Dr. Fowler Receives Major Teaching Award

Coupled with boundless energy, Dr. Fowler’s extraordinary teaching and sensitive approach to patients have shaped the minds of generations of residents.

–Dr. Richard Wenzel

Dr. Alpha A. (Berry) Fowler, III, a long-time faculty member of the Department of Internal Medicine and Chairman of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, is the recipient of the VCU Distinguished Teaching Award this year. He received the award on September 19th at the 24th VCU Faculty Convocation.

For more than 12 years, Dr. Fowler has been listed in Best Doctors in America, and he has spent over 20 years educating thousands of medical students and physicians-in-training. His primary teaching focus has been in the School of Medicine, instructing students in hospital critical care settings and outpatient arenas. He has also instructed undergraduate and post-graduate students in the VCU Schools of Nursing, Physical Therapy, Pharmacology and Pharmacy.

During his tenure, Dr. Fowler has accumulated more top teaching awards than any other Internal Medicine faculty member at VCU. He also serves as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the pharmaceutical industry on the treatment of lung disease and lung injury. He divides his time between the ICU, where he has pioneered treatments for respiratory distress syndrome and lung injuries, and his basic science laboratory, where he investigates the molecular basis of ischemia reperfusion injury.

Dr. Fowler has served as chair of VCU’s Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine since 1998. Under his leadership, the Division has increased its national stature and received a $1.15 million gift for the creation of a new Pulmonary Emphysema research program. His latest contribution to the VCU Medical Center has been the formation of the new VCU Center for Thoracic Medicine.

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DOIM Faculty Member to Lead Medical Information

VCU Health System’s commitment to enhance the clinical utility of our clinical information system has prompted the organization to create a new VCUHS role—Chief Medical Information Officer (CMIO). CMIO job descriptions vary greatly from hospital to hospital around the U.S., but the core is the translation of clinical priorities into Information Technology (IT) specifications. Approximately 60% of U.S. hospitals employ CMIOs with anticipated growth to 80% within two years.

In order to avoid errors that have plagued other institutions, we will intercalate the list of Health IT projects into the health system’s Quality Initiatives. Clinical Information Systems can track quality reports, engage intelligent decision support tools to safer medicine and help compliance with national healthcare mandates. Online documentation improves legibility and automates communication across providers. Ordersets encourage adoption of Evidence-Based Medicine practices. The benefits of Health IT are not limited to the delivery of quality clinical care. Educated and Research top the priority list of academic CMIOs minds. Tracking patient panels and consult experience help residents gauge their clinical exposure. Automated tools to summarize clinical charts help medical students and residents spend less time looking for information and more time learning about their patients. The clinical information system serves as a rich source of clinical queries for research proposals.

It is no surprise that the limiting factor of Health IT is the need for resources in order to accomplish the work. Current projects high on the prioritization list are: Infrastructure Upgrade (ubiquitous wireless/workstation access, software upgrade), Patient Keeper (clinical views, referral physician portal and e-billing), Online Documentation (RN, MD et al). Single-Sign-On (single authentication to access all applications), Ambulatory EMR Deployment, Patient Portals, and Disparate System Interfaces amongst others.

With Health IT, the sick should heal, the trainer should learn, and the scientist should discover all within a sustainable health system.

Contributed by Alistair Erskine, MD
Chief Medical Information Officer, VCUHS

Between Rounds: The Poetic Voice of the DOIM

We are now accepting submissions for Between Rounds, the Department of Internal Medicine’s annual publication of poetry, prose, and photography. In the past, these artistic contributions have come from faculty and staff, housestaff and students, and friends of the DOIM.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, September 29. Please be sure to proofread submissions carefully. Text files should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Digital photos should be submitted as TIFFs or JPEGs at a minimum of 4" x 6" and 300 dpi.

Please send all work to the Department of Internal Medicine:
Attn: Kiana Cide-Sversson
Box 980663
Phone (804) 828-5738
Email kiana@hsc.vcu.edu

Internal Medicine Grand Rounds – Fall Semester 2006

Sept. 7 Understanding Medicare Part D
Peter A. Boling, MD
Professor of Medicine
Interim Chair, Division of General Medicine
Director of Long Term Care & Geriatrics
Department of Internal Medicine
VCU Medical Center

Oct. 26 (TBA)
David Harrison, MD
Bernard Marcus Professor of Medicine
Director of Cardiology
Emory University

Nov. 2 Clinicopathologic Conference

Sept. 14 What Does the War on Terror Teach Us About Medical Ethics?
Steve Miles, MD
Professor
Internal Medicine and the Center for Bioethics
University of Minnesota Medical School

Nov. 9 A Cardiologist Confronts Obesity: Two Stories.
1. Dietary Therapy or Obesity: An Emperor with No Clothes
2. Sympathetic and Cardiovascular Actions of Leptin and the Concept of Selective Leptin Resistance in Obesity Induced Hypertension
Allyn Mark, MD
Roy J. Carver Professor of Medicine
Division of Cardiology
VCU Medical Center

Sept. 21 Treatment of Alcohol Abuse and Withdrawal
Michael Weaver, MD, FASAM
Associate Professor
Internal Medicine and Psychiatry
VCU Medical Center

Nov. 16 Fellows Research Day
Shahel Khan, MD
Cardiology Fellow
VCU Medical Center
Puneet Puri, MD
Hematology Fellow
VCU Medical Center
Juddi Yeh, MD
Hematology & Oncology Fellow
VCU Medical Center

Sept. 28 Updates in Chronic Kidney Disease
Anna Yaminokova, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Nephrology
Department of Internal Medicine
VCU Medical Center

Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Holiday

Oct. 5 Community-Acquired Pneumonia
Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc
Professor and Chairman
Department of Internal Medicine
VCU Medical Center

Nov. 30 Annual Urban Muten Lecture
Pulmonary Hypertension
Lewis J. Rubin, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Pulmonary Hypertension Program
University of California School of Medicine
San Diego

Oct. 12 Subintimal Angioplasty: Its Role in the Treatment of Chronic Limb Ischemia
Daniel A. Leung, MD
Associate Professor
Director of Interventional Radiology
VCU Medical Center

Dec. 7 (TBA)
Lisa Kaplowitz, MD, MSRA
Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R)
Virginia Department of Health

Oct. 19 Pharmacogenetics and Asthma
Elliot Israel, MD
Professor
Division of Pulmonology
Department of Internal Medicine
VCU Medical Center

Dec. 14 Clinicopathologic Conference*
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