The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will cure Cancer. Why not? Nothing else has been able to do it. When did the war on Cancer begin? It is generally regarded as going back to Richard Nixon and the National Cancer act of 1971. The act does not refer to it as a “war” so as not to interfere with Nixon’s non-war in Vietnam. I think he called it a “police action” against Cancer. It interests me and astounds others that what started out as a pejorative, Obama has embraced. Why not? What could be better than being associated with a bill that gives millions of Americans access to health insurance? I bet LBJ would have been thrilled if Medicare was now known as Johnsoncare or Lyndoncare or better yet LadyBirdcare. Look what the Marshall plan did for Marshall. Then again, I bet Hoover could have lived without Hooverville.

More people will die from Cancer each year than the number of people who have died from HIV since the start of the epidemic, yet funding for HIV research has almost equaled funding for Cancer research. More Americans die from cardiovascular diseases (heart attack and stroke) than from any other cause, yet funding for cardiovascular diseases dwarfs that for cancer and HIV. Why does this make any sense? Is it because infectious diseases have a much more frightening connotation? Is it because of the fact that in the U.S., HIV was originally confined to one population of young individuals who were brilliant at PR? Whatever the reason, it was an amazingly successful campaign, and that endeavor is one of the great medical success stories of our time. A fatal disease was relegated into a chronic condition.

Because of sequestration, the NIH budget has been cut about 6% or $1.7 billion dollars and 1400 grants will go unfunded. You can’t get any news from the web sites of NIH without getting this message “Due to the lapse in government funding, the information on this web site may not be up to date.” Don’t try to look for the latest and greatest clinical trial.

Are Cancer and Cardiovascular disease both more resistant to general cures or control than HIV or have we just not invested enough to find out? Certainly, strides have been made in both and in the case of certain cancers, cures are achievable. In others, like pancreas and ovarian there hasn’t been much progress. The pharmaceutical industry, and not NIH, through the introduction of Statins has made the most progress in slowing the epidemic of cardiovascular disease. Stents, defibrillators, etc., have also helped, but it is frustrating that the great hope of gene therapy has not come close to its promise of eradicating or controlling either disease, with minor exceptions.

But what can you expect when this country is being led by a Congress that is spending most of its time trying to rescind a law of expanding health care. These crazies haven’t spent the last 4 years trying to improve the Affordable Care Act, only trying to destroy it. What is their substitute? Why isn’t Universal Health Care a right? Why can’t someone explain this better to the American public?
Department of Medicine  
November 2013 Grand

Nov 7  “Advances in Interventional Endoscopy”  
Showkat Bashir, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Gastroenterology  
Department of Medicine  
The GW Medical Faculty Associates

Nov 14  “X+1 Implementation into the Residency Program”  
Marc Shalaby, MD  
Program Director, Primary Care Residency  
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine  
Division of General Internal Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania Health System  
Penn Presbyterian Medical Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nov 21  “Aplastic Anemia”  
Danielle Townsley, MD, MSc  
Staff Clinician, Cell Biology Section  
National Heart Lung Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, MD

Nov 28  Cancelled – Holiday

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.

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

Nov 6  Sanjay Shah, MD  
GWU Internal Medicine Resident  
Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy

Wes Fisher, MD  
GWU Internal Medicine Resident  
Sudden Cardiac Arrests in Athletes

Nov 13  Sabyasachi Sen, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Division of Endocrinology  
Department of Medicine  
GW Medical Faculty Associates  
Topic TBD

Nov 20  American Heart Association Annual Sessions

Nov 27  Cancelled - Thanksgiving Holiday

Chairman’s Rounds  
GWU Hospital Auditorium, 12:00 Noon  
All Faculty Invited to Attend

Nov 1  Dr. Andrew Mener & Dr. Ashely Charter

Resident Lecture Series  
November 2013 Noon Conference

Nov 1  Chairman’s Rounds  
Nov 4  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 5  Journal Club  
Nov 6  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 7  Medicine Grand Rounds  
Nov 8  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 11  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 12  “Aortic Disease” – Dr. Ramesh Mazhari  
Nov 13  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 14  Medicine Grand Rounds  
Nov 15  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 18  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 19  “The Pregnant Woman in Rheumatology” – Dr. Nora Taylor  
Nov 20  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 21  Medicine Grand Rounds  
Nov 22  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 25  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 26  Mortality & Morbidity  
Nov 27  Recruitment/Resident Luncheon  
Nov 28  Cancelled – Thanksgiving Holiday  
Nov 29  Cancelled – Thanksgiving Holiday

Medicine Team Contacts

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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
Alan Wasserman, MD Remarks at Jeffrey Akman, MD Bloedorn Professor Installation Ceremony

It is an honor to be asked to speak today and I am doing so on behalf of the faculty at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences because today is a very special day for us also. But before I continue, does anyone know who William Dawes was?

Poor William Dawes road with Paul Revere to Lexington to warn about the British invasion. Paul Revere went north and Dawes road south. Revere having built bridges in the community among various different constituencies woke up town leaders and militia commanders to give them the news. Dawes wasn’t very well connected and was singularly focused on getting to Lexington. Revere had the people behind him, as well as the faster horse and the shorter distance and beat Dawes by 30 minutes. Paul Revere road into history while Dawes road into obscurity.

What does this have to do with Jeff, good question? The reason Jeff received the unanimous recommendation from the chairs to be at first interim and then permanent Dean and VP was because over his many years at GW he has fostered relationships with everyone. He was a student, a trainee, and then as a clinician helped develop the field of HIV/AIDS psychiatry in the mid to late-80’s; he spent time as an Associate Dean and in 2000 became the Chair of Psychiatry. No one could have fashioned a career more perfectly suited to learn from and to interact with more people at the university in the clinical, research and administrative areas to prepare themselves for becoming Dean and Vice President. GW has been Jeff’s home and his passion and this is why today he is riding into history.

Jeff has developed or inherited the qualities that make him the right person at this time for this position. His honesty, along with the trust that this engenders, is only second to the joy he exudes in performing his job. He is not just focused on his own agenda but listens and gives everyone a chance to participate before acting.

If he doesn’t agree with you he will tell you why and he never makes it personal. You could tell he loved being Chair of Psychiatry and even though he took over as interim dean during a somewhat chaotic period (although when do Universities have anything else but chaotic periods) you could see that not only was he up to the many tasks that he confronted but he approached them with a desire for making things better, which he accomplished.

But Jeff’s most important achievement has been to instill in the faculty a new sense of pride and belonging. We are no longer embarrassed to be the school on probation but are looking forward to a new curriculum, completing new chair searches and adding more clinical and research based faculty. The best way I can describe this (after just returning from Paris and brushing up on my French) is to say that today we are kvelling.

The faculty is energized to continue to achieve the School’s development goals and to surpass whatever measures are set as we did this last year. And as I announced last night at the MFA annual meeting, the faculty has significantly increased the School’s research funding well beyond last year’s level.

These early accomplishments are a direct result of Jeff’s leadership and call to arms and show what promise the future holds for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. This is a great day that many of us thought would never occur but with strong and smart leadership good things usually happen and that very good thing for us is being able to participate in the installation of Dr. Akman as the Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Administrative Medicine.

New Lupus Clinic

The George Washington University Medical Faculty Associates is pleased to announce the “Lupus clinic”, a multidisciplinary clinic for the comprehensive care of patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. This clinic will be co-directed by Rodolfo Curiel MD (Rheumatology) and Scott Cohen MD (Nephrology). Dr. Cohen completed special training in the treatment of lupus associated kidney diseases at Columbia University-New York Presbyterian Hospital. Please call 202-741-3333 to request an appointment in the Lupus Clinic.
Kudos & Congratulations

Kudos ... to Dr. Nathan Punwani, PGY1, whose letter to the editor regarding the Affordable Care Act and the possible negative effect that health insurance competition can have on cost, appeared in the *The New York Times*.

More Kudos ... to Dr. Neeral Shah, former resident and Chief Resident (2004-2005), now on faculty at UVA, was chosen for the 2013 Herbert S. Waxman Award by the ACP, in recognition of the time he spends and the impact he has with medical students.

Even More Kudos ... to the Rodham Institute, which received the Dr. Walter M. Booker Health Promotion Award from the Association of Black Cardiologists on September 28th.

Applause ... the Chinese American Heart Association joined the Great Wall International Cardiology Congress at its 18th Annual Congress in Beijing in October to inaugurate a special Tsung O Cheng Lectureship. Congratulations Dr. Cheng!

Congratulations ... to Dr. Sara Wikstrom, Division of Hospital Medicine, and her husband Jay, on the October birth of their first child, a son named John.

Also ... to Dr. Tarun Kapoor, former resident and Chief Resident (2003-2004), and his wife on the birth, this past summer, of their first child, a son named Rishi.

Warm Wishes ... to Dr. Steven Quinn, PGY2, on his September 27th nuptials in Chicago, IL to Jomarie Rivera, a pediatrics resident at the University of Maryland.

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See you next month! The Editor

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