By several measures, the residency training in the Department of Internal Medicine is a top-30 program nationally. Our Board pass rate is now consistently 95-100%; the mean USLME-1 score of incoming interns is over 220; 25% of residents have a second degree in addition to their M.D.; and over 50 medical schools from around the country are represented in our trainees. We now seek to become a top-20 program in the next five years.

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The immediate training program priorities will be to make education the priority in all settings: clinics, wards and conferences. Advanced bedside clinical skills, evidence-based decision making, and integration of clinical, epidemiological and biological aspects of health and disease will be emphasized. The expanded use of information technology will continue to be highlighted for our residents led by Alistair Erskine, MD. Importantly, rigorous testing of new educational techniques will be incorporated into our training as we seek to be the most innovative program in the country for educating residents in internal medicine.

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Assisting Dr. Call, in our quest to a top-20 program nationally, will be the Associate Program Directors, Chief Medical Residents and office staff:

**Associate Program Directors:**
- Frank Fulco, MD – VA
- Alistair Erskine, MD – MVCH
- Christian Barrett, MD – specialty medicine, recruiting
- Ambulatory Care – open

**Chief Medical Residents (pagers), CMR on call pager – 1709:**
- Anne Lipke, MD (8083)
- Katie Bar, MD (1288)
- Jeff Kushinka, MD (8596)
- Betsy Kleiner, MD (8589)

**Office – 828-9726:**
- Rosa Fox – Office Manager
- Shelley Burns – Program Administrator
- Masa LaVallee – Recruitment Coordinator, IT Coordinator
- Matt Murphy – Office Assistant

Contributed by Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

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**Housestaff Awards 2005**

Dr. Stephanie Call, Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, led the Annual Housestaff Awards Ceremony on May 19, 2005. Several residents and faculty members were recognized for their recent achievements. Our truly gifted faculty teachers also received awards. The ceremony was followed by the traditional ice cream social.

**Biffert Award for Outstanding Intern**
- Winner: Mini Mahata
- Finalists: Antonio Abbate and Michael Stevens

**Outstanding Second-Year Resident**
- Winner: Venkat Ramachandran
- Finalists: Paul Arnold and Doug Johnson

**Higgins Award for Outstanding Third-Year Resident**
- Winner: Anne Lipke
- Finalists: Betsy Kleiner and Jeff Kushinka

**Arthur Klein MD Award** (Awarded to the resident who best demonstrates the healing value of carefully listening to patients, and explaining the causes, course, and outcome of their disease)
- Winner: Sarah Joyner
- Finalists: Betsy Kleiner and Jeff Kushinka

**Excellence in Scholarship Award (Senior Award)**
- Winner: Kevin Comar
- Finalists: Kane Bar and Juddi Yeh

**DOM Faculty Award for Excellence in Residency**
- Winner: Anne Lipke
- Finalists: Betsy Kleiner and Beth Rubinstein

**Recognition for Excellence in Teaching**
- Winner: Chinh Nguyen
- Finalists: Betsy Kleiner and Jeff Kushinka

**Muren Award for Outstanding Fellow**
- Winner: John Perry
- Finalists: Dan Carl and Kathy Grossman

**Outstanding Ward Attending**
- Winner: Frank Fulco
- Finalists: Betty Anne Johnson and Andy Pinson

**Recognition for Excellence in Teaching**
- Winner: Lisa Brath
- Finalists: Nelson Bernardo and Dan Bechard

**Dr. Geoffrey Krystal received the following letter:**

When I first was referred to the Oncology Department, I was introduced to my Medical Oncologist, Dr. Wendy French. From the very beginning of our Doctor-Patient relationship, she has been very sensitive to not only my medical care, but also was very careful to include me in all that she did in such a way that I knew very well what was happening, what all of the tests and results could possibly have meant, and she even allowed me to discuss with her at great length the medical and surgical procedures, such that I felt I was a vital part of my medical team. Her manner of caring for me was always medically astute, but also friendly enough to ease all of my fears and apprehensions.

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**Department of Internal Medicine Cardiologist Wins Bronze in National Senior Olympics**

Dr. Andrea Hastillo (Hess) has taken the bronze in both 800- and 1,500-meter runs for women in the recent National Senior Olympics held in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Hastillo is an award-winning teacher in the medical school, a gifted clinician and administrator; she has been a faculty member in our Department for 30 years.

National Senior Olympics are held every other year. A participant must qualify in the local games a year earlier and represent his/her state in the Nationals. During the games, athletes over the age of 50 compete in 18 Olympic-style sports that promote a healthy lifestyle through fitness and sports.

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**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 TIFFs 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
News Briefs

Dr. Alpha (Berry) Fowler accepting the W. Robert Irby Award from Ms. Sharon Lankers-Pederson of MCV Foundation.

Dr. Alpha (Berry) Fowler, chair of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has recently received the W. Robert Irby Award for Philanthropic Leadership.

Dr. Richard Wenzel has been named Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs effective July 1, 2005. His main task will be to work closely with the new dean, Jerome Strauss, MD, PhD, on clinical matters.

Dr. Arun Sanyal, chair of the Division of Gastroenterology, has been elected by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Governing Board to serve as a Councillor for the 2006–2008 term.

The Department of Internal Medicine extends congratulations to Mrs. Sheila Baker in her new position as Human Resources Generalist in the Division of Human Resources.

Candy Goolsby, RN, has accepted the Internal Medicine Nurse Manager position. She is uniquely qualified for this job because she has experience working in all of our teaching clinics.

For the past six years, Ms. Goolsby has been working as clinical coordinator in the Medicine Specialties Clinics. We are happy to welcome her to our team.

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Graduate Medical Education: Moving to a Top-20 Program

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–Dr. Richard Wenzel

SUCCESSFUL RRC PREPARATION TEAM IN DEPARTMENT

Stephanie Call, MD, MSPH
Michael Edmond, MD, MPH, MPA
Leanne Yarrar, MD
Suzanne Lavoie, MD
Margaret Roberson, MD
Betty Anne Johnson, MD, PhD
Frank Fulco, MD

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