Faculty Publications


Faculty Abroad: Professors of Medicine Visit the Republic of South Africa

Dr. J.V. Nixon, Professor, Division of Cardiology, was invited to speak at the South African Heart Association meeting in Stellenbosch, South Africa, at the end of November. His topics were "Contrast Echocardiography" and "Echocardiography in Ischemic Heart Disease." In addition, he was invited to give Cardiology Grand Rounds at the Groot Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, and Echocardiography Conference at the Chris Hani Parapranths Hospital in Soweto, Johannesburg. The Grotte Schur Hospital was the site of the first successful human heart transplant.

Dr. Wally Smith, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Division of Quality Health Care, visited Capetown for the Eighth Annual meeting of the Cochrane Collaboration. Dr. Smith is a Cochrane reviewer and author of the Cochrane Library, currently recognized as the best single source of reliable evidence on the effects of health care interventions.

The mission of the Cochrane Collaboration is to identify the best available evidence on the effects of health care interventions, to appraise this evidence for validity, and to assemble it into systematic reviews.

While in Capetown, Dr. Smith toured several black "townships," or shanty towns, and visited Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent many years as a political prisoner prior to becoming President of South Africa. "Capetown is a microcosm of diversity and a study in contrasts. It is a city of vineyards, wind stesso mountains, and scenic beaches. One can see abject poverty adorning great wealth, and yet, find hopeful people who are determined to work out their differences," said Dr. Smith.
Managed Care was supposed to curb patient demand for clinical services. However, that has not happened for the faculty of the Department of Internal Medicine. In the last decade, inpatient admissions have continued to rise from about 750 per month to 825 per month with a steadily decreasing length of stay – currently 4.75 days.

Between 1994 and 2000, the outpatient volume of visits has soared from 5,500 per month to over 8,000 per month. Kudos to our hard working clinicians whose skills and compassion are recognized by patients in the Commonwealth.

### Demand for Clinical Care Continues to Climb

**DOIM ADMISSIONS JULY 1991 THROUGH OCTOBER 2000 COMPARED TO A LINEAR REGRESSION TRENDLINE**

**DOIM BILLED OUTPATIENT VISITS JULY 1994 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2000 COMPARED TO A LINEAR REGRESSION TRENDLINE**

Three VCU women faculty members recently participated in a Professional Development Seminar for Junior Women Faculty sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The AAMC is the principal professional organization representing American Medical Schools. Two of the participants were from the Department of Internal Medicine: Dr. Diane Buskobing, Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, and Dr. Paula Esah, Assistant Professor, Division of General Medicine and Primary Care. Dr. Stephanie Spottswood, Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology, also attended.

The seminar, which took place in Savannah, Georgia, in early December, is a nationally competitive meeting of women selected from a large cadre of applicants from academic medical centers in the U.S. and Canada. It is tailored to women in their first faculty appointment who are aiming for a position of leadership in academic medicine. Included were sessions on: Meeting the Challenges of Academic Career Building, Conflict Management, Effective Meetings: Running Them and Presenting Them, Financial Negotiations, and others.

The women intend to use this knowledge to serve as resource persons to female fellows in medicine, newly hired female faculty, as well as other junior women faculty aspiring to pursue a career in academic medicine. Dr. Buskobing has research interests in osteoporosis and bone metabolism. Dr. Esah has research interests in minority healthcare and primary care issues, and Dr. Spottswood, in the Section of Pediatric Radiology, has research interests in pediatric cardiovascular disease, pediatric oncology, and pediatric nuclear medicine.

The Department Chairs and the Associate Dean of Faculty and Instructional Development made this opportunity possible.

### Women Faculty Attend AAMC Professional Development Seminar

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In a rare event for the most prestigious journal in academic medicine, editorials submitted by faculty in the same department were published in the December 28, 2000 issue and the January 4, 2001 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Drs. Richard P. Wenzel and Michael B. Edmond authored the editorial “Managing Antibiotic Resistance,” and Drs. Gordon L. Archer and Michael W. Climo authored the editorial “Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteremia – Consider the Source.”
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