Once again, common sense has prevailed in the Supreme Court, and this time it wasn’t hanging by a thread. By an unusual 6-3 vote, the Court once again rejected destroying the Affordable Care Act. The decision rebuked those who contended that Congress willingly wrote a law that intended to leave millions of individuals without coverage and cause horrible confusion. The proponents of this case could not credibly claim that they sought to clarify constitutional law. Rather, they simply had found a poorly written part of the law to use as a political mechanism to try to gut Obamacare.

I believe those against the ACA are becoming ever more desperate and have backed themselves into a corner and there is no way for them to stop. Imagine after all this time, if the effort was made to improve the law and not in continually trying to repeal it? Where is the logical argument that providing health insurance is a bad thing? Where is the rationale that helping people to pay by subsidizing low income individuals is a bad thing? Why isn’t it an accepted fact that unless everyone is included there will not be enough healthy people in the mix and therefore premiums would be unaffordable?

You would think that this craziness would stop after two years of nothing but successful implementation (not counting the web site fiasco) with millions more Americans not having to fear being uninsured. But they can’t stop. They are throwing meat at their constituencies and could never admit that something that Obama accomplished; not only the first major advance in Health Care since Medicare, but that the law has actually worked. Speaker Boehner continues to pander to what one hopes is an increasingly smaller group of individuals by saying; “Republicans will continue to listen to American families and work to protect them from the consequences of Obamacare.”

Protect them from not being denied insurance for pre-existing conditions? Protect them from having their children stay on their policies until age 26? Protect them from being charged unreasonable premiums because they are in a high risk group? Protect them from the whims of Insurance companies who don’t need to explain why they cancel coverage?

What we need protection from is a Congress that refuses to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower drug costs at the expense of the elderly to put more profit into the overflowing coffers of big pharm. We need protection from being the most expensive place on the planet for medications that are slowly bankrupting the health care system.

Having been at some (many) ball games lately and looking in the stadium at the increasing girth of patrons’ waists, it is a good thing health insurance will remain available. The concession menu at Nat’s stadium touts healthy options which consists of mostly a grilled chicken sandwich (5 gms of fat), cheese laden veggie burgers (4.5 gms of fat) or wraps with some unknown sauce (11 gms of fat). The wrap should be called the Whopper. And these are the healthy choices. But alas, there is now a savoir. As I settled into my seat at the last game, the person next to me took one look and said, “Is that sushi?”

Baseball and sushi . . . my Nirvana.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.
Department of Medicine
July 2015 Grand Rounds

JULY 2 “Oral Anticoagulants”
Kavita Natrajan, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Cancer & Blood Disorders
Department of Medicine
GW Medical Faculty Associates

JULY 9 “Updates on Acute Stroke Management”
Kathleen Burger, MD
Assistant Professor
Director, Cerebrovascular Neurology
Department of Neurology
GW Medical Faculty Associates

JULY 16 “Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis”
Patience White, MD
Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Division of Rheumatology
Department of Medicine
GW Medical Faculty Associates

JULY 23 “Integrative Medicine”
Tracy Gaudet, MD
Director, Office of Patient Centered Care (10NE)
Veterans Health Administration

JULY 30 “Peripheral Vascular Disease”
Richard Neville, MD
Professor of Surgery
Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery
Department of Surgery
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 I of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association (AMA).

ACP DC Chapter Meeting, Spring 2015:

Drs. Lei Lynn, PGY 1, Erica McBride, PGY 2, and Omar Siddique, PGY 2, took home 1st place prizes for podium presentations in the categories of research and in clinical vignettes.

Dr. Steven Quinn, PGY 3, won the award for best GW research poster

Drs. Betsy Kidder, PGY 1, Nika Sahaie, PGY 2, and co-author Niharika Tipirneni, PGY 3, tied to win the award for best GW clinical vignette poster.

Congratulations to all!

Resident Lecture Series
July 2015 Noon Conference

JULY 1 “DVT Tx/PPx” – Dr. Sara Wikstrom
JULY 2 Grand Rounds
JULY 3 HOLIDAY
JULY 6 Jeopardy
JULY 7 “Anemias”- Dr. Shant Ayanian
JULY 8 Stress Testing- Steve Robie, PA
JULY 9 Grand Rounds
JULY 10 “Transfusion Medicine”- Dr. Elsie Lee
JULY 13 “TBD”- Dr. Khaleed El-Shami
JULY 14 Radiology- Dr. Michael Burke
JULY 15 "Geriatrics “- Dr. Christina Prather
JULY 16 Grand Rounds
JULY 17 “Sepsis”- Dr. Katrina Hawkins
JULY 20 “Febrile Neutropenia”- Dr. Afsoon Roberts
JULY 21 Common Cardiac Conditions– Dr. Gurpreet Sodhi
JULY 22 “Women’s Health Topic”– Dr. Jill Catalanotti
JULY 23 Grand Rounds
JULY 24 “Sexually Transmitted Diseases”– Dr. David Popiel
JULY 27 TBD
JULY 28 “Sepsis”- Dr. Shant Ayanian
JULY 29 “Alcohol Withdrawal”- Dr. Karolyn Teufel
JULY 30 Grand Rounds
JULY 31 TBD

Medicine Team Contacts

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SILVER TEAM (202) 715-6040
PURPLE TEAM (202) 715-6042
GOLD TEAM (202) 715-6044

ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager
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.

Jessica Davis, MD received her medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville. Her interest in research began early; she completed an IRTA Research Fellowship at the NCI, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda in 2008, developing murine models of interventions for graft-versus-host disease. In 2012 Jessica started her residency in Internal Medicine, at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. During this time, Jessica has been industrious clinically in her responsibilities at the Hospital and with her teaching of medical students. In March 2015, Jessica was inducted into the Alpha Omega Honor Society and has been the recipient of many awards. She will serve as Chief Medical Resident at The George Washington University Hospital starting on July 1, 2015.

Courtney Paul, MD received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine. In 2012 Courtney started his Internal Medicine Residency at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Prior to joining us at GW, Courtney had some foundational experiences as an intern at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia and as a Research Assistant at the Drexel University College of Medicine, Spinal Cord Research Center where he spent five years. He will serve as Chief Medical Resident at The George Washington University Hospital starting on July 1, 2015.

Erin (Davidson) Vipler, MD received her medical degree at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She completed her residency training in Internal Medicine, here at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Science. During her time here, Erin has been an active representative for our housestaff. Erin has participated on a number of committees including the GME Residents Committee, which she co-chaired from 2014-2015, a representative on the CER Executive Committee, Quality and Safety Committee, and the GME Committee on Learning Environment where she is an active member. She also has an interest in Quality Improvement and will work with Dr. Anne Ciolletti on our Quality Improvement curriculum this year. She will serve as Chief Medical Resident at The George Washington University Hospital starting on July 1, 2015.

Yevgeniy Vayntrub, MD received his medical degree at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, in New York. His Residency training in Internal Medicine, here at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Currently Yevgeniy has one publication, and has presented at a number of local meetings. He is interested in high value care, and is currently working on a research study at the VA to decrease the inappropriate use of CTA to rule out PE in patients with low pre-test probability. Yevgeniy will serve as Chief Medical Resident at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington D.C., starting on July 1, 2015.

Adam Kittai, MD received his medical degree from the Tel Aviv University, Sackler School of Medicine in Israel. He completed his residency training at The George Washington University in Internal Medicine. Adam’s scholarly activity is developing nicely, with five peer reviewed publications, one book chapter and a number of presentations at local and national meetings. He has also participated in a research project observing patients taking FOLFIRINOX followed by concurrent chemoradiation with locally advanced pancreatic cancer. Adam has also been a very active member of our Internal Medicine Residency House Officer Council for the past two years. Adam will serve as Chief Medical Resident at Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington D.C. with an emphasis on teaching Evidence-Based Medicine starting on July 1, 2015.

Mortada Shams, MD received his medical degree from The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland. He completed his residency training at The George Washington University in Internal Medicine. Dr. Shams’ scholarly activities are steadily growing with the publication of a book, a peer reviewed article, several presentations and a number of on-going research projects. His commitment to service has been evident in his participation as a member of our Internal Medicine Residency House Officer Council. Mortada will serve as Chief Medical Resident at Inova Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, VA, starting on July 1, 2015.

Please Join Us in Welcoming Our Newest Additions to the Medicine Faculty

Andrew Choi, MD joins the Division of Cardiology. Dr. Choi received his medical degree here at The George Washington University School of Medicine. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Dr. Choi completed fellowships in Cardiovascular Medicine at Georgetown University, in Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging (MRI/CT) at the National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and finally at Georgetown University as an Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging (CT/Echo/MRI/Nuclear) fellow. Dr. Choi is an excellent clinician with a strong background in medical education as well as research interests; he currently has 4 active projects, more than twenty peer reviewed publications and abstracts, a number of non-peer reviewed articles and book chapters and has been invited to present at numerous local and national meetings.

Amirala Pasha, DO joins the Division of General Internal Medicine at M Street. Dr. Pasha received his medical degree from The University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, Department of Medicine in Portland Oregon. Dr. Pasha’s limited experience as a clinician has proven him to be an exceptional physician. He provided clinical services as a staff physician in the Department of Urgent Care at Kaiser Permanente and moonlighted in the Department of Cardiology and Hematology/Oncology at the Health and Science University in Portland.

Chad (Henson) Martins, MD has joined the Division of General Internal Medicine, or rather returns as a faculty member. Dr. Martins received his medical degree from North East Ohio Medical University in 2011. In 2014, he completed his residency in Internal Medicine — Primary Care at The George Washington University. He has just completed one year as a Chief Medical Resident at The George Washington University Hospital. He is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Martins is an excellent clinician with a strong background in medical education with research interests. He has mentored our students, residents and fellows and is well respected among his peers. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Martins back to the GW MFA as a full time attending.

Pragya “Pooja” Singh, MD joins the Division of Rheumatology this month. Dr. Singh received her Medical Degree at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, St. Maarten. Her residency was completed at Columbia University, College of Physician and Surgeons in Internal Medicine. She completed a Rheumatology Fellowship Program at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Singh is board certified in Internal Medicine and is board eligible in Rheumatology. Dr. Singh is an excellent clinician and educator, self-motivated and very much respected by her peers as well as students and residents.

Juan A. Reyes, MD returns as faculty in the Division of Hospital Medicine. Dr. Reyes is truly a product of The George Washington University family, as he returns to the GW MFA after a year at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Reyes earned a Master in Public Health degree, completed his medical degree and his Internal Medicine Residency here at The George Washington University. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Reyes is an excellent clinician with a strong background in medical education, with research interests. He has mentored our students, residents and fellows and is well liked and respected among his peers.

Aimee Desrosiers, PA returns to the Division of Infectious Diseases. Aimee returns to the GW MFA after a year at the University of Miami. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology at The University of New Hampshire; a Master of Physician Assistant Studies and an MPH in Epidemiology/Biostatistics at The George Washington University. She is licensed in the District of Columbia and is board certified by the NCCPA. Aimee’s professional experience provides for a strong and resourceful provider. We welcome her return.
2014 - 2015 Department of Medicine
End-of-the-Year Party
June 12, 2015

The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates
Department of Medicine, Suite 8-416
2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW