Faculty Profile: Michael Weaver, MD
(continued from page two)

The list of Dr. Weaver’s accomplishments includes many other examples of innovation and excellence in teaching, research, patient care and community work. He is an outstanding researcher with an extensive history of involvement in multiple externally funded projects, as well as a strong record of peer-review publications. Recently he took over the chairmanship of the Examination Committee for the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Currently Dr. Weaver is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine and Psychiatry, working closely with the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and the VCU Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies.

A few weeks ago, Dr. Michael Weaver appeared on NBC Channel 12 giving an interview on the growing national trend of prescription drug abuse. He stressed the need for prescription drug abuse treatment, which goes undetected too often. That was Dr. Weaver’s second appearance on the local news in the past few months – his expertise is clearly in demand.

Residency Education: Improving the Quality of Ambulatory Medicine

High quality ambulatory care experience is vital to the medicine residency program. This year, with help from Stephanie Call, MD (Internal Medicine Residency Program Director), Betsy Kleiner, MD (Chief Resident for Ambulatory Care), and Wendy Walker (Associate Director for Clinical Operations), we took several steps to improve the housestaff experience on the second floor of the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC-2). The first was to re-establish as our foundation the longitudinal doctor-patient relationship, the cornerstone of primary care. In recent years, this key principle was a victim of schedule changes related to the 80-hour week.

Five-thousand established patients have been assigned to the panels of the approximately ninety R1, R2 and R3 learners. We have also improved resident clinic operations under the direction of a team that includes Wendy Walker, the new DOIM ambulatory care nurse manager Candy Goolsby, Janet Salmon, ACC-2 nursing leaders, and championed by medical director Dr. Denise Borden. Others, including Rita Willett, MD, and Andy Pinson, MD, are actively working on learner integration. Wait time for attending input is near zero. The several Division faculty members who teach in the clinic are developing a more robust ambulatory care curriculum and linking it to competencies delineated by Leann Yanni, MD, who has presented her work on this nationally. Al Rogers, MD, has reviewed and we have purchased a subscription to a web-based set of curricular modules from Johns Hopkins University.

We are looking forward to a banner year on ACC-2 and have already heard several anecdotal remarks about the improvements that have occurred. Concurrent efforts are underway to improve the operations of the ACC-2 faculty practice, led by Al Rogers, MD, as medical director, and Sonya Shah, MD. Residents participate in the faculty practice caring for episodic care visits and supervised by faculty.

“Our ultimate goals not only include preparing our residents for the ambulatory care challenges faced by a generalist, but also establishing the curriculum standard in this area.”

– Al Rogers, MD

Contributed by Peter Boling, MD
Professor of Medicine
Interim Chair, Division of General Medicine
Faculty Profile: Michael Weaver, MD

Dr. Michael Weaver is the only substance abuse specialist in the Department of Internal Medicine. A graduate of the University of Akron and Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine, he came to Richmond with a strong commitment to treating people with chemical dependencies in the most compassionate manner possible. Mentored by Dr. Sid Schenkl at first, he completed his residency and fellowship at VCU Medical Center. Almost immediately after his arrival in Richmond, Dr. Weaver started volunteering at Human Resources, Inc., the largest methadone maintenance program in Central Virginia, serving about 15% of the population that could benefit from methadone services in the area. Dr. Weaver has worked as Medical Director of the clinic, which is the only not-for-profit methadone maintenance program in Richmond, taking care of about 300 patients on a regular basis.

An award-winning educator, Dr. Weaver has initiated an off-campus educational experience at Human Resources, Inc. It is a weekly half-day outpatient clinic involving a methadone maintenance program for residents, medical students, PharmD candidates, nursing students and social work trainees. Trainees have rotated there every year since 1997, and commented on how helpful it was to get a broad range of experiences dealing with addiction on this service.

continued on page four

Fall 2005 Medical Grand Rounds

Sept. 8 “Candida: The Yeast That Makes the Sick Get Sicker”
John Bennett, MD
Section Head, Clinical Mycology Section, Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health

Oct. 27 Clinicalopathologic Conference
Internal Medicine/Radiology/Pathology
VCU Medical Center

Nov. 3 TBA
Kim Eagle, MD
Albion Walter Hefles Professor of Internal Medicine
Clinical Director of the Cardiovascular Center
University of Michigan Medical Center

Nov. 10 TBA
Internist

Nov. 17 Clinicalopathologic Conference
Internal Medicine/Radiology/Pathology
VCU Medical Center

Dec. 1 ANNUAL ORIAN MUREN LECTURE
Organized by the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Michael Mathuy, MD
Professor of Medicine and Anesthesiology
Director of the Critical Care Medicine Training Associate Director of the Intensive Care Unit
University of California at San Francisco

Dec. 8 TBA
David J. Moliterno, MD
Professor and Chief
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine
Vice-Chair of Medicine
Co-Director, Gill Heart Institute
University of Kentucky

Dec. 15 “Difficult to Treat Hypertension – The Art and the Science”
Dominic A. Sica, MD
Chair, Clinical Pharmacology
Professor, Division of Nephrology
VCU Medical Center

Grand rounds are held at 12:00 noon in the Medical Sciences Building Auditorium. The calendar is subject to change.

BETWEEN ROUNDS

We are now accepting submissions for Between Rounds, the Department of Internal Medicine’s annual publication of poetry, prose, art and photography. The deadline for submissions is Friday, September 30.

Please be sure to proofread submissions carefully. Text files should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Digital photos should be submitted as TIFs or JPEGs at a minimum of 4” x 6” and 300 dpi.

Please send all work to the Department of Internal Medicine:
Attn: Katia Clod-Svensson
Box 980663
Phone (804) 828-5738
Email katia@hsc.vcu.edu

NINE FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE PROMOTION

The Department of Internal Medicine is announcing the following faculty promotions this year:

From Instructor to Assistant Professor:
Mohamed Rahmani, PhD (Division of Hematology/Oncology)
Lei Xu, MD (Division of Cardiology)

From Assistant to Associate Professor:
Bethany Derlinger, MD (Division of Cardiology)
Daniel Nixon, DO (Division of Infectious Diseases)
Richard Shepard, MD (Divisions of Cardiology)
Chonsue Tally, MD (Division of General Medicine)
Diane Wilson, EdD, MS, RN (Division of Quality Health Care)

From Associate to Full Professor:
Robert Jesse, MD (Division of Cardiology)
Wade Smith, MD (Division of Hematology/Oncology)

CLINICAL ACTIVITIES: LETTERS

Dr. Donald Switz received the following letter:

“My wife and I wish to thank you for your dedication in the treatment of her problems for the last two years. While she has not been cured, we feel that her overall situation has improved due mainly to your diligence. Your service as her primary gastroenterologist and general overseer in improving her overall well-being will be sorely missed. One of the toughest problems in many professions is attaining and maintaining the confidence of those you serve. You have established that position with […] and myself. Two years ago when you first saw […] in the Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Suites, I noted your modus operandi in teaching the young doctors accompanying you. You encouraged their inputs while questioning their rationale to establish within them confidence and surety in their responses. This was not observed at Johns Hopkins. You can be proud of your contribution to the high national standing of the VCU GI faculty.”

Dr. Sheldon lotkin received the following letter:

“On June 14, I had the misfortune of being involved in a head-on collision, but I had the good fortune of being treated at the VCU Medical Center....

Equally impressive was the care I received in the Gumenick Suites and some incidental follow-up with Dr. David Gardner. My compliments to both.”
High quality ambulatory care experience is vital to the medicine residency program. This year, with help from Stephanie Call, MD (Internal Medicine Residency Program Director), Betsy Kleiner, MD (Chief Resident for Ambulatory Care), and Wendy Walker (Associate Director for Clinical Operations), we took several steps to improve the housestaff experience on the second floor of the Ambulatory Care Center (ACC-2). The first was to re-establish as our foundation the longitudinal doctor-patient relationship, the cornerstone of primary care. In recent years, this key principle was a victim of schedule changes related to the 80-hour week.

Five-thousand established patients have been assigned to the panels of the approximately ninety R1, R2 and R3 learners. We have also improved resident clinic operations under the direction of a team that includes Wendy Walker, the new DOIM ambulatory care nurse manager Candy Goolsby, Janet Salmon, ACC-2 nursing leaders, and championed by medical director Dr. Denise Borden. Others, including Rita Willett, MD, and Andy Pinson, MD, are actively working on learner integration. Wait time for attending input is near zero. The several Division faculty members who teach in the clinic are developing a more robust ambulatory care curriculum and linking it to competencies delineated by Leann Yanni, MD, who has presented her work on this nationally. Al Rogers, MD, has reviewed and we have purchased a subscription to a web-based set of curricular modules from Johns Hopkins University.

We are looking forward to a banner year on ACC-2 and have already heard several anecdotal remarks about the improvements that have occurred. Concurrent efforts are underway to improve the operations of the ACC-2 faculty practice, led by Al Rogers, MD, as medical director, and Sonya Shah, MD. Residents participate in the faculty practice caring for episodic care visits and supervised by faculty.

"While bedside teaching in the resident and faculty clinics remains the foundation of the ambulatory curriculum, we’re striving to reinvigorate the program by enhancing faculty development and by exploring novel formats of teaching that are learner friendly," said Dr. Rogers. "Our ultimate goals not only include preparing our residents for the ambulatory care challenges faced by a generalist, but also establishing the curriculum standard in this area."

Contributed by Peter Boling, MD
Professor of Medicine
Interim Chair, Division of General Medicine