



The Pulse of Medicine

The Department of Medicine

Issue 2

June 30, 2008

Inside This Issue:

Comments from the Chair

Graduating Residents & Fellows

Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Leadership Changes

Faculty Recognition

Residency Coordinator

Department Retreat

Comments from the Chair:

Here we are at the end of an academic year (my fourteenth as Chair) and the beginning of a new year. As the year ends, I am reflecting on everything that happened in a rather turbulent year for the department and the university and also, I look forward to the coming year with excitement and optimism. You are all aware that there were intense discussions ongoing regarding the possible affiliations with Evanston Northwestern Healthcare System. These were initiated by them and likewise, very recently, they made a decision not to go with us as a major partner and are pursuing a relationship with the University of Chicago. While we are disappointed in this and the implications that this would have had for our department, these talks were not the only ones that are ongoing. We still have very strong ties with all our current affiliates and certainly the medical school and the university are looking at many different opportunities which are in the greater Chicagoland area for other potential affiliations as well. We recently said farewell to our medicine residents who are completing their training and moving on to other stages of their professional lives. We were extremely happy with all of the fellowship opportunities for both our PGY-3 and PGY-2 residents. I wanted to comment that Anita Abron, who has been our Residency Coordinator and worked with us since 1995, is retiring on June 30th. Anita has really put her stamp on this department and on our residency program and has been a model coordinator for us. We will miss her terribly and wish her well as she embarks her retirement years. She intends to spend time gardening, working with her church, during a little travel to visit friends, and enjoying life and her family and other activities. At the same time, we were fortunate enough to have been able to recruit Connie Knapp to the new position of Residency Coordinator. Connie comes to us having had extensive experience as a Residency Coordinator in a number of different venues. I would like to congratulate Sue Gilbert and Jim Sturino on completing their certificate course at the Lake Forest College. They were both selected by the university after being nominated for furthering their leadership skills. In August, our new students will come on campus and we continue to improve our recruitment of Illinois residents, and students who choose the Chicago Medical School as their university of choice having been accepted at other medical schools around the country. Finally, I want to end with a note about our recent department retreat. This retreat engaged a large number of our affiliate faculty and full time faculty and looking very hard at our undergraduate, graduate and research activities for the Department of Medicine. This is by far the most productive retreat that we have had. The reports are being finalized for this and will be appended to the departmental self review, which will assist in transition to new department leadership in the future. My thanks to Jim Sturino who coordinated this and Frank Maldonado and Cathy Lazarus who lead the effort. I wish you all a productive and satisfying and happy 2008-2009 academic year and thank you for everything that you have done over the past year.

Congratulations Graduating Residents & Fellows!

Internal Medicine Residents

Olufemi Olutosin Aboyemi, MD	Nishant Bachubhai Jalandhara, MD
Tara Joshi Adhikari, MD	Vamsi Kodumuri, MD
Sasikanth V. Adigopula, MD	Farzan Mahmood, MD
Fadi Adra, MD	Nandana Mapakshi, MD
Preeti Agrawal, MD	Shweta Mishra, MD
Amol Ashok Bahekar, MD	Arwa Mohamed Hosni, MD
Rohitkumar Shamaldas Bhuriya, MD	Monica Camelia Moigradan, MD
Arjun Das, MD	Anas Mouchli, MD
Jasleen Kaur Duggal, MD	Meenakshi Verma, MD
Ayesha Iqbal, MD	

Internal Medicine Chief Residents

Thomas Owen Genese, MD & Mihaela Monica Stancu, MD

Internal Medicine Fellows

Evyan Jawad, MD	Cardiovascular Disease
Jose Luis E. Velazquez-Cecena, MD	Cardiovascular Disease
Eshraq Nazir Al-Jaghbeer, MD	Endocrinology
Sandhya Chandrashekhkar Ayyar, MD	Infectious Disease
Rami K.Taha, MD	Infectious Disease

New Department Faculty Members & Faculty Promotions

New Faculty Appointments

Mark Damiano, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Andres Serrano, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
(Clinical Educator Track)

Promotions

Hugo Alvarez, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
(Clinical Educator Track)

William D. Rhoades, III, D.O.

William D. Rhoades, III, D.O. has been appointed **Interim Chair and Program Director of the Department of Medicine at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital effective June 1, 2008.** Dr. Rhoades will continue to maintain his current roles of Division Director of both General Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine, and Geriatric Fellowship Program Director, as well as his clinical office hours at Nessel.

A search committee is currently being formed to find a permanent successor to Glen Solomon, M.D.

New Residency Coordinator

The department welcomes **Connie Kanpp** as our new **Residency Coordinator** replacing Anita Abron who is retiring July 1st. Connie has over 15 years of experience working in Internal Medicine Residency and Orthopedic Surgery programs. She has also worked in academic medicine in many other capacities as well. We are very fortunate to have Connie join our department. Welcome Connie!

Best Wishes....you will be missed!

Anita Abron, Residency Coordinator since October 1, 1995, will be retiring June 30th. Anita is recognized as the "backbone" of our Residency Program. Besides for her outstanding work, she is loved and respected by residents, faculty and staff and she has played an integral role in the success of our program. We wish Anita a healthy and fulfilling retirement. She will always be a part of the Department of Medicine family and we welcome her back to visit us.....but, we will not be expecting her on those cold and snowy days!

Glen Solomon, MD A reception was held for Dr. Glen Solomon on Thursday, May 15th here at the University to honor Dr. Solomon as he leaves for his new position as Chair of Medicine at Wright State University Medical School effective June 1st. Dr. Solomon has served as our department's Vice Chair since 2003 and has contributed greatly to our department. We wish Dr. Solomon the very best.

Ashok Fulambarker, MD

Dr. Ashok Fulambarker has been elected to the **Board of Trustee of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in the 2008 election.** AAPI is the largest ethnic medical organization in the US representing 42,000 physicians and 15,00 residents and medical students. AAPI serves as a forum to facilitate and enable Indian American physicians to excel in patient care, teaching and research, and to pursue their aspirations in professional and community affairs."

The Department of Medicine Annual Retreat

The Department of Medicine's Annual Retreat, that was held May 6, 2008, was a great success. Many thanks goes to the event planners, Drs. Lazarus and Maldonado and workshop leaders Drs. Maleikel, Morrison, Kiken, Haddad, and Gazmuri. The keynote address was presented by Dr. Mary Nettleman, Chair of Medicine, Michigan State University, who provided many good ideas on how to move forward as an outstanding community based department. Our next step is to take the ideas contained in the below summaries and craft them into a strategic vision for the future. Below are the summaries of the three work shop groups.

Retreat Workshop Summary

Graduate Medical Education

Vision:

- We see ourselves to be a medical school sponsored, full accredited Internal Medicine and specialty training program that is innovative and responsive and that trains compassionate and skilled physicians.

Goals:

- To provide a supportive and challenging educational environment within which residents with diverse backgrounds can prepare themselves for careers characterized by commitment to excellence in patient care, research, teaching and lifelong learning.
- To offer residents state of the art knowledge, demonstrate the latest developments in patient care, model compassionate and ethical care, and to provide guidance and supervision to ensure patient health and safety.
- To create optional tracks within the residency program to meet career goals of individual residents. Some examples of specific tracks include: Hospital medicine, Primary Care medicine, Clinician-educator, Clinician-administrator.
- To provide robust opportunities for trainees to advance their education through fellowship training. In addition to current fellowship programs in Pulmonary, Cardiology, Infectious Diseases, and Endocrinology; we would like to create new fellowship programs in Critical Care, Rheumatology, GI, Nephrology, Hospital Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, and Geriatrics.
- To provide trainees with excellent faculty for teaching and patient supervision.

Specific goals include:

- Recruit, retain, and develop faculty to support the academic mission of the program
- To establish criteria for faculty training and evaluation in areas of scholarship and teaching
- To incorporate real-time and post-graduate feedback from trainees
- To develop and provide a centralized research orientation and curriculum to residents early during their training.
- To obtain an ABIM Board Passing Rate of 96% or better and a 3 year rolling rate of 94%.
- 95% or better of all trainees will sit for boards immediately after graduation.
- 100% of all applicants to fellowship programs will obtain their first or second choice.
- To survey all residents within six months of their graduation from the program and to use that information to improve the residency program.
- To establish an Alumni Website.

Under Graduate Medical Education

Issue Identification:

- Do we need a uniform curriculum across all sites?
- Are we doing a good job of assessing how well students are doing H&P's and communicating with patients?
- How are we doing at giving feedback to students?
- How can we deal with grade inflation?
- What can CMS do to help our faculty teach?

Discussion Outcomes of the Aforementioned Topics:

- Do we need a uniform curriculum across all sites?**
 - Currently, individual sites pick and choose the topics they cover in conferences and lectures from the CDIM curriculum. Students supplement these sessions by reading. The consensus of the group was that it would be beneficial to make sure students at all sites are exposed to the same core topics.
 - The students suggested bringing all students together for lectures. However, they also said that they did not want to spend more time driving. They also suggested having site directors conduct review sessions to do questions from MKSAP to cover areas that they were not formally exposed to. They said that online lectures and outlines would not be helpful and that students would not use them.
 - Faculty suggested considering teleconferencing.

- Dr. Kiken plans to review the conference schedules from each site, request that each site cover certain core topics, and ask site directors to conduct review sessions using questions from MKSAP. He will also look at the possibility of putting power point presentations on D2L to comply with LCME requirements.
- Are we doing a good job of assessing how well students are doing H&P's and communicating with patients?**
 - Students are observed doing a complete H&P at the end of the rotation (CEX). However, there is no guarantee that they will be observed interacting and communicating with students during the rotation. This is due to time constraints and the reluctance of some attendings to do bedside teaching.
 - Students said getting feedback during the rotation was dependent on the team they were working with. They also said that they did not always get feedback on their CEX exam. One student said that her colleagues needed to be more proactive, asking housestaff and attendings to observe them.
 - Faculty pointed out that doing all of this is very labor intensive and that there is a need for faculty development in this area. Housestaff, who do the bulk of the supervision, agreed with this.
 - Dr. Kiken plans to discuss this at each site during his visits to see if the site directors can address this with their teaching faculty. CMS, as an institution, should consider becoming involved in faculty development at our sites.
- How are we doing at giving feedback to students?**
 - Students said that housestaff are usually the only people giving feedback on a daily basis.
 - Faculty suggested that students should proactively ask for feedback.
 - Dr. Kiken will ask the site directors to make this suggestion to students during their orientations.
- Grade Inflation**
 - Site directors suggested that grading criteria should be discussed at orientation and that attendings should not be afraid to give B's to the majority of students.
 - Dr. Kiken will contact all site directors to discuss this, prior to the start of the next academic year.
- What can CMS do to help our faculty teach?**
 - The site directors requested that they receive more timely feedback on the teaching performance of housestaff and faculty.
 - Dr. Kiken will work with Sue Gilbert to facilitate this.

Research Workshop

- Active Research:**
 - Clinical and Basic Science would like to see more interaction
 - Not optimal
 - Distance not a problem
 - Separate IRB is a problem
- Collaboration encouraged for residents and students:**
 - Planning ahead
 - More Mentorship
- Grants:**
 - IRB issues funding grant loss at NCVAMC
- Clinician Scientist:**
 - Clinicians and/or scientist should to lead research
- Goals:**
 - Increase research funding
 - ❖ Increase NIH funding
 - ❖ Increase industry and foundation funding
 - ❖ Identify key investigators
 - ❖ Clinician scholars 25% of affiliate faculty
 - ❖ More time allowed for projected research
 - ❖ More infrastructure – 15% successful funding rate – scientist research / clerical support
 - ❖ More revenues from local events, Lake County, industry, annual symposiums
- Recommendations:**
 - More research infrastructure
 - More Support for Scientist / Researcher
 - To be hired by Department of Medicine
 - To facilitate increase research, funded by the Dean.