AΩA Induction Dinner

The AΩA induction dinner on May 15th was moderated by Alan Wasserman, M.D., M.A.C.P., chair of the Department of Medicine, Eugene Meyer Professor of Medicine at the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) and Councilor of the GW AΩA. The event was organized by Angelike Liappis, M.D., F.I.D.S.A., associate professor of Medicine at SMHS and secretary of the GW chapter of AΩA.

At the event, the annual AΩA Voluntary Faculty Award was presented to Richard Kaufman, MD, Emeritus Professor and Resident Program Director along with Dr. Jillian Catalanotti, Associate Professor and Chief of Hematology at the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center, were the two Faculty inductees.

The guest speaker was internationally recognized physician-scientist Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology and Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Save the Date

END-OF-THE-YEAR PARTY

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

RITZ CARLTON HOTEL

From the Chairman

George Santayana (1863-1952) usually receives credit for the saying "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I say "usually" because there are many variations of this quote attributed to different individuals. This is often the problem with non-scientific information. Its usage doesn’t require it to be referenced. It can be repeated or altered slightly with impunity such as the quote by Jesse Ventura, former pro-wrestler and governor of Minnesota who said, “Learn from history or you’re doomed to repeat it” (although he wasn’t re-elected). I am sure he was convinced that this was an original thought.

Scientific studies and information are required to check the literature and give credit to studies that influenced the current one. In some cases, repetition of studies is important and not infrequently lead to variant conclusions.

One of the first papers I ever presented was on the (non)-utility of cold pressor induced cardiac ischemia. The only problem was I presented it at a national meeting where the moderator was a well-known cardiologist who a few years previously had published on the utility of the same intervention. His first question to me was “why did I bother to repeat a study that he already had done?” My answer, with all due respect, was “because this time we wanted to get it right.”

But I digress. This past month a study was published by a group from Ohio and touted by the media on the fact that patients who come to the Emergency Room with chest pain rarely need to be admitted to the hospital. They reviewed low risk patients with no significant ECG changes, negative biomarkers and normal vital signs. The rate of any significant cardiac event during hospitalization was extremely low (less than .2%) and the risk of some iatrogenic event during hospitalization was almost as high.

What they ignore is a similar study with similar conclusions published by our group in 1991! We also performed exercise tests on these low risk patients and then followed them for 6 months; not just the few days of hospitalization. To be fair, there has been countless number of similar studies published over the years. Yet, no change in clinical practice has taken place in over 24 years? Low risk patients continue to be hospitalized.

Why? Could it be because even though studies have shown the safety of non-admission, it is not 100% (only 99.82%)? There are more than 7 million ER visits for chest pain in the U.S. yearly with 25-50% (depending on the study) being low risk. A small number of patients will have a significant event (MI, sudden death, etc.) amounting to approximately 3-4,000 patients and 10,000 plaintiff attorneys.

So, is it the lack of tort reform that drives these admissions, or the monetary value of these admissions for the hospital or possibly since 50% of chest pain patients are brought to the ER by ambulance, patients expect to be admitted? Whatever the reason, the answer is not more studies but legal guidelines that will protect the patients from unneeded and possibly dangerous hospitalizations and protect the hospital and physician from crippling law suits. Jesse and George had it right. We are repeating history every day but at least we should take time to do a PubMed review before publishing old news.

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

**JUNE 4** Karl Wipplinger Memorial Lecture  
“SLE Nephritis”  
John Duronville, MD, PGY 3  
“Measles”  
Meena Hasan, MD, PGY 3  
Internal Medicine Residents  
GW Medical Faculty Associates

**JUNE 11** “Fungal Lung Infections”  
Virginia Kan, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
George Washington University  
Associate Chief  
Infectious Diseases  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center

**JUNE 18** “Hip Preservation in Young Adults”  
Scott Faucett, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Department of Surgery  
GW Medical Faculty Associates

**JUNE 25** “Updates in Oral Diabetic Medication”  
Joshua Cohen, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Interim Director, Division of Endocrinology  
Director, Diabetes and Thyroid Center  
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).

**Cardiology Grand Rounds**  
5:00 PM, Ross Hall, Room # 104

**JUNE 3** Mortality & Morbidity Conference

**JUNE 10** Allen Solomon, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Division of Cardiology  
Department of Medicine  
GW Medical Faculty Associates  
*New Evaluation System*

**JUNE 17** Summer Break

**JUNE 24** Cancelled

**Resident Lecture Series**  
**June 2015 Noon Conference**

**JUNE 1** “Interesting Pulmonary Findings” – Dr. Jalil Ahari  
**JUNE 2** Journal Club  
**JUNE 3** GME Core Lecture  
**JUNE 4** Grand Rounds  
**JUNE 5** “Myeloproliferative Neoplasms” – Dr. Khaled El-Shami  
**JUNE 8** “Frozen Sections” – Dr. Arnold Schwartz  
**JUNE 9** Mortality & Morbidity Conference – Drs. James Howard and Samah Nasreddine  
**JUNE 10** “Approach to Desating Patient” – Dr. Jeffrey Williams  
**JUNE 11** Grand Rounds  
**JUNE 12** “Adrenal Disorders” – Dr. Jill Paulson  
**JUNE 15** “Central Line Infections” – Dr. Farida Millwala  
**JUNE 16** “Food Allergy/Allergy Testing” – Dr. Dipa Sheth  
**JUNE 17** “Geriatrics Continued” – Dr. Christina Prather  
**JUNE 18** Grand Rounds  
**JUNE 19** “Natural Dying” – Dr. Danielle Doberman  
**JUNE 22** No Noon Conference  
**JUNE 23** No Noon Conference  
**JUNE 24** No Noon Conference  
**JUNE 25** Grand Rounds  
**JUNE 26** No Noon Conference  
**JUNE 29** TBD  
**JUNE 30** TBD

**Medicine Team Contacts**

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<tr>
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<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITE TEAM</td>
<td>(202) 715-5669</td>
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<tr>
<td>YELLOW TEAM</td>
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<td>GOLD TEAM</td>
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ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager
Welcome to the MFA Family.....

Bita Shakoory, MD joins the Division of Rheumatology this month. Dr. Shakoory completed her Medical Degree at the Zanjan University of Medical Sciences in Iran. She completed her Residency in Internal Medicine at the East Tennessee State University, where she also completed a Fellowship in Rheumatology; she is board certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. Dr. Shakoory comes to us from Temple University with an academic rank of Assistant Professor of Medicine. Dr. Shakoory is an active scholar with a number of publications in industry journals with two awaiting submission. Her special interests are Lupus, Inflammatory eye disease and Antiphospholipid Syndrome.

Seeta Gowda, FNP-BC also joins the Division of Rheumatology this month. Seeta Gowda is a board certified family nurse practitioner with the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Seeta received her nursing education with a Master of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. After completing her training, Seeta began practicing as a primary care provider in Washington DC providing healthcare to the underserved. She has also worked in school based healthcare. Prior to nursing school, Seeta worked in Maternal and Child Health with the federal government and has a Master of Public Health from George Washington University. She is particularly interested in health promotion and disease prevention. Seeta works with her patients to educate and motivate them to make changes to develop the healthiest lifestyle possible while managing their disease trajectory.

GW Frontiers in Medicine Lecture
“Healthy Aging Part III”

The GWU Frontiers in Medicine panel discussion will take place on June 9, 2015. A panel of GW medical experts shed light on how the brain works, and the ways in which depression is recognized and treated.

The panelists included:

· James L Griffith, MD
  Leon M.Yochelson Professor and Chairman
  Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

· Daniel Z. Lieberman, MD
  Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs and Professor
  Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Alan Wasserman, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, moderated the discussion.

GWU SMHS 2015 Diploma Ceremony

The GWU SMHS 2015 Diploma Ceremony was held at the Lisner Auditorium on May 17th, 2015. The Department of Medicine was represented with 2 of our faculty receiving Emeritus Status:

Charles B. Abrams, MD
Associate Clinical Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine

Dr. Abrams came to GWU hospital for residency training in Internal Medicine in 1975. In 1976, Dr. Abrams established his practice of internal medicine and gastroenterology in the District and was appointed to the faculty of the GW SMHS as assistant clinical processor. He was promoted to associate clinical professor in 1999 in recognition of the outstanding teaching he provided in the outpatient setting. Dr. Abrams played a very active role in the school by serving on multiple hospital and Medical Center committees.

Richard Miles Kaufman, MD
Clinical Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine

Dr. Kaufman established a practice in internal medicine and hematology in Washington DC. He was appointed instructor in medicine at GW in 1963 and attending physician at GWU hospital in 1965. He was promoted to clinical assistant professor in 1971, associate clinical professor in 1974, and clinical professor in 1980. During his tenure at GW, Dr. Kaufman has taught the practice and art of internal medicine in the outpatient setting to thousands of medical students. Since his retirement from his group practice in 2008, he has continued to be involved in teaching and mentoring at the Mercy Free Clinic in Gathersburg, MD, and as an observer of our third-year medical students as they take histories and perform physicals on patients during their Medicine Clerkship. Dr. Kaufman continues to receive accolades for this work, and his commitment to our students has helped make this part of the Clerkship one of the most highly rated educational experiences by our students.

Department of Medicine Student Awards:

Allie S. Freed Award in Preventative Medicine
David Grabski

Phillip S. Birnbaum Award in Primary Care
Jillian M. Roper

Jorge C. Rios Award in Internal Medicine
Viktoria Elkis

Mark Millen Memorial Award for Rheumatology
Viktoria Elkis
Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule
June 2015

ACC Building 6B-411B (8:00 am - 9:00 am)
Ross Hall: Room 201C (1:00 pm– 3:00 pm)
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

Kudos

Kudos... to **Dr. Tahira Lodhi**, Geriatrics, on receiving a letter of gratitude from a family, "your kindness and clarity during the years was instrumental in helping us prepare for my father’s loss... you were a great source of comfort."

Kudos... to **Dr. Mihir Patel**, General Internal Medicine, on receiving a compliment from a patient, "Dr. Patel is a very good doctor. He does not rush me and he does a good job. He takes time for me and asks me questions and answers all of my questions. He talks to me about what I shouldn’t eat and is very caring and professional. He always returns my calls quickly."

Kudos... to **Dr. Adam Possner**, General Internal Medicine, on receiving a letter of thanks from the Department of Family Medicine Uniformed Services University for his advice and mentorship, "your sharing lessons learned and best practices through your experiences as the faculty advisor of Cuentos have helped us a great deal in establishing our path forward."

Congratulations... to **Dr. Jehan El-Bayoumi** on receiving the FMGW (Family Matters of Greater Washington) 2015 Mary Alice Stoddard Community Service Award which recognizes exemplary leadership and service that improves individual, family and community life. Way to go!

Congratulations... to **Dr. Aamir Ali**, Gastroenterology, for being elected for the Fellowship of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA).

Congratulations... to **Dr. Marie Borum**, Gastroenterology, for being selected to be a member of the Women’s Leadership Council. She gave a keynote presentation at the annual AGA Women’s Luncheon. Her presentation was entitled, "Women Leadership in Gastroenterology: The Importance of Mentoring."

See you next month! The Editor

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