



GW Medicine Notes

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Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program Returning to GWU

The re-starting of a Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program at the GW University Hospital took a major step forward last week when the subcommittee of the DC Department of Public Health voted 6-2 to approve the application. In a few weeks, the entire board will vote and we hope for similar results. With the closing of Howard's transplant unit there is only one program serving all of the citizens of Washington, DC.

The program has continued to be led by **Dr. Dominic Raj** who testified before the subcommittee as to the need for an additional program to serve the District community as well as for its teaching and research importance to the GW University Medical School. **Dr. Clive Callender**, former director of the Howard University transplant program as well as former Chairman of Surgery, also testified to the need for an additional center in Washington.

There are currently over 1,000 patients on the waiting list for a kidney transplant in Washington, DC and currently our patients have to go to other facilities to receive a kidney. Approval of this program will allow patients to get comprehensive care under one roof.

A national search will be done for surgical and medical directors of renal transplant and we expect to have the first patient in the beginning of 2014.

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2013

END-OF-THE-YEAR PARTY

**THE RITZ-CARLTON
WASHINGTON, DC HOTEL**

From the Chairman

This may be hard to believe but I have always been against background checks. I only bring this up because it has been so prominent in the news lately. I realize it probably has overwhelming support but so did prohibition at one point. The statute reads: "The FBI criminal background check shall disclose any criminal history of the prospective applicant over a seven (7) year period, in all jurisdictions within which the prospective applicant has worked or resided."

This will save lives? I don't think so. How many individuals who will commit some egregious act have done so previously and are still on the street? But don't worry if they don't get them now they will have a second chance since the act also calls for "A licensee shall be required to undergo a subsequent criminal background check every four (4) years from the date of the licensee's registrant's previous background check."

Add to this my objection to mandatory fingerprinting. What's next, DNA swabbing? I don't believe that there is a data bank on fingerprinting. When was the last time you read or heard about someone being apprehended because of a fingerprint match? How far are we going to take the loss of personal freedom?

But it's too late as these rules are promulgated pursuant to the "Licensed Health Professional Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2006", effective March 6, 2007, (D.C. Law 16-551), D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.22 et seq.,."

So to reiterate, you don't have to have a background check if you have the desire to kill someone, but you do if your goal is to save a life. You don't need to be fingerprinted to buy an Uzi and wipe out whatever and whomever you want, but you do if you want to work in a free clinic in DC. I would say this is enough to "blow your mind" but somehow that doesn't seem appropriate.

The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights has this to say about background checks; "In addition to providing incorrect data, criminal background check reports often inappropriately include information about sealed or expunged offenses such as juvenile offenses or arrests that did not lead to conviction. Often, human resources officials are insufficiently trained to properly interpret these records. Evidence has shown that people of color are disproportionately affected by such misinformation."

You know who doesn't need a background check or to be fingerprinted to practice in the District of Columbia ... Lawyers! DC's egregious malpractice laws already have had a negative impact on the number of physicians practicing in the District. With the coming shortage of physicians it makes sense for the District to do everything it can to make sure there is no shortage of attorneys. Taxation without Representation isn't the only problem this city has.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

Department of Medicine May 2013 Grand Rounds

May 2 **"Health Disparities in Chronic Kidney Disease:
Why Are African Americans at Increased Risk?"**

Jeffrey Kopp, MD

Kidney Disease Section
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and
Kidney Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

May 9 **"Regulating Tobacco Products to Protect the
Public Health: A Progress Report on FDA's New
Center for Tobacco Products"**

Lawrence Deyton, MD, MSPH

Clinical Professor of Medicine
Department of Medicine
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

AQA Visiting Professorship

May 16 **"Music, Imagery, Touch and Prayer as Adjuncts
to Interventional Cardiovascular Care:
The MANTRA Study Project 1993-2013"**

Mitchell W. Krucoff, MD

Professor of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
Department of Medicine
Duke University Health System

May 23 **"Epileptic Versus Nonepileptic Seizures"**

Mohamad Koubeissi, MD

Associate Professor of Neurology
Director, Epilepsy Center
Department of Neurology
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

May 30 **"Headache"**

Perry Richardson, MD

Associate Professor of Neurology
Department of Neurology
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.

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SILVER TEAM	(202) 715-6040
PURPLE TEAM	(202) 715-6042
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ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager

Cardiology Grand Rounds

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

- May 1 **Emile R. Mohler III, MD**
Professor of Medicine
Director, Vascular Medicine
Director, Vascular Diagnostic Center
Penn Medicine
Heart & Vascular Institute Vice President
- May 8 **Mortality & Morbidity Conference**
- May 15 **Ganesh Venkataraman, MD**
Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiologist
Washington Hospital Center
Subcutaneous ICDs
- May 22 **Lakhmir Chawla, MD**
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and of Medicine
Dept. of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates
Cardio-Renal Syndrome
- May 29 **Steven Nathan, MD**
Medical Director, Lung Transplant Program
Medical Director, Advanced Lung Disease Program
Inova Medical Group
Update on Pulmonary Hypertension



Resident Lecture Series May 2013 Noon Conference

- May 1 **GME Core Curriculum**
- May 2 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- May 3 **Chairman's Rounds**
- May 6 **"Treatment Options for Prostate Cancer" -
Dr. Jeanny Aragon-Ching**
- May 7 **Journal Club**
- May 8 **"Anaphylaxis" - Dr. Richard Nicklas**
- May 9 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- May 10 **Chairman's Rounds**
- May 13 **"Management of Pulmonary Hypertension" -
Dr. Susan Hasselquist**
- May 14 **"Allergy Topic" - Dr. Dipa Sheth**
- May 15 **"Device Based Therapy for Advanced Heart Failure" -
Dr. Gurusher Panjrath**
- May 16 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- May 17 **Chairman's Rounds**
- May 20 **(HVCCC) - Quality Improvement**
- May 21 **CPC**
- May 22 **"Extra-Pulmonary Manifestations of Sarcoidosis" -
Dr. Mahnaz Momeni**
- May 23 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- May 24 **Chairman's Rounds**
- May 27 **Memorial Day Holiday - Conference Canceled**
- May 28 **Mortality & Morbidity**
- May 29 **"Substance Abuse Disorders" - Dr. Daniel Lieberman**
- May 30 **Medicine Grand Rounds**
- May 31 **Chairman's Rounds**

Armaly Dedication Ceremony

A dedication ceremony was held on Friday, April 26th in the Glaucoma Section of the Department of Ophthalmology, in the honor of **Dr. Mansour Armaly**, the former Chair of the Department. After his passing, Dr. Armaly's family started the Armaly Glaucoma Research Fund, to support continued research in the field in which Dr. Armaly had famously made significant research progress.

At the event, **Dr. Alan Wasserman** accepted and dedicated a portrait of Dr. Armaly, on behalf of GWU President Steven Knapp, SMHS Dean Jeffrey Akman, and the Medical Faculty Associates. He remarked that this was a significant event in that "we are honoring a pioneer in glaucoma research and we are adorning the walls of this newly renovated space with his portrait."

Dr. Craig Geist, Chairman of Ophthalmology also made remarks, and Dr. Geist and Mrs. Aida Armaly, Dr. Armaly's widow, revealed the portrait. A large number of the Armaly family was present as were current and former Ophthalmology residents and faculty.

Dr. Samuel Spagnolo Interviewed by Fox News on 32nd Anniversary of Reagan Shooting

Dr. Samuel Spagnolo, Professor, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Disorders Medicine, was interviewed by Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday on the 32nd anniversary of the shooting of President Ronald Reagan. As the lead physician in charge of Reagan's post-surgical care, Dr. Spagnolo was critical in Reagan's recovery. Dr. Spagnolo recalled that Reagan did well for the first few days but on day five he was called to the hospital from home because Reagan had a temperature near 104 degrees. Despite the reluctance of the presidential medical team he was able to get a battery of tests by threatening to walk out, and when they showed no infection, he ordered antibiotics anyway, believing that an infection must be the cause of the enduring high temperature. Within a day Reagan's temperature was normal and he continued on a path to recovery. Dr. Spagnolo spent some time every morning sitting with the President and agrees with Reagan that his survival and recovery were miraculous.



In Delores' absence ... Shirley springs into action

Kudos and Congratulations

(continued on page 4)

Kudos ... to Dr. Gabriel Oboite, Assistant Professor, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, who was among only ten Medical Directors to make the short-list for the nationwide AMDA Medical Director of the Year Award for 2013. Dr. Oboite is the Medical Director at the Residences at Thomas Circle Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and was singled out for, among other things, "developing a multidisciplinary rounding and communication process to maximize teamwork and quality care. He has educated facility staff about improving care transitions. His efforts have resulted in a 95% decrease in emergency department transfers from the subacute unit and a deficiency-free survey for a facility with a challenging inner city population". The American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) is the professional association of medical directors and attending physicians practicing in the long term care continuum.

Kudos ... to Dr. Katalin Roth, Associate Professor and Director, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, who presented Grand Rounds for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on April 13, 2013. Dr. Roth's lecture on, "The Doctrine of Medical Neutrality" was extremely well received with near perfect evaluations from her audience.

Medicine Faculty Present Keynote Addresses on Research Day

Gary Simon, MD, PhD, Walter G. Ross Professor of Medicine and of Microbiology and Tropical Medicine and Director of Infectious Diseases, presented the first keynote address at the 2013 GW Research Day on April 3. His talk was entitled, "AIDS: The Forth Decade".

The second keynote address was presented by **Alan Greenberg, MD, MPH**, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Professor of Medicine, whose address was entitled, "HIV/AIDS: Enhancing Prevention Research in Washington, DC".

Dr. Simon and Dr. Greenberg also participated in a panel discussion on, "HIV/AIDS: Prevention and Treatment Looking Forward".



Chairman's Rounds

GWU Hospital Auditorium, 12:00 Noon

All Faculty Invited to Attend

- May 3** Dr. Cristina Amado & Dr. Natasha Casey
- May 10** Dr. Sanjay Shah & Becky Witt
- May 17** Dr. Baha'a Sarouji & Dr. Trevor Uyemura
- May 24** Dr. Ashley Charter & Dr. Hanna Mariani
- May 31** Dr. Ayesha Mohammed & Dr. Akilah Jefferson

Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule May 2013

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

- May 2 **Radiology Conference**
Dr. Kathleen Brindle, Associate Professor of Radiology
Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology
- May 2 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108
- May 9 **Quality Improvement Project**
Dr. Tina Shah
- May 9 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6108
- May 16 **"How to Read a Paper"**
Dr. James Katz, Professor of Medicine
- May 16 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108
- May 23 **"NSAIDs Efficacy and Toxicity"**
Dr. Rodolfo Curiel, Associate Professor of Medicine
- May 23 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108
- May 30 **Journal Club**
Dr. Mahsa Tehrani
- May 30 Didactic Sessions
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108

Kudos & Congratulations

Congratulations ... to Dr. Kenneth Becker, Professor, Endocrinology & Metabolism, who is the 2013 recipient of the "American College of Physicians John Phillips Memorial Award for Outstanding Work in Clinical Medicine." The award was presented on April 11 at the ACP Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The ACP cited Dr. Becker's work in identifying procalcitonin, localizing production in neuroendocrine cells in the lung and characterizing it as a biomarker of inflammation and sepsis, as well as his work as editor of *Principles and Practice of Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

More Kudos ... to Dr. Tsung O. Cheng, Professor, Cardiology, whose unfailing consistency continues to amaze us. He is yet again the first Medicine faculty member to complete his annual report and make an appointment to meet with Dr. Wasserman. It is like a harbinger of Spring. Thank you Dr. Cheng!

Congratulations ... to Mr. Alex Fortenko, MS2, who placed honorable mention in the 2013 *Pharos* Poetry Competition for his poem, "Negatives". He won a cash prize and his poem will appear in a future issue of *The Pharos*, a publication of ΑΩΑ Honorary Medical Society.

Also ... to Mr. Devin Patel, MS3, who was awarded the 2013 "ΑΩΑ Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship". His Project is entitled, "Mapping Back and Lower Extremity Pain Relief with Percutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation Placement". **Dr. Mehul Desai**, Director, Pain Medicine and Non-Operative Spine Services at the MFA, is his mentor. The award comes with financial support.

See you next month! *The Editor*



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