From the Chairman

Usually, one of the most enjoyable things I do is to sit down with the Sunday New York Times and slowly wind my way from the front page to the sports page to the arts section, etc. I usually save the review/opinion section and the book review for bedtime reading. What a mistake that was last week. Most of the time I get upset reading Maureen Dowd who now writes about all the things that she hates that Trump does after spending years putting down Hillary Clinton. That bothers me almost as much as the Times playing a large role in justifying the war on Iraq by substantiating the likelihood of nuclear and chemical weapons in that country.

The week of September 16th however, it was much worse. It hit close to home. The editorial addressed the issue of potential corrupting payments by drug and device companies to medical researchers which are then not acknowledged. And it wasn’t just any researcher that triggered this editorial. It was about the lack of forthrightness of the chief scientific officer of Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He “repeatedly failed to disclose millions in industry payments.” This physician was a giant in the field of breast cancer. He failed to disclose financial conflicts from multiple publications and “praised two drug trials that many of his peers thought were failures, failing to disclose that the trials sponsor was a drug company he that had paid him millions of dollars.”

It is hard for me to imagine why anyone would conceal their potential conflicts. I spoke for Genentech for many years for two reasons; first, because very few people were getting optimal treatment for their acute MI and someone or everyone had to spread the word, second, I believed that the drug they made tPa was superior to the other much cheaper drug streptokinase. However, because of the thousands of dollars difference in price many experts expressed a dislike for Genentech by touting the fact that streptokinase was just as good and worked in multiple (unproved) ways. To me it made no scientific sense. tPa opened occluded coronary arteries significantly more frequently than streptokinase and that was the path to improved survival. I took a lot of abuse during that time but always made it clear that I was being funded by Genentech and had solid reasons for my opinion. Of course disclosing this conflict led to accusations of being bought off. Nothing I could do about that.

Finally, a head to head comparison was done in a very large 100,000 pt. clinical trial. I still remember the day the results were presented and fully vindicated my belief. And then it was as if there had never been a controversy. Everyone was on the Genentech bandwagon, eager to be speakers on their behalf. That’s when I stopped since there were more than enough physicians to get the word out.

I am sure I couldn’t have lived with myself if I didn’t disclose my conflict, but truthfully, I never contemplated that I could be wrong. I know that is an unusual statement about me given my known trait of being open to new ideas.

Unfortunately, the bad publicity and shame this one New York physician has brought on our profession probably makes any chance of bringing back drug company pens a moot issue.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.
Department of Medicine
October 2018 Grand Rounds

OCT 4 “Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Gynecologic Cancers”
Beverly Long, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
GW Medical Faculty Associates

OCT 11 “Evaluation of Symptomatic Women with Stable Ischemic Heart Disease”
Leslee Shaw, PhD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Women’s Health Research
Co-Director, Emory Clinical Cardiovascular Research Institute
Division of Cardiology
Emory University School of Medicine

OCT 18 “Suicide Screening and Prevention”
Christine Moutier, MD
Chief Medical Officer
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

OCT 25 “Male Hypogonadism”
Michael Irwig, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director, Andrology
Division of Endocrinology
Department of Medicine

Cardiology Grand Rounds
5:00 PM, Ross Hall, Room # 227

OCT 3 M & M

OCT 10 Women’s Heart Visiting Professor
Leslee Shaw, PhD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Women’s Health Research
Co-Director, Emory Clinical Cardiovascular Research Institute
Division of Cardiology
Emory University School of Medicine
TBD

OCT 17 Vinod Thourani, MD
Chairman, Department of Cardiac Surgery
Medstar Heart and Vascular Institute
Structural Heart Disease

OCT 24 Victor Cotton, MD, JD
President, Law & Medicine
Hershey, Pennsylvania
Common Medical-Legal Dilemmas in Cardiology

OCT 31 David Goldstein, MD, PhD
Senior Investigator, Clinical Neurocardiology Section
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Neuro-Cardiology Grand Rounds

Resident Lecture Series
October 2018 Noon Conference

OCT 1 Jeopardy
OCT 2 Journal Club
OCT 3 GME Core Lecture
OCT 4 Medicine Grand Rounds
OCT 5 Chairman’s Rounds
OCT 8 Cancer Genetic Counseling– Elizabeth Stark
OCT 9 Patient Safety Conference
OCT 10 “Interstitial Lung Disease”– Dr. Morgan Delaney
OCT 11 Medicine Grand Rounds
OCT 12 Chairman’s Rounds
OCT 15 Recruitment conference
OCT 16 CPC
OCT 17 GME Core Lecture
OCT 18 Medicine Grand Rounds
OCT 19 Chairman’s Rounds
OCT 22 “An Introduction to Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain”– Dr. Harsha Nair
OCT 23 Diabetes Technology– Tamara Swigert
OCT 24 “Acute Respiratory Failure”– Dr. Chris Junker
OCT 25 Medicine Grand Rounds
OCT 26 Social Lunch
OCT 29 NEJM Clinical Case
OCT 30 Sodium– Dr. Shailendra Sharma
OCT 31 Interview Lunch

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCMCE) 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).

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If you have trouble with your MedHub account, please contact Deborah Corvalan at dcorvalan@mfa.gwu.edu.
American College of Physicians 2019 Awards

It is unusual for one chapter of the ACP to receive one award let alone the 5 major awards described below. This is a great achievement.

Hind Rafei, MD, recent graduate of our residency program who is now doing an oncology fellowship at MD Anderson, is the recipient of the Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award. This award recognizes a Resident/Fellow member of the College who has demonstrated qualities that exemplify the College’s mission “to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.” The following is from Dr. Jillian Catalanotti’s letter of recommendation, “Dr. Hind Rafei has already made significant contributions to the field of medicine through excellence in research and publications, for which she has garnered local, national and international recognition. Her excellence in scholarship, her professionalism and her dedication to creating the ongoing body of medical science exemplifies the ACP’s mission. These achievements are above and beyond her excellence in patient care and local leadership.”

From Dr. Rafei to Dr. Catalanotti, “I am forever grateful for all your support and always proud of GW legacy. Congratulations on your award, I can’t think of anyone who deserves this honor better than you do!”

Jillian Catalanotti, MD is the recipient of the Walter J. McDonald Award for Early Career Physicians. This award recognizes outstanding achievement by a physician member who is within 16 years of graduating medical school and who is not an ACP Medical Student or Resident/Fellow Member. The following is from Dr. Wasserman’s letter of recommendation, “I believe that Dr. Catalanotti is an excellent candidate to receive the Walter J. McDonald Award as an early career physician. She signifies all the best in a young physician who has accomplished an amazing amount in a relatively short period of time. I give her my unqualified recommendation and believe she will continue to be an asset not only to GW but to the ACP and the internal medicine community on a national basis. I expected great things from Jill, which she has achieved, but I expect even more and I believe she is worthy of this honor.”

Lawrence Deyton, MD (Bopper) is the recipient of the James D. Bruce Memorial Award for Distinguished Contributions in Preventative Medicine. This award is bestowed for distinguished contributions in preventative medicine. The following is from Dr. Wasserman’s letter of recommendation, “Dr. Deyton has had an amazing career that has touched thousands if not millions of lives …

….continued along the way always for the better. His work was important, impactful, and sustained. He is truly an American hero. I am so pleased that he is now a faculty member in the Department of Medicine, which I chair and a resource to me second to none. He is fully deserving of receiving the Bruce Memorial Award and I am excited to be able to support his nomination.”

Also, congratulations to Dr. Marie Borum, Gastroenterology, and Helen Burstin, MD, General Internal Medicine, for receiving the Mastership award. Masters must be highly accomplished persons demonstrating eminence in practice, leadership, or in medical research.

Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newest Addition to the Faculty

Hana Akselrod, MD, MPH joined the MFA in July as a Clinical Instructor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Akselrod earned her Medical Degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY, 2013, and her MPH from Yale University School of Public Health, CT, 2012. Her Residency in Internal Medicine was completed in 2016 at Maine Medical Center, ME. She then completed her Fellowship in Infectious Diseases here at The George Washington University, this past June 2018.

She is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and is board eligible in Infectious Diseases. Dr. Akselrod is licensed in the District of Columbia.

During her time here, Dr. Akselrod will see patients, teach and grow her experience in research. Her special interests lie in the area of HIV, Travel Medicine, and Public Health.
### Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule

**October 2018**

2300 M Street, N.W., Suite 3-332  
8AM—11:30 AM  
Questions: Call (202) 741-2488

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<td>OCT 4</td>
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<td>Radiology Conference-Dr. K. Brindle</td>
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<td>OCT 4</td>
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<td>Interview Day</td>
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<td>OCT 11</td>
<td>8:00-9:00 AM</td>
<td>Journal Club—Dr. McBride and Dr. Aggarwal</td>
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<td>American College of Rheumatology National Meeting</td>
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<td>OCT 25</td>
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<td>Patient Safety Monitoring</td>
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<td>OCT 25</td>
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<td>Knowledge Bowl and Rheumatology Board Training/Preparation</td>
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### Kudos and Congratulations

**Kudos to Dr. David Parenti**, Infectious Diseases, on a patient letter written to Dr. Kelly, "He sets a new standard of care, he never rushes when we meet... he listens intently and compassionately, I am alive because of him."

**Kudos to Drs. Tracy, Mercader and Andrew Choi**, on praise from a colleague, “I approached for a patient who needed an urgent cardiac assessment. All the three of them went over and beyond to accommodate the patient. This exemplifies dedication to patient care and collegiality.”

**Kudos to Dr. Adebayo Atanda**, Cardiology fellow, on compliments from the hospital, "The feedback is that you have been extremely responsive and attentive to your patients and always available and willing to answer all questions.”

**Congratulations to Dr. Samir Patel**, former faculty, fellow, chief resident at GW MFA, on being selected as the new Section Chief of Nephrology at the VA.

### Condolences to the families of...

**Dr. Louis DePalma**, Professor of Pathology and Director of Clinical Pathology, passed away last month.

**Sheldon S. Cohen**, GW University Board of Trustees chairman emeritus, served on board for 22 years passed away last month.