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

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 Panjrat
May 16  Medicine Grand Rounds
May 17  Chairman’s Rounds
May 20  (HVCCC) - Quality Improvement 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

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

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<td>GOLD TEAM</td>
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ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager
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.

Kudos and Congratulations (continued on page 4)

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

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
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 ΩΩΩ Honorary Medical Society.

Also ... to Mr. Devin Patel, MS3, who was awarded the 2013 "ΩΩΩ 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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