In the weeks following the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, cases of Anthrax were diagnosed in Florida, Washington D.C., New Jersey, and New York. Healthcare workers became sensitized to the threat of Anthrax and should be familiar with the symptoms, diagnosis, and control of the disease.

In response, the Epidemiology and Infection Control Department (under the direction of Hospital Epidemiologists, Michael Edmond, M.D., M.P.H., and Belinda Ostrowsky, M.D., M.P.H., and lead Infection Control Nurse Janis Ober, R.N., B.S.N., C.I.C.) has taken the lead in educational efforts at VCUHS. The department has developed a comprehensive VCUHS Bioterrorism Infection Control Plan. The plan summarizes basic infection control principles, specific details about four diseases – Anthrax, Plague, Small Pox, and Botulism – and has become a cornerstone of the VCUHS efforts in Bioterrorism Preparedness.

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Departmental Experts Lead Hospital Efforts in Infection Control and Bioterrorism Response

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Faculty Publications

- [Dr. Khan is an endocrine fellow.]

In addition, soon after the first cases of Anthrax were diagnosed, the trio of experts developed an algorithm to assist primary care and emergency room physicians in assessing potential exposures to Anthrax. This algorithm can be found at the CDC website: www.bt.cdc.gov, or contact the Department of Epidemiology and Infection Control at 828-2121.

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Dr. Kevin Cooper recently received notification that he was awarded a $105,000 grant for original research from GlaxoSmithKline. This project will enroll 40 patients with severe Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, examining how much air-trapping occurs during exercise. Current or former smokers with FEVI <80% of predicted are eligible. They will exercise on a recumbent bicycle for a few minutes and then undergo pulmonary function testing to measure changes in the amount of air-trapping. Two days of testing will be identical except that on one day the patient receives a salmeterol inhaler and on the other day, a placebo. A group of eight patients will then be selected from the 40 for CT scanning of the chest under the same exercise conditions to produce images of overall and regional exercise-induced air-trapping, and the effects of salmeterol. This project was selected by GlaxoSmithKline from investigator-initiated proposals that may show benefits of salmeterol that have not yet been studied.

Lung Expert Receives $105,000 Grant to Study Smokers During Exercise

Dr. Richard Wenzel has recently been selected to be a Master of the American College of Physicians (MACP). He will receive the mastership at the Annual Session in April 2002. Only 12 other current Virginia physicians have been recognized for their outstanding career accomplishments.

Dr. Rakesh Kukreja has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the NIH Cardiovascular and Renal Study Section, Center for Scientific Review for the term ending in June 2005. Members are selected based on their competence and achievement as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications, and other significant scientific activities. Study sections review grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations, and survey the status of research in their field.

Internal Medicine Faculty Lead Top 10% of Nation’s Student Health Services

The staff at University Student Health Services (USHS) is proud to announce their recent re-accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The accreditation survey in October resulted in a grid score of 94%, placing USHS in the top 10% of all ambulatory care organizations surveyed by the Joint Commission.

News Briefs

Dr. Cesar Kanamori and three of the Internal Medicine residents, Drs. Anika Alvarez, Megan Clancy, and John Perry, participated in the Creighton University School of Medicine’s Institute for Latin American Concern in rural Dominican Republic. ILAC is in its 28th year and is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities of the Dominican Republic. This year, health professionals from throughout the United States offered integrated health service to six rural communities in that country. Medical residents received a grade for an away rotation.

The October issue of the ILAC newsletter paid tribute to Dr. Kanamori as one of the key people who volunteers tirelessly for the program.

While offering the medical practitioners an opportunity to provide care and education, the program also enhances their personal growth. Dr. Laurie Lyckholm in the Division of Hematology/Oncology initiated our department’s participation in the program in 1997.

General Medicine Faculty Member Leads Program in Dominican Republic

Last summer, Dr. Cesar Kanamori and three of the Internal Medicine residents, Drs. Anika Alvarez, Megan Clancy, and John Perry, participated in the Creighton University School of Medicine’s Institute for Latin American Concern in rural Dominican Republic. ILAC is in its 28th year and is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities of the Dominican Republic. This year, health professionals from throughout the United States offered integrated health service to six rural communities in that country. Medical residents received a grade for an away rotation.

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