



# GW Medicine Notes

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## Dr. Jillian Catalanotti New Residency Director

Please join us in welcoming our new Residency Director, Dr. Jillian Catalanotti, who has taken over the Internal Medicine Residency Program this month.

She joined us back in 2008 and ever since has been a great role model to students. Dr. Catalanotti states that "I am so lucky to get to work with the high caliber residents and faculty we have here at GW. I look forward to working together towards our common goals of delivering compassionate, evidence-based patient care, providing high quality education for our residents, and fostering an environment that values teaching, learning, and teamwork."

Evaluations have described her as "An incredible and inspirational mentor; She combines enthusiasm, knowledge, availability, and efficiency. Her fund of knowledge, professionalism, teaching, great attitude make her a fantastic preceptor."

Jill earned her medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine and received her residency training in Internal Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. While getting her medical degree she also went on and obtained her M.P.H. from Harvard University School of Public Health.

She has been the director of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical school course for the last two years. Currently, she co-directs the Underserved Medicine and Public Health Concentration (UMPH) Program and has secured funding for resident participants. She is also the course co-director and co-designer of the Community Health Elective Program.

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## From the Chairman

I find this topic *almost* too embarrassing to write about but somehow I will muddle through. In 2002 I was asked to be on the Charlie Rose show to talk about President Bush's fainting spell after eating a pretzel. Conspiracy theories of a more serious illness were prominent and the show was disappointed when I said I thought "he had a vagal episode after swallowing (choking) on a pretzel." Since that wasn't what they wanted to hear I had my 10 seconds of air time and was dismissed. I only agreed to comment since all the facts were known and already reported and all I could do was explain what a vagal episode was. But that is not what they wanted. They wanted to know what else this could be and what was being hidden.

Sensationalism makes news and there is no shortage of *experts* ready to comment on any medical issue as we discovered throughout the Cheney journey towards a healthy heart. President George W. Bush's recent cardiac episode sets a new standard for degrading the medical profession. Note these two headlines regarding his care; the first from the Washington Post, "*President Bush's unnecessary surgery*" and the second from the Society for Heart Attack Prevention and Eradication's web site, "*Task Force Applauds President Bush's Medical Team ...*" These two examples are just a sample of the many renowned pundits that found a need to comment.

The first states that he was an asymptomatic vigorous individual who, because he received VIP treatment, was diagnosed with a coronary blockage that would never have hurt him. The authors (one is a *chief oncology fellow* at NIH), are concerned that this example will lead to more unnecessary testing paid for by Medicare. The second states that without the diagnostic procedures done he would have become another of the over 600,000 Americans who die each year from heart attacks. They lament that most insurance, including Medicare, do not pay for many of the procedures Bush received.

I realize you think that I am embarrassed by the amazing dichotomy of opinions regarding his care. No, I couldn't care less that people disagree about treatment options. What I am appalled by is that individuals and groups are commenting with no idea of his entire presentation. Their assumptions are totally dependent on him being asymptomatic. The Post article states that *few facts* are known about the case but then goes on to write an entire dissertation. Maybe being an oncology fellow gives one more insight into cardiac conditions. The task force *assumes* that he was tested because he had other risk factors. In other words, they know NOTHING ABOUT THE CASE.

It is not easy treating patients and even harder given the public scrutiny that goes along with treating a VIP. Why can't we assume that the physicians treating him had only his interest in mind and used their ability to provide the best care they could? Broader questions regarding the best way to screen for coronary disease are important to discuss and debate but not by individuals or groups trying to promote themselves and their own self-centered opinions using a case, of which they are totally ignorant. In this case ignorance is not bliss, it's just stupidity.

What I should have said on the Rose show was "these pretzels are making me thirsty."

*Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FACULTY/HOUSESTAFF**  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2013**  
**FOUR SEASONS**  
**WASHINGTON DC HOTEL**

## Department of Medicine September 2013 Grand Rounds

Sept 5 **Cancelled– Holiday**

Sept 12 **"Care of presidents after  
assassination attempts"**

**Joseph Giordano, MD**

Emeritus Professor of Surgery  
Former Chair of Surgery  
GW University Medical School

Sept 19 **"Hepatitis C Update"**

**Marc Siegel, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Infectious Diseases  
Department of Medicine  
The GW Medical Faculty Associates

### The 12th Annual HY Zimmerman Memorial Lecture

Sept 26 "TBA"

**Mitchell Shiffman, MD**

Liver Institute of Virginia  
Bon Secours Hampton Roads Health System  
Hampton Roads and Richmond, Virginia

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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ADMITTING RESIDENT 741-0161 pager

## Cardiology Grand Rounds

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

Sept 4 **No Conference** : Rosh Hashannah

Sept 11 **Mortality & Morbidity Conference**

Sept 18 **No Conference**

Sept 25 **Allen Solomon, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
Division of Cardiology  
GW Medical Faculty Associates  
**Atrial Fibrillation and Dementia**



## Resident Lecture Series September 2013 Noon Conference

Sept 3 **Journal Club**

Sept 4 **Jeopardy**

Sept 5 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Sept 6 **Chairman's Rounds**

Sept 9 **"Rheumatologic Emergencies"- Dr. Rodolfo Curiel**

Sept 10 **Clinicopathologic Conference**

**Drs. Ashlee Metcalf and Salim Daouk**

Sept 11 **Clinical Documentation Session**

Sept 12 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Sept 13 **Chairman's Rounds**

Sept 16 **"Cancer Screening in Women"**

**Dr. P. Sheena Khurana**

Sept 17 **"Congestive Heart Failure"-Dr. Gurusher Panjraht**

Sept 18 **"Headaches"-Dr. Henry Kaminski**

Sept 19 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Sept 20 **ID lecture**

Sept 23 **TBA**

Sept 24 **"Morbidity and Mortality"- Drs. Reda Shams and**

**Ashley Stycynski**

Sept 25 **Malnutrition lecture**

Sept 26 **Medicine Grand Rounds**

Sept 27 **Chairman's Rounds**

Sept 30 **Administrative Noon Conference**

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

**Dr. Anita B. Kumar**, joins the Division of Gastroenterology, or rather returns as a faculty member since she completed her gastroenterology fellowship here at GWU in June 2013. Dr. Kumar earned her medical degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine where she was ranked in the first quartile of her class.

Dr. Kumar completed her internal medicine residency and her gastroenterology fellowship training at GWU. She is board certified in internal medicine. Her clinical and research interests include hepatitis C, inflammatory bowel disease, and celiac disease. Dr. Kumar speaks Hindi and Punjabi.

**Dr. Sabyasachi Sen**, joins the Division of Endocrinology. Dr. Sen is joining us from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, MA, where he has been on faculty since 2008. He has also served as Principal Investigator at the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (PVLISI) since that time.

Dr. Sen received his medical degree from R.G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta University in Calcutta, India. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center. He then went on to complete his endocrinology fellowship at National Institute of Health.

Dr. Sen is board certified in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology. His clinical and research interests include lipid metabolism, vascular complications of diabetes, obesity, insulinoma, endocrine hypertension, and osteoporosis.

**Dr. Christian Nagy** joins the Division of Cardiology this month. Dr. Nagy received his dual general cardiology and pediatric cardiology fellowship at John Hopkins University School of Medicine and did his 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of interventional cardiology fellowship at the University of Toronto and 3<sup>rd</sup> year finished at Tufts Medical Center in Massachusetts.

Dr. Nagy completed his medical degree at the University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Medical Faculty of the Friedrich-Alexander in Erlangen, Germany. He completed his combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics residency, which included an additional Chief year, at Bridgeport Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.

He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiology, General Pediatrics, and Pediatric Cardiology. His clinical interests include interventional cardiology, coronary artery disease, structural heart disease, transcatheter aortic valve replacement, and adult congenital heart disease. Dr. Nagy speaks German and Romanian.

Please join us in welcoming Drs. Kumar, Sen, and Nagy to the Department of Medicine and to the MFA. Appointments can be made for all of these physicians by calling 202-741-3333.

## Dr. Jillian Catalanotti New Residency Director (continued from page 1)

Dr. Catalanotti is a Faculty Inductee for the Gold Humanism Honor Society given in May 2013 which honors medical students, residents, role-model physician teachers and other exemplars recognized for "demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service."

She is also the recipient of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Leonard Tow Humanism Award that was given in May. This award is presented to a student and faculty member who best demonstrate the Foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families, and healthcare colleagues, as well as demonstrated clinical excellence.

"I consider this to be one of, if not, the most important position in the Department. I made a great choice 14 years ago and I am sure that Jill will also be an outstanding director," said Dr. Wasserman.

## Dr. Joan St. Onge, Assumes GME Position at University of Miami

**Dr. Joan St. Onge**, former Medicine faculty member and one-time Interim Internal Medicine Program Director, has recently been appointed as Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. St. Onge had been an Assistant Regional Dean for Clinical Curriculum, but this new position will allow her to return to her life's passion of guiding new physicians as they begin their careers. In addition to the Deanship, Dr. St. Onge was appointed as Director of the Office of Graduate Medical Education.

Dr. St. Onge is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Miami, where she moved to from GWU four years ago to join her husband in his retirement.

Congratulations and best wishes to Joan in her new endeavors.



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

**Sept 6** Dr. Shiv Pandya  
Dr. Samir Vermani

**Sept 13** Dr. Michael Spagnola  
Dr. Bianca Ummat

**Sept 27** Dr. Nehmat Ramadan

## Rheumatology Academic Conference Schedule September 2013

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

- Sept 5 **Radiology Conference**  
**Dr. Kathleen Brindle**, Associate Professor of Radiology  
Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Sept 5 Didactic Sessions  
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108
- Sept 12 **Radiographic features of chronic arthropathies.**  
**Part II**  
**Dr. Kathleen Brindle**, Associate Professor of Radiology  
Chief, Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Sept 12 Didactic Sessions  
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6108
- Sept 19 Intra-City Rheumatology Grand Rounds  
**NOTE LOCATION: NIH campus**  
**NOTE TIME: 7:30 AM**
- Sept 19 Didactic Sessions  
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108
- Sept 26 **Journal Club**  
**Dr. Heidi Hanna**
- Sept 26 Didactic Sessions  
1:00 - 3:30 p.m., GW Hospital, Rm 6108

## Kudos & Congratulations

**Kudos...**to Drs. **Seema Kakar, Jillian Catalanotti, Andrea Flory, Matthew Mintz, and Benjamin Blatt**, all of General Internal Medicine, who got their article "Evaluating Oral Case Presentations Using a Checklist: How do Senior Student-Evaluators Compare with Faculty?" published in *Academic Medicine*.

**More Kudos...**Dr. **Jehan (Gigi) El-Bayoumi**, General Internal Medicine, who received a letter from a patient thanking her for her professionalism and care that she had given his mother. He stated that he and his mother were "impressed with the doctors taking their time to figure out his mom's health problems... I have a new respect for hospital care after seeing my mom's experience at GW."

**More more Kudos...** to **Dr. James Howard**, PGY1, who was chosen as Physician of the Month for August 2013. He was selected by one of the nurses for helping her when she had trouble unlocking a bed in the hallway during rounds one morning.

**Kudos also...**to **Dr. Nishant Magar**, PGY1, who received praise from a patient's daughter on giving her mother excellent, kind, and thoughtful care at INOVA Fairfax hospital. Way to go!

**Congratulations ...** to **Dr. Dominic Raj** who has been invited to review research grants and write the consensus statement for the French National Research Agency and Estonian Research Council.

**Congratulations...** to **Dr. Talal Alzahrani**, PGY1, who's research on "Prevalence and Predictors of Blood Pressure variability in Hemodialysis Patients" was selected by the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) for an oral abstract presentation.

**More Congratulations....** To **Dr. Alexander Cho**, former chief resident, and his wife on the birth of their daughter Ellie Nash Cho born on 7/31/2013.

**Congratulations also...** to **Dr. Leelie Selassie's**, former chief resident, husband, Dr. Reuben Brigety II who was appointed the next U.S. ambassador to the African Union.

See you next month! *The Editor*



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