



GW Medicine Notes

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End of the Year Party

Back at the Ritz Carlton Hotel again after a long hiatus 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 (again)

&

Nitin Sardana, MD

Non-Medicine Faculty

Member of the Year

Danielle Davison, MD

Clinic Attending of the Year

Jillian Catalanotti, MD

VA Attending of the Year

Matthew Tuck, MD (again)

Fairfax Attending of the Year

Diane Yang, MD

Fellow of the Year

Ehsan Nobakht Haghighi, MD

Jorge Rios Resident of the Year

Jun Shoji, MD

VA Resident of the Year

Mohamad Alkadi, MD

Fairfax Resident of the Year

Nancy Maaty, MD

"ICU" Resident of the Year

Shant Ayanian, MD

Intern of the Year

Suliman Alamro, MD

Preliminary Intern of the Year

Amit Joseph, MD

Congratulations to All !!

From the Chairman

A funny thing has happened on the way to becoming an Internist; fewer people are qualifying. Last month we discussed how students are not knocking down doors to get into Internal Medicine programs and that the best and brightest seem to be going elsewhere. This month I have further good news for those that have decided on the chosen profession.

In the three year period from 2005 through 2007 our Internal Medicine Residency program had an average or absolute Internal Medicine Board pass rate of 99%. In fact, every program in Washington, DC had a three year pass rate in the 90% range. Must be bright house staff, great training or an easy test. Anyone that has taken this test knows that the last statement is not true. It is a terrible test. Whatever the reason things were looking very good for our DC programs. But before you start singing the Redskins fight song, the National pass rate was also in the 90% range (91% to be exact).

Fast forward to the last three years (2010,2011,2012) and our pass rate has dropped to an average of 87% and yet we have the second highest rate in the District behind Howard. There is the only program in the District above 90% over the last three years. Might you think this is a DC phenomenon please note that the National pass rate over this same time averaged 85%. Now, I could do some analysis to see if this change is statistically significant but I won't because it is. Any way you look at it the trend is bad.

However, if you do a pseudo-multi-variable regression analysis and make some modest assumptions such as; house staff can't be that much dumber, the test can't be that much harder, then what we are left with is training. Let's see, can anyone think of anything that may have happened to training over this 7 year time period? Right! There is a lot less of it.

Duty hours have been severely curtailed; the number of patients allowed to be followed has been reduced; night call has been all but been done away with and of course there is less time for any didactic sessions. But this couldn't have anything to do with this since there is no way that the regulatory bodies would allow these changes to effect education to this degree. Remember all those pilot studies that were done to show that these drastic cutbacks wouldn't affect the learning experience? (There weren't any.) This makes as much sense as my statistical analysis.

Who would have thought seeing fewer patients and doing fewer procedures would result in less learning? Obviously not the people in charge. But we have all been to noon conferences and morning report and house staff do an excellent job of answering questions. In fact some of the answers appear to be so *up-to-date* that it is amazing. If only residents could take their iPhones into the Board exam scores would go up. Do not fret; I predict Board scores will begin to trend upward very soon. If you were the regulators you would have two choices; 1), admit you overdid work hour restrictions and back off or 2), make the Board exam easier (but don't admit it). We will be in the 90% range again in no time without any additional work hours. Just a prediction, not a sermon.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

Department of Medicine July 2013 Grand Rounds

Jul 4 **Grand Rounds Canceled**
Independence Day Holiday

Jun 11 **"Heart Failure Topic"**
Gurusher Panjrath, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director,
Heart Failure and Mechanical Assist Program
Department of Medicine
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Jun 18 **"Peace Through Health: Partnerships in Palestine"**

Michael D. Morse, MD
Resident, Department of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences
The George Washington University
School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Jun 25 **"Transfusion Reactions"**

Charles Bolan, MD
Hematology Fellowship Program Director
National Heart Lung Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

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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ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager



**CARDIOLOGY
GRAND ROUNDS
WILL RETURN
IN SEPTEMBER**



Resident Lecture Series July 2013 Noon Conference

- Jul 1 **Conference Canceled - Auditorium Unavailable**
- Jul 2 **"Diabetes Talk" - Dr. Michael Irwig**
- Jul 3 **"Transitions of Care" - Dr. Suzanne Sweidan**
- Jul 4 **Conference Canceled - Independence Day**
- Jul 5 **"Introduction to Kidney Diseases" -
Dr. Samir Patel**
- Jul 8 **Chiefs - Hospital Jeopardy**
- Jul 9 **"Morphology in Hematology" -
Dr. Khaled el-Shami**
- Jul 10 **"DVT ppx" - Dr. Jason Prior**
- Jul 11 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- Jul 12 **"Introduction to Arthritis" - Dr. Rodolfo Curiel**
- Jul 15 **"Cancer Screening in Women" -
Dr. P. Sheena Khurana**
- Jul 16 **"Functional Assessment" - Dr. Tahira Lodhi**
- Jul 17 **EM/IM Conference**
- Jul 18 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- Jul 19 **Cardiology Lecture**
- Jul 22 **"HIV Basics" - Dr. Marc Siegel**
- Jul 23 **"Introduction to Microbiology" - Dr. John Keiser**
- Jul 24 **"Adrenal Insufficiency" - Dr. Joshua Cohen**
- Jul 25 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- Jul 26 **TBD**
- Jul 29 **"Toxicology Introduction" - Dr. Danielle Davison**
- Jul 30 **"Neutropenic Fever" - Dr. Afsoon Roberts**
- Jul 31 **"Sepsis" - Dr. Katrina Hawkins**

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.

Shant Ayanian, MD is one of the Chief Residents at the GWU Hospital. Shant was born in Lebanon and educated at the American University of Beirut, where he received his undergraduate degree in Biology and his medical degree. He did one year of residency in surgical pathology in Beirut before coming to GW to start his Internal Medicine residency. Shant received the "ICU Resident of the Year" Award for 2012-2013. He speaks Arabic and French and is known for his ability to create positive teamwork, his enthusiasm, teaching abilities and fund of knowledge.

Ribka "Mimi" Ayana, MD is one of the Chiefs at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Mimi received her undergraduate degree from Villanova University and medical degree from Pennsylvania State College of Medicine. As an undergraduate she was one of only four students nationally selected by the University of Washington to participate in the Minority International Research Training program, which included training in epidemiology research and attending the XIV International AIDS conference in Bangkok, Thailand. She also spent a year at the NIH before medical school at the HIV Vaccine Research Center. Mimi speaks Oromo, the most widely spoken Ethiopian language. Don't let her quite manner fool you, Mimi is sharp as a tack.

Sylvia Gonsahn-Bollie, MD is a GWU Medical School graduate and will be the GWU Outpatient Chief Resident. She was born in Atlanta, GA, where her contributions to the community started early. Her church established the "Sylvia Gonsahn Youth of the Year" award in 2004 to honor her 14 years of dedication to it's youth department. In 2010, as a GWU medical student, Sylvia was admitted to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and in 2011 she was awarded with the Department of Medicine "Intern of the Year" Award. In 2012 She received the NIH-NMA Fellow Travel Award and in 2013 she presented her research on "BMI Handout: A Helpful First Step?" at the GWU SHMS Research Day. Sylvia was a 2013 editor and contributor to the *Cuentos* magazine and Wlahzee, age 6 months, calls her Mom. She is a strong leader and educator, who gives excellent guidance to her team. She provides thorough, efficient and compassionate care to her patients.

Faysal Haroun, MD is also from Lebanon and coincidentally was known Dr. Ayanian since they were young. He is a Chief Medical Resident at the VA. After receiving his medical degree from the American University of Beirut, where he was elected to AOA, he did a year long research fellowship before coming to GWU for his residency in Internal Medicine. Faysal received first place for his abstract at the annual meeting of the DC Chapter of the ACP in 2012. Faysal is married to Internal Medicine resident **Dr. Nehmat Ramadan, PGY3**. He speaks Arabic and French and is known for his work ethic, his fund of knowledge, his interpersonal skills with colleagues and with patients and his professionalism.

Andrew Roberts, MD was born on Seoul, South Korea and grew up in Indiana. He is a graduate of Notre Dame and Indiana University School of Medicine. He received his first two years of internal medicine residency training at Indiana University and was slated to be a Chief Resident there before transferring to GWU for his senior year of training. While in medical school he had a poster presentation at the American Society of Dermatopathology Annual Meeting. He maintains an interest in Dermatology. Andrew is known to go the extra mile for his patients, he is thorough, efficient and professional.

Nancy Maaty, MD is a fully GWU educated Chief having received her BA from GWU in Anthropology, her medical degree from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and she just completed the Internal Medicine Residency Program. Nancy has presented her research at the Annual GWU SMHS Research Day and at the national Annual ACP Conference. As a medical student she served a medical mission to Egypt and participated with the GWU HEAL-ing clinic. Nancy won the "Fairfax Resident of the Year" Award for 2012-2013. She was also a 2013 editor and contributor to the *Cuentos* magazine. Nancy is fluent in Arabic and says she is a novice Spanish and French speaker, She is also an accomplished violinist. Nancy is the Chief Resident at the Inova Fairfax Hospital where Nancy's easy going personality will fit in perfectly.

Dr. Robert Keimowitz, Professor Emeritus, Retires

After nearly 43 years on the faculty of the GWU SMHS, **Dr. Robert Keimowitz**, has decided to retire from clinical practice. He holds the rank of professor emeritus and served as dean from 1989 to 1998. Until recently he remained an active member of the GW community supervising medical students in the clinical setting as a preceptor, seeing patients at the GW Medical Faculty Associates one day a week, and spending another day at the Residences at Thomas Circle, an independent living facility in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Keimowitz was born and raised in upstate New York and received his bachelor's, master's, and medical degrees from the University of Vermont. He studied renal physiology at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) before joining the SMHS faculty.

He had a reputation for brashness and early success revamping the third-year medical clerkship earned Dr. Keimowitz a position on the admissions committee at SMHS. The following year he became assistant dean for admissions, by 1989 he advanced to dean for academic affairs and, later that year, dean of SMHS. Like many other medical school deans, he had high expectations for his students. But he also had a genuine respect and compassion, as well as a keen sense of humor.

According to a recent article in the SMHS' "*Medicine + Health*", Dr. Keimowitz considers his greatest accomplishments at SMHS to be his overhaul of the admissions process and the curriculum revamp in 1993 that included the development of the "The Practice of Medicine" Program, which integrated the building blocks of a traditional medical education with early exposure to patients.

Dr. Keimowitz has retired to spend more time with his family.



Congratulations to the following Full-Time Medicine Faculty on their academic promotions effective July 1, 2013:

Debra Benator, MD, Professor of Medicine (VA), Infectious Diseases
Brian Choi, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Cardiology
Michael Irwig, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Endocrinology
Lisa Martin, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Cardiology



**2012 - 2013 Department of Medicine
End-of-the-Year Party
June 14, 2013**

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