



GW Medicine Notes

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End-of-the-Year Party

Back at the Four Seasons Washington DC Hotel again for the annual celebration this year, the End-of-the-Year Party was a huge success.

To continue the tradition we also had the end of the year photo taken at the party which resulted in the largest group turn out yet (see page 4).

The following awards were given out at the party:

Medicine Faculty of the Year

Jalil Ahari, MD

&

Reena Hemrajani, MD

Non-Internal Medicine Faculty

Member of the Year

Zung Le, DPM

Clinic Attending of the Year

David Popiel, MD

VA Attending of the Year

Matthew Tuck, MD

Fairfax Attending of the Year

Homan Wai, MD

Fellow of the Year

Manny Rodriguez, MD

&

Robert Maximos, MD

Jorge Rios Resident of the Year

Doug Clarke, MD

VA Resident of the Year

Kate Rackson, MD

Fairfax Resident of the Year

Sarah Kattakuzhy Thomas, MD

"ICU" Resident of the Year

Doug Clarke, MD

Intern of the Year

Chad Henson, MD

Preliminary Intern of the Year

Caroline Yeager, MD

Congratulations to All !!

From the Chairman

If no two patients are alike how do you "standardize patients?" Medical students and house staff today are well trained in interviewing and examining "standardized patients." They are very well equipped to perform procedures on a multitude of simulators and non-human models.

Will this type of training allow them to become competent physicians? It is hard to dispute that our former way of teaching students and house staff was overwhelmingly successful. The reason why most people consider our health care system the best in the world is certainly not the insurance companies or the hospitals but the quality of our physicians. Yet we have moved away from a universally successful model to one of hope and promise. We have moved away from real-world experiences and have significantly dehumanized our teaching. Are patients safer; in the short term, in the long term?

Combine this move towards simulation and standardization with the ever decreasing time spent in training and it is hard not to make the case that we are heading for mediocrity or at the very best acceptability rather than excellence. How can this not be? There is less time to teach and train, fewer numbers of patients that are seen and much less responsibility assigned. It was said that the only thing wrong with being on call every other night was that you missed half of the patients. Now there is no "on-call." There is night float and day float and more handoffs than a double reverse in football and have any of these improved patient safety?

What happens to the physician of the future when the patient he/she is seeing doesn't fit into one of the patterns they were taught? How do we prepare them for things that fall outside of their comfort zone when that zone will be so tight? What will the surgeon of tomorrow do when the robot fails when he/she has never had to do an open procedure without the help of some type of robotic?

Most of us learned and learned well by seeing patient after patient, working long hours and performing procedures (usually under supervision). The rigors of training allowed one to develop confidence as well as expertise. Does this mean that training should not be revised? Of course not, but show me the data that confirms our current training methods are effective.

Given our litigious environment we will never turn back the clock on training methods, if anything; things will continue to go in the opposite direction. But we are training physicians not apprentices in a trade. The training should be rigorous. If a plumber makes a mistake the consequence will be annoying but not life threatening. Something may flood or leak but given what a physician does the patient may not get off so easily. Doesn't the training have to be commensurate with the responsibilities? Isn't that why the Navy SEALs train longer and harder than the merchant marines?

I am concerned that the march to impose an easier life style on the physician trainee and the assumption that patients will be safer may be at the expense of dumbing down the health care system. And we are doing this with no data. Just to be safe, when you see your doctor in the future make sure you read from a script and have only one disease at a time.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

Department of Medicine July 2012 Grand Rounds

Jul 5 "Emergency Department Crowding: Causes, Consequences, Solutions"

Jesse Pines, MD

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Jul 12 "Massive Blood Transfusions"

Babak Sarani, MD

Chief of Trauma and Acute Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Jul 19 "Transplant Nephrology"

Anil Chandraker, MD

Medical Director, Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Department of Medicine
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Jul 26 "Survivors of Acute Kidney Injury and the Risk of Chronic Kidney Disease: Outpatient Management Conundrum"

Lakhmir Chawla, MD

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine & of Medicine
Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine
The George Washington 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.

Medicine Team Contacts

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**CARDIOLOGY
GRAND ROUNDS
WILL RETURN
IN SEPTEMBER**

As presented at the end-of-the-year party, below is a list of the Chief Medical Residents, during Dr. Wasserman's tenure as Chairman, who have stayed on or returned to the Department as Faculty Members:

Matt Mintz, MD	Matthew Tuck, MD
Kate Goodrich, MD	Juan Reyes, MD
Samir Patel, MD	Anne Lesburg, MD
Amy Stone, MD	Katrina Hawkins, MD
Jen Kerns, MD	Ashte' Collins, MD
Sam McIntosh, MD	David Popiel, MD
Matt Chandler, MD	Sara Wikstrom, MD
Danielle Davidson, MD	Anne Cioletti, MD
Zohray Talib, MD	Nitin Sardana, MD

(Danielle Doberman, MD - returns in September)

Resident Lecture Series July 2012 Noon Conference

Jul 2	"Pulmonary Embolism" - Dr. Jalil Ahari
Jul 3	"Approach to Kidney Disease" - Dr. Samir Patel
Jul 4	Independence Day Holiday - No Conference
Jul 5	Medicine Grand Rounds
Jul 6	"Approach to Rheum Diseases" - Dr. James Katz
Jul 9	Department of Health Policy Noon Conference Women's Health Initiative
Jul 10	"Sepsis" - Dr. Reena Hemrajani
Jul 11	"HIV Basics" - Dr. Marc Siegel
Jul 12	Medicine Grand Rounds
Jul 13	"COPD" - Dr. Morgan Delaney
Jul 16	"Pathology Review" - Dr. Keiser
Jul 17	"Gout" - Dr. Nora Taylor
Jul 18	"Atrial Fibrillation" - Dr. Marco Mercader
Jul 19	Medicine Grand Rounds
Jul 20	"Approach to Neutropenic Fever" - Dr. Afsoon Roberts
Jul 23	Primary Care Lecture
Jul 24	"AML" - Dr. Khaled el-Shami
Jul 25	"Inpatient Glucose Management" - Dr. Joshua Cohen
Jul 26	Medicine Grand Rounds
Jul 29	"Acute Agitation in the Hospital" - Dr. Lorenzo Norris
Jul 30	Primary Care Lecture
Jul 31	Morbidity & Mortality

Please Join Us In Welcoming Our New Chief Residents

The new Chief Medical Residents have started and after three years as GWU residents you should know them by now, but here is a little background to get to know them a little better.

Dr. Alexander Cho is one of the Chief Residents at the VA. He has had the complete GW education, first as an undergraduate in the biological sciences, then receiving his medical degree from the School of Medicine before graduating from the Internal Medicine Residency Program in June. Alex grew up in Mesa, Arizona as the only Asian-American kid in his elementary school. He turned taunts into mutual laughter and has had a smile on his face ever since. He enjoys not only the learning and teaching that comes with the practice of medicine but the interaction with patients and their families and the ability to bring joy to any situation. Oh, and he's Noah's dad.

Dr. Amy Doran grew up in New Hampshire and is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross with a BA in history. She worked as a medical biller and then as a pharmacy technician before entering medical school at the University of Buffalo at the State University of New York. She started her Internal Medicine Residency at GWU in June 2009 and is interested in a career in Internal Medicine. She is known for her animated and happy personality and for her communication skills with patients and colleagues. Amy is one of the GWU Hospital-based Chief Residents.

Dr. Ju Kim was born in South Korea and grew up in Pennsylvania. He received his undergraduate degree from Williams College in Biology. During breaks from college Ju worked as an EMT for an Advanced Life Support squad. He received his medical degree from the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of the Pennsylvania State University. He began his internship here at GWU in June 2009. Ju is known for his independent clinical decision-making, his sense of humor and his ability and willingness to teach students and other residents. He is one of the GWU Hospital-based Chief Residents.

Dr. Sarah Kattakuzhy Thomas is the GWU Outpatient Chief Resident. She has just completed the Primary Care Track of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. Born in Baltimore, MD, she received a BS in Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and her medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. Between college and medical school Sarah worked for AmeriCorps in the Community Health Initiative of South Dade which provided care to the underserved. She is trained in classical Indian and other forms of dance and is a new mom. Sarah is known for her compassionate and professional care and she intends to continue a career in Primary Care after her chief year.

Dr. Jessica Logan is also a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts with a BA in Biology and a minor in Art. She then attended Drexel University College of Medicine for her medical training, prior to coming to GWU for residency. She is known for her volunteerism, her kindness and energy, and her commitment to medical education. She is always on the lookout for creative outlets. She is a VA-based Chief Resident.

Dr. Gurpreet Sodhi is another fully GW educated Chief having received his BS from GWU in Biological Sciences and Religious Studies, his medical degree from the GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences and he just completed the Internal Medicine Residency Program. As an undergraduate, Gurpreet was a Lead EMT in the Emergency Medical Response Group for the GWU community. As a resident he was involved in a number of research projects, some of which have been presented or published in national forums. Gurpreet is known for his exceptional procedural techniques, strong teaching skills and compassionate care. Gurpreet is the GWU Chief Resident at Inova Fairfax Hospital and intends to start a cardiology fellowship next year.

Kudos and Congratulations

Kudos ... to departing Senior residents, **Dr. Nishaki Mehta Oza** and **Dr. Veeral Oza**, for being named New England Journal of Medicine Scholars, based on their submission of an award winning essay or video response answering the question: "In the last twenty years, the internet and social networking have brought profound changes in how information is communicated. How can we harness this technology to improve health?" As NEJM Scholars they were invited to attend the NEJM 200th Anniversary Symposium in Boston, MA on June 22, 2012.

Congratulations ... to **Dr. Angela Yu**, graduating Senior resident, and her husband on the birth of twin sons Caleb and Keller, born June 19th. Dr. Yu will begin a Hematology & Oncology fellowship here at GWU as soon as she returns from maternity leave.

... and to **Carrie Tilley, NP**, of the Division of Hematology & Oncology, and her husband on the birth of their first child, Eli Rufus Tilley, born on June 17th.

Our Condolences

... to the family and friends of **Dr. Alfred Baer**, former faculty member, who passed away in June, while in hospice care.

... also, losing a six month battle to pulmonary fibrosis, was **Mr. Bob Reif**, of Epstein, Becker and Green, outside legal counsel for the MFA, who passed away in June at the age of 59. Mr. Reif was a topnotch practitioner with a deeply-held set of professional values, who possessed a tremendous skill to be extraordinarily and immediately helpful when called upon. He was a colleague and a friend and he will be missed.



**2011 - 2012 Department of Medicine
End-of-the-Year Party
June 15, 2012**

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