**Medicine Faculty Receive Prestigious New Grants**

Dr. Dominic Raj and the Division of Renal Diseases & Hypertension has been awarded two UO-1 grants from the NIH. These multi-million dollar grants will examine the role of gut microbiome on inflammation and cardiovascular disease. They will be conducted over a 5 year period with a possible 5 year extension. The hope is that the outcome of these studies will develop a new paradigm in the management of CKD and ESRD patients on hemodialysis.

Instrumental to the success of the grant proposal were division members Dr. Ali Ramezani, PhD, Dr. Scott Cohen, Dr. Nicolas Guzman, Dr. Carlos Palant (VA), and Dr. Samir Patel.

Dr. Richard Katz, Director, Division of Cardiology, has received a $1.9 million award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to study an mHealth Initiative for a three-year project to study the combined use of mobile phones and community health workers to enhance patient management of chronic disease.

The research team, which includes Dr. Joshua Cohen, Interim Director, Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism and Dr. Anne Cioletti, Division of General Internal Medicine, will combine traditional (community health workers) and modern (mobile phones) healthcare strategies for improved diabetes care.

**From the Chairman**

The Physician Payments Sunshine Act (Sunshine Act) requires manufacturers of drugs, medical devices and biologicals that participate in U.S. federal health care programs to report certain payments and items of value given to physicians. In addition, manufacturers and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) must report certain ownership interests held by physicians and their immediate family members. The majority of the information contained in the reports will be available on a public, searchable website.

However, a transfer of anything the value of which is less than $10 does not need to be reported, unless the aggregate amount transferred to, requested by, or designated on behalf of the covered recipient by the manufacturer during the calendar year exceeds $100, subject to increase each year using the consumer price index. Obviously, $100 is the point at which physicians lose their objectivity and are beholden to the pharmaceutical or device industry that provided them whatever extravagance $101 affords.

Let’s compare this to the House of Representatives where a seat on the Financial Services Committee is coveted. PAC’s trying to push their agenda in Congress donate more money to these committee members than to members of any other committee (not that the others don’t also do well). To allow more members to eat at the trough, the committee has grown from 44 members in 1980 to 61 today. I am sure it’s just because there is much more work to do and not that this is the most lucrative committee for fund raising.

One former member, a Democrat from North Carolina, in a moment of weakness that probably accounts for why he is a former representative said, “it’s only natural that a vote one way or other is going to affect the ability to raise money.” Which way do you think he will vote? Most will just say that their votes are based on what they believe is in the best interest of their constituents and has nothing to do with pleasing contributors.

One representative received, according to the Washington Post, a hefty donation prior to a hearing where he promised to defend a special tax exempt provision for a company, and coincidentally I am sure, received another equally large amount after the hearing was complete. My favorite example of chutzpah is the congresswoman who after receiving a significant contribution sponsored a bill that would block a rule intended to prevent life insurance brokers from selling financial products they know not to be in the best interest of their clients. Do you know how hard it must be to pretend doing something like this is in the best interest of their constituents? The Representative said that she wanted to make sure her people had access to all options even the fraudulent ones.

What I touch on here is just the tip of the iceberg. At least they aren’t accepting pens or notepads. Imagine if Congress had a $100 reporting law. Actually, they have an even stricter law that is easy to get around. A lobbyist can’t take a member of congress to lunch unless it is called a fund-raising lunch at which point all bets are off and the money can flow freely. Freshmen representatives are instructed to spend 4 hours a day raising money. Whatever happened to the concept of term limits? If you can’t be re-elected you don’t need to fund raise while in office. Certainly seems like a much better idea now. It doesn’t help to have a Sunshine law if you have no morals to start with.

*Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.*
**Department of Medicine**

**October 2013 Grand Rounds**

Oct 3  "**Dermatology in Medicine**"

**Brendan Camp, MD**  
Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology  
Department of Dermatology  
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Oct 10  "**AFib Ablation**"

**Marco Mercader, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Division of Cardiology  
Department of Medicine  
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Oct 17  "**Prostate Cancer Screening**"

**Compton Benjamin, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Urology  
Department of Urology  
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Oct 24  "**Diseases of the Retina**"

**Veena Raiji, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology  
Department of Ophthalmology  
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Oct 31  "**Prostate Cancer Treatment Options**"

**Jeanny Aragon-Ching, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Hematology and Oncology  
Department of Medicine  
The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

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**Cardiology Grand Rounds**

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

Oct 2  Joseph Alpert, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Director, Coronary Care Unit  
Medical Director, Cardiac Rehab  
University of Arizona Medical Center  
The History of Modern Cardiology

Oct 9  Mortality & Morbidity Conference

Oct 16  Hans Moore, MD  
Washington DC VA Medical Center  
Observations from the VA National Cardiac Device Surveillance Center

Oct 23  Pamela Morris, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Director of Preventative Cardiology  
Director, Seinsheimer Cardiovascular Health Program  
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston  
Women's Cardiac Health

Oct 30  TBA

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**Resident Lecture Series**

**October 2013 Noon Conference**

Oct 1  Journal Club

Oct 2  "Oral Anticoagulants" - Dr. Joseph Alpert

Oct 3  Medicine Grand Rounds

Oct 4  Chairman’s Rounds

Oct 7  “Sx Management” - Dr. Danielle Doberman

Oct 8  Clinicopathologic Conference -  
Drs. Jessica Davis and Mohamed Houry

Oct 9  TBA

Oct 10  Medicine Grand Rounds

Oct 11  Chairman’s Rounds

Oct 14  Loan Repayment Programs

Oct 15  “Morbidity and Mortality” -  
Drs. Niharika Tipirneni and Julianne Camba

Oct 16  TBA

Oct 17  Medicine Grand Rounds

Oct 18  “Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy” - Dr. Jannet Lewis

Oct 21  Jeopardy

Oct 22  "Vasculitis" - Dr. Mandana Hashefi

Oct 23  Emergency Medicine / Internal Medicine Conference

Oct 24  Medicine Grand Rounds

Oct 25  Chairman’s Rounds

Oct 28  TBA

Oct 29  Clinicopathologic Conference -  
Drs. Georges Al Helou and Mohammed Gibreal

Oct 30  TBA

Oct 31  Medicine Grand Rounds

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**Medicine Team Contacts**

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**GREEN TEAM**  
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**BLUE TEAM**  
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**SILVER TEAM**  
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**PURPLE TEAM**  
(202) 715-6042

**GOLD TEAM**  
(202) 715-6044

ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager

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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 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.
Abstracts selected for presentation at American College of Gastroenterology

Congratulations to the Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases for the numerous abstracts which were selected for presentation at the annual American College of Gastroenterology meeting this month and will be published in the American Journal of Gastroenterology. Most of the GI faculty participated in one or more of the abstract submissions. Students, residents and GI fellows also participated in the 17 research projects and clinical vignettes that will be presented.

Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newest Additions to the Medicine Faculty

Dr. Lauren Mauro, joins the Division of Hematology/Oncology this month. Dr. Mauro just completed her Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in June. Dr. Mauro earned her medical degree from Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University in Chicago, IL. During her residency she received a 2007 Teaching Award and also, the 2008 Department of Medicine Residency Award for Excellence in Outpatient Care.

Dr. Mauro is board certified in Internal Medicine. Her research and clinical interests include Medical Oncology and Gastrointestinal Cancers. Appointments can be made with Dr. Mauro by calling 202-741-2210.

Dr. Sambhav (Sam) Karki, has joined the Division of Hospital Medicine on the Rehab Service, or rather returns as a faculty member, since he completed his residency training here at GWU in June 2013. Dr. Karki earned his medical degree from The George Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Karki speaks Nepali.

Dr. Dipti Patel, is also joining the Division of Hospital Medicine on the Rehab Service as a faculty member after completing her residency training here at GWU this past June. Dr. Patel earned her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine. Dr. Karki speaks Nepali.

Ariel Hollingshead, PhD, Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Ariel Hollingshead, MA, PhD, is one of four recipients of the 77th annual Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award (DAAA), the highest form of recognition given by GWU to an alum on an annual basis. Each recipient receiving the DAAA has made a lasting impact on society through outstanding professional, voluntary or philanthropic accomplishments.

Dr. Hollingshead earned an MA in ’55 and a PhD in ’57, both in pharmacology. She joined the faculty at GW in ’59 in Pharmacology, becoming a Professor of Medicine in ’74, later receiving an MD (h.c.). She retired from GWUMC in ’91 as Professor Emerita.

While at GW she established the Laboratory for Virus and Cancer Research. Her research led to early advances in tumor-associated antigens (TAA). She produced over 275 published scientific papers detailing her work using monoclonal antibodies and TAA vaccines. She is described by her colleagues as the “Mother of Immunotherapy”.

She has received many national awards including being named the Medical Woman of the Year by the Joint Board of American Medical Colleges in 1976.

Dr. Alan Wasserman presented Dr. Hollingshead with the DAAA at the award dinner held at the Four Seasons Hotel on September 26, 2013.
### Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule
#### October 2013

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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td><strong>Journal Club</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Mahsa Tehrani, MD</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Didactic Sessions</td>
<td>1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108</td>
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| Oct 10 | **"NSAID Toxicity"**                       | Dr. Rodolfo Curiel, Associate Professor of Medicine  
Dr. Mahnaz Momeni, Assistant Professor of Medicine |
| Oct 17 | Didactic Sessions                          | 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108        |
| Oct 17 | **“Interstitial Pneumonitis”**             | Dr. Nora Taylor, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine |
| Oct 24 | **Intra-City Rheumatology Grand Rounds**   | NOTE LOCATION: Walter Reed/Navy Hospital  
NOTE TIME: 7:30 AM                                |
| Oct 24 | Didactic Sessions                          | 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108        |
| Oct 31 | Cancelled – Annual ACR meeting             |                                               |

### Kudos & Congratulations

**Kudos ...** Dr. Chavon Onumah, General Internal Medicine, who received a letter from a patient thanking her for providing excellent care. She stated that “her ability to listen and translate medical therapy into advice and actions was so refreshing.”

**More Kudos ...** to Dr. Sally Che, PGY3, receiving praise from the Acting Chief of Hematology at the VA, who stated “Dr. Che’s fund of knowledge is excellent and she was very well liked by all the members of the team. Couldn’t have asked for a better resident” Way to go!!

**Even More Kudos ...** to Drs. Cristina Amado, PGY3, Erin Davidson, PGY2, and Alex Ross, PGY2, from an Allergy Fellow at NIH who wrote to show her appreciation for their hard work. “The attendings thought they were super, it’s unusual that they are still talking about them now a week later!”

**Kudos also ...** to Drs. Shivangi Pandya, PGY3, and Niki Kumar, PGY2, who received compliments from hospital patients on the excellent care they received while at the hospital.

**Congratulations ...** to Dr. Afsoon Roberts, Division of Infectious Diseases, who was awarded fellowship in the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

**More Congratulations ...** to Drs. Gary Simon and Afsoon Roberts, Division of Infectious Diseases, who’s article on “Diabetic Foot Infections: The Role of Microbiology and Antibiotic Treatment” was the top downloaded article from Seminars in Vascular Surgery.

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See you next month! The Editor

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