Faculty Publications


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– Dr. Richard Wenzel

VCU Internal Medicine Residents Trounce Competition in Statewide Medical Jeopardy

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Two of our residents’ presentations – “Systemic inflammatory response associated with nosocomial enterococcal bloodstream infection” by Dr. Katie Bar and “NSCLC treated with Gefitinib and NVP ADW-742 results in additive effect” by Dr. Juddi Yeh – were selected for presentation at the national ACP meeting.

Five residents from our team will present at the state ACP meeting in October. Dr. Colin Banas was invited to present his “Hypereosinophilic syndrome with eosinophilic myocarditis;” Dr. Chinh Nguyen’s posters “Elevated CD4 count as the manifestation of co-infection of HTLV-1&2 with HIV” and “You’ve bought yourself an AICD” were selected for presentation as well. Dr. Bernadette Ucci will present “Catamenial pneumothorax in a female with dysmenorrhea;” Dr. Sau Yin Wan, “Tuberculosis masquerading as metastatic cancer;” and Dr. Sammy Pedram, “Acute renal failure as a presentation of thalidomide-induced tumor lysis syndrome in multiple myeloma.”

“I am extremely proud of the housestaff,” said Dr. Stephanie Call, Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. “We are truly developing bright clinicians who are dedicated to contributing to both the art and to the science of medicine... and they have fun doing it.”

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Faculty Profile: Dr. Susan DiGiovanni

Dr. Susan DiGiovanni joined the Internal Medicine faculty in 1995, having completed a Nephrology fellowship at VCU, two years in private practice, and four years at NIH in the laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism. A talented scientist with extraordinary skills, she continued her studies at VCU and currently has over a dozen publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. DiGiovanni easily could have become an independent and successful basic science researcher, but she made a conscious choice to devote most of her time to patient care and teaching. Accordingly, her research interests have shifted toward clinical investigation. Currently she is the principal investigator on two funded clinical trials.

An outstanding clinician, Dr. DiGiovanni has a busy practice in the office as well as three shifts of dialysis patients. She has also developed a novel program involving the Department of Corrections, serving as medical director of the Greenville Correctional Institutional Dialysis Program and overseeing the care of the inmates on dialysis at this facility. She is the sole physician responsible for the prison renal clinic which she conducts both with face-to-face patient encounters at MCV Hospital as well by Teledicine. Dr. DiGiovanni is also medical director for the Leigh Street Dialysis unit.

Dr. DiGiovanni has shown particular excellence in regards to the teaching of medical students. She has been consistently praised by the students for her teaching ability. As one of her students puts it, “she is a medical students dream professor.” She became the director of the MII Renal Course in 1999, and in 2002 she received a perfect score from all students responding to the survey. No other course director has received this level of acceptance in the last 10 years. Dr. DiGiovanni is also consistently receiving recognition as the Outstanding Teacher in the M-II Renal Course every year since 2001. In 2003, she was voted “Best Attending” by the M-III students.

Last year, Dr. DiGiovanni was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Hospitalist Service Update

This year marked an exciting transition for the Academic Hospitalist Service. The team grew from five to ten members and expanded their teaching duties by taking over leadership of medicine team six and resurrecting the medicine consult service. Due to their hard work, general medicine discharges are up fifteen percent, and a new group of inpatient medicine experts prowl the hospital at all hours of the day.

Next year, the service plans to grow further. The hospitalists lead a second housestaff team at the hospital and at the Dalton Clinic. As you once said to him when he told you how much his girls loved him; “Well, you are a very lovable person.” You were right. He was lovable and there were not many people along the way who didn’t feel the impact he had on their lives.

Upcoming Grand Rounds

March 10 “Antibiotic Resistance 2005”
Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MS
William Branch Porter Professor and Chair
Department of Internal Medicine, VCU Medical Center

March 17 “Who Needs an Implantable Defibrillator Today?”
Kenneth A. Ellenbogen, MD, FACC
Professor, Division of Cardiology
Department of Internal Medicine, VCU Medical Center

March 24 “Sedation of Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Patients”
Marjolijn de Wit, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine, VCU Medical Center

March 31 “Renal Issues and Coronary Heart Disease”
Todd W. Gebe, MD
Professor and Chair, Division of Nephrology
Department of Internal Medicine, VCU Medical Center

April 7 “Insulin in the Hospitalized Patient”
John N. Clore, MD
Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Department of Internal Medicine, VCU Medical Center

April 14 ANNUAL CHARLES THOMAS LECTURE
“The Immune Response to Cell Death in SLE”
Organized by the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, Immunology
David S. Fiedler, MD
Professor of Medicine and Chair
Division of Rheumatology in the Department of Internal Medicine,
Duke University Medical Center and the Veterans Hospital, Durham, NC

April 21 TBA

April 28 ANNUAL MARKHAM AWARD LECTURE
Organized by the Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care
Rita Willett, MD
Associate Professor
Division of General Internal Medicine and Primary Care
VCU Medical Center

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