently awarded a R21 grant from NIH, the title of which is, "Cocaine Enhances HIV Replication by Inducing Transcriptionally Active Chromatin."

More kudos ... to Dr. Courtney Paul, PGY1, who received praise from an inpatient who was "appreciative about the kind and generous care you showed." She was impressed by "how cerebral you are, but also how gentle your bedside manner is", and she especially noted how you explained her treatment plan so carefully. Way to go!

Even more kudos ... to Dr. Jeffrey Zweig, PGY3, on whom we received a letter from a Professor of Medicine at a distant institution, but who Dr. Zweig had interacted with several times over the phone during the professor’s daughter’s hospitalization at GWU. He wanted to express his "deep appreciation for the superb care" that Dr. Zweig provided, he was "deeply reassured by his insights, diligence and overall outstanding and expert medical management."

Congratulations ... to Dr. David Popiel, Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine, and his wife Ana, on the birth of their son Joaquin (nickname Quino), born on December 11th ... born to another former chief resident, Dr. Guillermo Ballarino and his wife on November 18th, was their son, Alejandro.

Congratulations also ... to Dr. Manny Reyes, PGY2, who was married in November, as was Dr. Helen Jan, PGY3. Dr. Swathi Namburi, PGY3, became engaged in November.

See you next month! The Editor