In 1986, the last time we had a major tax cut, Ronald Regan and Tip O’Neil made sure the bill was budget neutral. This year there was no such commitment. After continuing to allow major tax benefits for hedge fund managers (among many other perks for the rich), the bill runs up a projected deficit of over a trillion dollars. Therefore, according to many, the only way to resolve this deficit is to cut spending on entitlements that effect the elderly and poor. Finding a way to cut spending on entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security has been the focus of the House leadership for many years. George W. Bush, whose standing as a President has risen significantly in comparison to the present, tried to privatize Social Security to save money and failed. In interviews, he states that not being able to reform Social Security was his greatest failure. (I guess the Iraq War and the Great Recession have been wiped from his memory bank.)

But I digress, in 2012, Paul Ryan said that the only thing he needs to finalize his “Voucher” Plan for Medicare is a Republican President. He should have added that running a larger deficit would also give him a fake rationale. ‘We have too much debt and therefore we are now forced to make changes in these programs.’

Medicare was created in 1965 because so many seniors could not afford to buy insurance in the private market. Insurance companies would not cover older Americans because they were too expensive to insure. When President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare into law, only one in eight seniors had health insurance, while many were placed into poverty to cover their medical costs.

Under Ryan’s plan, the elderly would be given vouchers, worth some amount of money to pay for health insurance. Of course, it wouldn’t pay for all of any insurance but the most basic that has major restrictions and high deductibles. An analysis by the Congressional Budget Office estimated that under Ryan’s voucher system, typical 65-year-olds would pay 68 percent of the cost of their Medicare coverage out of pocket, compared with the 25 percent they pay now. This is if they could find a company that will insure them. And if they have the mental dexterity to be able to find and decide which plan would be best for them.

The other area to cut funding to lower the new deficit would be by turning Medicaid into a block-grant program. Under this system, states would receive a federal Medicaid contribution pegged to inflation and population growth, and could determine how the program is run. This would save the federal government $756 billion over 10 years, Ryan's figures showed. However, his plan could result in millions of people losing Medicaid eligibility and be dependent on the states to decide what adequate coverage means. You don’t save money unless you cut enrollment and benefits.

The third rail of a nation’s politics is a metaphor for any issue so controversial that it is "untouchable" to the extent that any politician who dares to broach the subject will invariably suffer politically. For years, Social Security and Medicare had been the third rail but now it seems that tax breaks for hedge fund managers is the new third rail. You don’t think vouchering Medicare can’t happen? If you can sell the new tax plan as greatly benefitting the middle class you can sell anything.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.
Department of Medicine
January 2018 Grand Rounds

JAN 4  “Cutaneous Lymphoma”
Frank Glass, MD
Professor of Dermatology & Pathology
GW MFA

JAN 11  “Bicarbonate Therapy What is it Good for?”
Ashte Collins, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
GW MFA

JAN 18  “Parkinson’s Disease: Some Practical Nuts and Bolts”
Aviva Ellenstein, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
GW MFA

JAN 25  “Emerging Therapies in Migraine”
Amanda Michael, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
GW MFA

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. (AMA).

Cardiology Grand Rounds
5:00 PM, Ross Hall, Room # 227

JAN 3  M&M
Raza Yunus, MD

JAN 10  Chagas Cardiomyopathy
Rachel Marcus, MD

JAN 17  Diagnosis and Management of PE’s
Shawn Sarin, MD

JAN 24  Atrial Fibrillation and Dementia
Allen Solomon, MD

Resident Lecture Series
January 2018 Noon Conference

JAN 2  Holiday
JAN 3  Holiday
JAN 4  Medicine Grand Rounds
JAN 5  Recruitment Lunch
JAN 8  Recruitment Lunch
JAN 9  Patient Safety Conference-Drs. Viktoria Elkis and Brandon Anderson
JAN 10  Recruitment Lunch
JAN 11  Medicine Grand Rounds
JAN 12  Recruitment Lunch (Snow Day)
JAN 15  HOLIDAY
JAN 16  Clinical Pathology Conference-Drs. Linwood Millett and Kathryn Humes
JAN 17  Dr. Leon Guerrero-Ischemic Stroke
JAN 18  Medicine Grand Rounds
JAN 19  Chairman’s Rounds-Drs. Lauren Choi and Qusai Al Saleh
JAN 22  TBD
JAN 23  Dr. Mia Barnes-Antibiotic Stewardship
JAN 24  Dr. Julie Fox-Emotional Intelligence in Practice of Medicine
JAN 25  Medicine Grand Rounds
JAN 26  Chairman’s Rounds-Drs. John Tiu and Nardos Temesgen
JAN 29  TBD
JAN 30  Autopsy-Dr. Patricia Latham
JAN 31  No conference (Residency Rank List)

Medicine Team Contacts

Need to find a Resident on an inpatient team?

Please use Tiger text to reach the appropriate physician. Go to gwu.medhub.com/paging; password: GWUPublicCall; Select Internal Medicine.

Alternatively

WebExchange is still the best way to find the on-call physician.

If you have trouble with your MedHub account, please contact Mary Mitchum at mdmitchum@mfa.gwu.edu.)
*Fellowship Match Results*

We are proud to announce that we had a great match this year! Congratulations to all of our PGY3s, and thank you to the faculty and staff who supported and guided them along the way to this success!

Our residents matched with the following fellowship programs:

**Cardiology**

Hani Alhamoud - West Virginia University  
Ivan Pena - Hofstra Northwell  
Nardos Temesgen - George Washington University  
John Glenn Tiu - University of Connecticut

**Gastroenterology**

Gregory Piech - Temple University  
Stephen Testa - George Washington University  
Matthew Tick - George Washington University

**Hematology & Medical Oncology**

Kanika Gupta - Cleveland Clinic  
Kristen Millado - Rush University  
Hind Rafei - MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Geriatrics**

Qusai Al Saleh - George Washington University

**Hospice and Palliative**

Alia Khoja - George Washington University  
Celia Mouyal - George Washington University

**Infectious Diseases**

Vincent DeChavez - Mount Sinai Hospital  
Sarah Tran - Augusta University

**Medical Education**

Caitlin Mingey - George Washington University

**Pulmonary and Critical Care**

Joseph Delio - George Washington University  
Lisa Glass - George Washington University  
Yev Vayntrub - Brown University

**Rheumatology**

Viktoria Elkis - Penn State University

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**Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newest Addition to the Medicine Faculty**

*Renu Regunathan-Shenk, MD* joins us as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension. Dr. Regunathan-Shenk received her Medical Degree from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency and General Nephrology Fellowship at New York Presbyterian - Columbia University Medical Center. Following her Fellowship, she completed an additional year of subspecialty training in Glomerular Diseases at Columbia University Medical Center under the guidance of Dr. Gerald B. Appel. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology and is a member of the American Society of Nephrology. Her research interests include Onco-Nephrology, Nephrotic Syndrome, Lupus Nephritis, Glomerulonephritis, and Hypertension.

*Gelareh Atefi, MD* joins the Department of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology as a Clinical Instructor of Medicine. She obtained her Medical Degree in Iran at Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences. She moved to the United States to pursue her lifelong interest in Immunology. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in Dr. Peter Ward’s laboratory at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She went on to join the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Michigan State University Hurley Medical Center in Michigan. She continued her research in Immunology as a Research Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. George Tsokos at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, (BIDMC)/Harvard Medical School in Boston. Her field of interest is Lupus and Cardiac Disease in SLE patients. She then continued her training as a Rheumatology Fellow at BIDMC/Harvard Medical School in Boston. After completing her Fellowship in 2017, Dr. Atefi moved to the DC Metropolitan area to join her husband, to be closer to family and make her home. She looks forward to providing the best health care for her patients, building meaningful relationships with them and helping them to live the best possible life.

*Waseem Aziz, MD* joins us as Assistant Professor of Medicine, in the Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases. Dr. Aziz earned his Medical Degree from King Edward Medical University, Lahore Pakistan. After a one year of Internship at The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, he went on to complete Residency at the University of Connecticut Health Center where he also served as Chief Resident. After the completion of his Residency, Dr. Aziz was accepted as a Gastroenterology Fellow at the University of Vermont and subsequently accepted a 2nd Fellowship in Hepatology and Advanced Endoscopy at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center affiliated with Harvard Medical School. He is board certified in Gastroenterology; and is licensed in the State of Virginia and the District of Columbia. Dr. Aziz has been in Private practice for more than 20 years, the last 12 yrs, in Northern Virginia. He comes to us with a vast experience of clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology as well as Interventional Endoscopy. He is a member of the American Gastroenterological Association and American Association of the Study of liver diseases. He is also the Past President of Association of Gastroenterologists of Pakistani Descent in North America. During his free time he plays golf and travels the world with his family to give the opportunity to his kids to learn about different cultures.
### Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule

**January 2018**

2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 3-332  
8AM—11:30 AM  
Questions: Call (202) 741-2488

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 4</td>
<td>8:00-9:00AM</td>
<td>Radiology Conference</td>
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<td>Dr. K. Brindle</td>
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<td>January 4</td>
<td>9 AM -9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fellows sign-out and patient safety monitoring and education</td>
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<td>January 4</td>
<td>11 AM -noon</td>
<td>Knowledge Bowl and rheumatology boards training /preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>8:00-9:00AM</td>
<td>Journal Club. Dr. Phillipotts and Dr. McBride</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>9 AM-9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fellows sign-out and patient safety monitoring and education</td>
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<td>January 11</td>
<td>9:30 AM-11:30AM</td>
<td>Knowledge Bowl and rheumatology boards training /preparation</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>5 PM-7 PM</td>
<td>Dermatology-rheumatology combined Conference</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>7:30-9 AM</td>
<td>Intra-city Grand Rounds</td>
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<td>Location: WHC</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>10-11 AM</td>
<td>Fellows sign-out and patient safety monitoring and education</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>8:00-9:00AM</td>
<td>Autoimmune liver diseases</td>
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<td>Patricia Latham, MD</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>9 AM-9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fellows sign-out and patient safety monitoring and education</td>
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### Kudos and Congratulations

**Kudos**...to Dr. Paul Silver, General Internal Medicine, who was voted a Top Doctor in the 2017 Washingtonian Magazine. **... apologies for omitting you in the December edition.**

**Kudos**... to the Endocrine Faculty (Nisha and Michael) who participated in the recent health fair with the Endocrine Society and used their Spanish!

**Kudos**...to Dr. Solomon who received a shout-out from a patient. The patient’s own doctor searched the best doctors in the area to remove his device and recommended Dr. Solomon. The patient came to GW!

**Kudos**...We received some very kind words from a recent hospitalized patient. He had the pleasure of interacting with both Dr. Teufel and Dr. Holmes. He said that they were both fantastic and he was very grateful to have met them. He was given a choice to go to Washington Hospital Center or GWUH and he chose GW. They made sure that he did not regret that decision.

*See you next month!* The Editor