



GW Medicine Notes

A Monthly Publication of the GW Department of Medicine

Volume 17, Issue 6

June 2013

Ch Ch Ch Changes

It is difficult to start a new year without making some changes so we have one to announce now. **Dr. Scott Cohen**, Associate Professor, Renal Diseases and Hypertension, will be taking over the directorship of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course from **Dr. Jill Catalanotti**, Assistant Professor of Medicine and of Health Policy, General Internal Medicine. This course will hopefully, only have two more years to run and at that time be replaced by the new curriculum. Dr. Catalanotti will be working on integrating Public Health topics and themes into the new curriculum.

A large number of faculty from the department will be working on getting a new curriculum finalized and implemented in one year. **Drs. David Parenti, Afsoon Roberts, and Marc Siegel**, Infectious Diseases, **Jalil Ahari**, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Disorders Medicine, **Allen Solomon**, Cardiology, **Samir Patel**, Renal Diseases & Hypertension, **Robert Siegel**, Hematology & Oncology, **Showkat Bashir**, Gastroenterology, **Mahnaz Momeni**, Rheumatology, **Joshua Cohen** and **Michael Irwig**, Endocrinology, **Andrea Flory**, **Seema Kakar**, **Brad Moore**, **Matthew Mintz** and **Adam Possner**, General Internal Medicine, **Katalin Roth** and **Danielle Doberman**, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine and **Bopper**, in no particular order, will be tackling this somewhat daunting task. Others will be asked to participate as the program starts to take shape.

From the Chairman

Of all the awards I have been honored to receive, serving as Councilor to the Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) chapter at GW for the last 15 years has been a privilege. ΑΩΑ was started in 1902 because of students' lack of interest in scholarly attainment and the absence of any professional standards. It sought to encourage "high ideals of thought and action in schools of medicine." From the start, membership in ΑΩΑ was based on scholarly achievement. The top 25 percent of a medical school class is eligible for nomination and up to 16 percent may be elected based on leadership, character, community service and professionalism. Although I am not a major advocate of "Honors" (having not made Phi Beta Anything), I see nothing wrong with a professional society that advocates for excellence in scholarship.

I have been fortunate to serve on the ΑΩΑ National Board of Trustees for the last few years and have appreciated the programs that ΑΩΑ sponsors. Our chapter has taken advantage of many of these including; student research fellowships, visiting professorships, teaching awards, service project awards, essay awards, voluntary clinical faculty awards, and this year for the first time, our chapter had an award winner in the Poetry Competition (honorary mention but an award none the less.)

Something has happened over these last 15 years that is a trend that I don't fully understand. My first year class was inducted with 50% of the students choosing Internal Medicine as their specialty of choice. In 2005, approximately half way through my tenure and the 50th anniversary of our chapter, this number dropped to 38%, and this current year the number sank to an all-time low of 7% (two students). Assuming that this is not because of me, what happened? The surgical specialties and radiology attracted 32% and 21% of the class, respectively. EMed and Derm had more students entering their fields than entered internal medicine. And this year, the voluntary faculty award went to a Urologist (horrors.)

We can trot out the old reasons for why students aren't entering Internal Medicine; long hours, low pay, etc., but something more serious is occurring because these "best and brightest" never became primary care docs. Most went on to either subspecialty care, or academic research careers or some combined enterprise with public or global health. Now even that is not happening. How much longer can Internal Medicine claim to be the "cerebral" specialty? In discussing the phenomenon with some of my Councilor colleagues across the country a similar trend is being seen almost everywhere.

The answer to this observation is probably more complicated than "Why aren't students in general becoming Internists," although some of the same reasons may be at play. Students are cognizant of the growing income gap which now stands at three-fold, and when you graduate with a quarter of a million dollars in debt this is hard to ignore. Or could it be that the surgical and radiological specialties have become increasingly academic? If you think so try reading some of their literature which will quickly dissuade you from that opinion.

So does it all return to cost? The University of Central Florida's Medical School just graduated its first class, DEBT FREE. (School gives free tuition and they have their pick of the brightest students, at least by MCAT scores.) Of the 33 graduates, three matched into Internal Medicine (9%). Something else has made our specialty unattractive to students in general, and it is disconcerting. Or, are we seeing the results of years of video game playing. Aren't robotic surgery and interventional radiology just the newest toys on the block? Seems like a natural progression to go from Mortal Kombat to single port laparoscopic cholecystectomy. It's not the money it's the entertainment. Internal Medicine has become Pac Man and no one wants to play that any more.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

**SEE YOU AT THE
END-OF-THE-YEAR PARTY
FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2013
THE RITZ-CARLTON
WASHINGTON, DC HOTEL**

Department of Medicine June 2013 Grand Rounds

Irene Tamagna Lecture on Hypertension

Jun 6 **"Salt and CVD: To Salt or Not to Salt"**

Matthew R. Weir, MD

Professor of Medicine
Director, Division of Nephrology
Department of Medicine
University of Maryland Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland

Karl Wipplinger Memorial Lecture

Jun 13 **"The Best of Chairman's Rounds"**

Monique Duwell, MD

Andrew Roberts, MD

Internal Medicine Residency Program
Department of Medicine
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Jun 20 **"TBD"**

Steven Holland, MD

National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Jun 27 **"Mechanical Ventilation"**

Guillermo Gutierrez, MD

Professor of Medicine
Director, Pulmonary, Critical Care and
Sleep Disorders Medicine
Department of 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

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| WHITE TEAM | (202) 715-5669 |
| YELLOW TEAM | (202) 715-6041 |
| GREEN TEAM | (202) 715-6062 |
| RED TEAM | (202) 715-6039 |
| BLUE TEAM | (202) 715-6156 |
| SILVER TEAM | (202) 715-6040 |
| PURPLE TEAM | (202) 715-6042 |
| GOLD TEAM | (202) 715-6044 |

ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager

Cardiology Grand Rounds

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

Jun 5 **Mortality & Morbidity Conference**

Jun 12 Allen Solomon, MD
Professor of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
GW Medical Faculty Associates
Hand Off Work Shop

June 19 **Cardiology Grand Rounds Will
Resume After the Summer Break**



Resident Lecture Series June 2013 Noon Conference

Jun 3 **Primary Care Lecture**
Jun 4 **Journal Club**
Jun 5 **GME Core Curriculum**
Jun 6 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Jun 7 **Chairman's Rounds**
Jun 10 **Chairman's Rounds**
Jun 11 **Mortality & Morbidity**
Jun 12 **Hospital Compliance - Documentation Training**
Jun 13 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Jun 14 **Chairman's Rounds**
Jun 17 **Primary Care Lecture**
Jun 18 **CPC**
Jun 19 **Chairman's Rounds**
Jun 20 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Jun 21 **Resident Hour - Celebrate!**
Jun 24 **Conference Cancelled**
Jun 25 **Conference Cancelled**
Jun 26 **Conference Cancelled**
Jun 27 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
Jun 28 **Conference Cancelled**

Dr. Jonathan Reiner Works with Congressman to Get Good Samaritan Legislation Introduced

On May 23rd Rep. Pete Olson (R-Sugar Land) introduced H.R. 2135, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act. Olson's bill will help increase the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) by eliminating the threat of frivolous lawsuits through development of a nationally uniform baseline of protection for persons who use an automatic external defibrillator (AED) while attempting to save a life during a medical emergency. Original co-sponsors include: Reps. Pete Gallego (D-TX), Phil Roe (R-TN), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Michael Burgess (R-TX), Andy Harris (R-MD) Gerald Connolly (D-VA).

"The best emergency treatment for sudden cardiac arrest is defibrillation, so quick use of AEDs can save lives," Rep. Pete Olson said. "The threat of unnecessary lawsuits on AED users should not stand in the way of providing emergency medical assistance to someone in need. This common sense legislation provides peace of mind for Good Samaritans by removing this threat and will encourage greater deployment of AEDs in public and private establishments. Wider use of AEDs will reduce response times and could save an additional 36,000 lives per year."

Dr. Jonathan Reiner, professor of medicine at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences & Director of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at GW Hospital said, "Sudden cardiac arrest kills a quarter million Americans every year. Thousands of people can be saved if automated external defibrillators were more widely available in the United States. This bill will lower the barriers to AED deployment and will result in the survival of many people who would otherwise die. It is a major step forward in the treatment of this lethal disease."

SCA strikes roughly 295,000 individuals a year, people of all ages, races and physical health. Approximately 60 percent of those victims could be saved if someone intervenes and responds by engaging the emergency system, performing CPR and locating and using an AED. Sadly, survival rates for out-of-hospital SCA victims have remained a low eight percent for thirty years. Immediate CPR and early defibrillation, using an AED, can more than double a patient's chance of survival, but only if a person acts. Olson consulted with Dr. Reiner about issues facing healthcare providers and the need for the legislation.



Chairman's Rounds

GWU Hospital Auditorium, 12:00 Noon
All Faculty Invited to Attend

- June 7** Drs. Sally Che & Tyler Thompson
- June 10** Drs. Sam Karki & Tiffany Turner
- June 14** Drs. Chino Mannikarottu & Shyunti Das
- June 19** Drs. Michael Spagnola & Helen Jan

Launch of Underserved Medicine and Public Health Concentration for Residency Program

In January 2013, Drs. Jillian Catalanotti and David Popiel launched the Underserved Medicine and Public Health (UMPH) concentration for Internal Medicine residents, sponsored by the Rodham Institute and the Geiger Gibson Program for Community Health Policy. This two-year program consists of longitudinal clinical experience at a community health center, evening seminars on public health content, and design and performance of a practicum project. We hope that UMPH will train physicians who are well-equipped to serve the District's safety net population. The program coordinator is Ms. Jacqueline Cole Miles.

The inaugural UMPH class includes Drs. Cristina Amado, Chad Henson, Andrew Myers, and Laura Perry. They have joined the clinical teams at Whitman Walker Health and Bread for the City under the guidance of volunteer community clinic preceptors, Dr. Ray Martins (WWH) and Dr. Randi Abramson (BFC). Our first cohort will graduate from the UMPH program (and IM residency) in June 2014.

Graduation and AΩA Awards

At the 2013 Graduation Diploma Ceremony held on May 19th at Lisner Auditorium, **Dr. Juan Reyes**, Assistant Professor, Hospital Medicine served as class hooder, having been chosen for the honor by the senior class.

It is also a privilege to announce that Dr. **Geraldine Poppa Schechter**, was appointed Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine at the Medical School Diploma Ceremony. Dr. Schechter joined the department faculty at the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center where she has been the chief of the Hematology Clinical and Research Sections since 1974 and Professor of Medicine since 1981. She has made extraordinary contributions to hematologic research, particularly in the area of multiple myeloma, authoring hundreds of publications. She is the recipient of several prestigious honors, including the Exemplary Service Award from the American Society of Hematology and was elected as a Master of the ACP in 2005. Dr. Schechter has been recognized for her outstanding teaching and contributions to the Hematology/Oncology training program.

The students who received Medicine awards at Graduation were:

Jorge C. Rios Award in Internal Medicine:
Matthew Ross Livingood

Philip S. Birnbaum Award in Primary Care:
Christopher Andrew D'Avella

Allie S. Freed Award in Preventive Medicine:
Stephanie Valencia Singson

Dt. Lakhmir Chawla, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and of Medicine was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha at the 58th Annual AOA, Alpha Chapter Annual Banquet & Induction Ceremony held on May 16th. Dr. Chawla was one of the Faculty Inductees.

Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule June 2013

ACC Building 1-401 (8:00 am - 9:00 am) *Questions? Call (202) 741-2488*

- Jun 6 **Radiology Conference**
Dr. Kathleen Brindle, Associate Professor of Radiology
Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Jun 6 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108
- Jun 13 **"Osteoporosis"**
Dr. Mandana Hashefi, Assistant Professor of Medicine
- Jun 13 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6108
- Jun 20 **Rheumatology Conference Will Return in the Fall**

Congratulations ... to all the new babies who have joined the department over the last few months!

... to Charles (Grice) McMullan born December 29th to Carrie and **Dr. Shelton McMullan**, PGY-2.

... to Wlahzee Karl Blake Bollie, born January 1st to **Dr. Sylvia Gonsahn-Bollie**, PGY3, and her husband, Rodney.

... to Katelyn Rebecca Thomson, born April 21st to **Dr. Tyler Thompson**, PGY2, and his wife Jennifer.

... to Caroline Bray McLean born May 14th to Robert and **Dr. Anna McLean** (PGY-3)

And finally ... to Roman Lagasca born June 3rd to **Dr. Alicia Myers Lagasca** (PGY-3) and her husband James Lagasca.

Kudos & Congratulations

Congratulations ... to members of the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension whose research was selected as best abstracts at the National Kidney Foundation 22nd Annual Fellows Research Forum. The work of **Casey Watkin, MD, Renal Fellow**, "Sodium bicarbonate co-transporter NBCe1-A," was selected as the best basic science research and that of **Maria Wing, PhD**, on "adiposity and inflammation in chronic kidney disease" was selected as the best in the clinical science category.

Kudos ... to **Dr. Jillian Catalanotti**, Assistant Professor, General Internal Medicine, came from Dr. Nancy Gaba, "Congratulations on your induction to Gold Humanism Society! A well deserved honor. I found your remarks at the brunch moving and greatly inspiring. I am grateful that you have agreed to speak at our incoming resident White Coat Ceremony on June 19th, and share this talk with the incoming residents and their families."

More Kudos ... to **Dr. David Popiel**, Assistant Professor, **Dr. Zohray Talib**, Assistant Professor and **Dr. Jillian Catalanotti**, Assistant Professor, all of General Internal Medicine, who got their article "A pilot curriculum to integrate community health into Internal Medicine residency training," about the community health elective, accepted for publication in the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*.

Kudos to all for this achievement ... Last month the **Rodham Institute for Health and Medical Education** became an official institutional entity of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Congratulations **Dr. El-Bayoumi**, Associate Professor, DGIM.

See you next month! *The Editor*



The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates
Department of Medicine, Suite 5-411
2150 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037