News Briefs

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David Gardner: “Thyroid Disease”
Maria Isuomo, Jean-Patrice Baillargeron and John Neuler: “Polycystic Ovary Syndrome”
Diane Biskobing and Angela Novy: “Parathyroid Disease”
John Clore: “Diabetes Mellitus”

Announcement

The annual meeting of the Virginia Infectious Disease Society (VIDS) will be held at Wintergreen resort on February 20th – 22nd. The Society was first established in 1991 through a collaborative effort of Infectious Disease physicians at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, the University of Virginia, and private physicians in the state. Dr. Gordon Archer, Infectious Disease Division Chairman, was among the original founders of the Society. The Infectious Disease Division has been very involved with the Society since then, with three past Presidents of the Society elected from the VCU Infectious Disease Division. The current President is Michael Climo, M.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology. The Society’s main purpose is to improve communication, education and research efforts of Infectious Disease throughout the state of Virginia.

The medical student curriculum will soon attain its goal of 40 hours of new/revised curriculum in M1 and M2 years, supported by web-based modules (useful at multiple learner levels). Adding to material presented by other departments and divisions, geriatricians now teach in Immunology, Physiology, Endocrinology, Renal, Cardiovascular, Geri and Histology. All VCU medical students now make house calls (consistently a very positive, valued experience), visit area nursing homes, and attend an annual half-day forum on aging that has been shown to produce lasting effects on attitudes. The Student Interest Group is active and sponsors a photo contest on Global Aging. This year’s award ceremony MC is VCU’s Nobel-laureate Dr. John Fenn, and the venue is the Marriott.

Eighty-three community physicians are enrolled as “Reynolds Scholars,” working toward a goal of 30 hours’ CME – a key focus for the project this year and next. The academic partnership of Dr. Boling with his house calls program and Dr. Mulligan with his basic sciences studies in Geriatrics may be unique in the country.

– Dr. Richard Wenzel

Department Gaining National Recognition in Geriatrics

In July 2001, VCU School of Medicine was awarded $1.83 million by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to expand geriatric education for faculty, students, staff and community physicians. As the grant nears its two-thirds mark, excellent progress is reported:

Internal Medicine residents receive a structured curriculum, guided by a pre-test and evaluated by a post-test. The geriatrics rotation is now four weeks long, including two weeks of ambulatory care, home care and nursing home care, and two weeks on our rapidly growing geriatric consult service. “We are in a new era of co-management and partnership with other services, now including Geriatric Psychiatry, and most recently Orthopedics,” says Dr. Peter Boling, the project leader. “Geriatrics work will complement general medicine consults next year. Supported by a geriatric pharmacist, one or two residents, and a geriatric fellow, geriatric consults are now integral to the academic health center.”

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Eighty-three community physicians are enrolled as “Reynolds Scholars,” working toward a goal of 30 hours’ CME – a key focus for the project this year and next. This past year the grant produced ten abstracts for the Southern Gerontological Society Meeting and five abstracts for the annual American Geriatrics Society meeting, plus other meetings with one or two abstracts.

Please visit the team’s website: VirginiaGeriatrics.org. There are nearly 100 hours of recent, high-quality CME available, along with educational modules, practical guidelines for inpatient care, a venue for expert advice, and links to selected, useful resources. In the past four months, the site has had over 200,000 hits, and requests for 300 hours of CME were received.

(continued on page two)
Faculty Profile: Donald Kirby, M.D.

Donald Kirby, MD, FACP, FACN, FACG, CNSP, CPNS, is a professor in the Division of Gastroenterology. He received his medical degree from George Washington University and completed his residency and fellowship at Northwestern University. He has been a faculty member at VCU since 1985.

One of the busiest clinicians in the Division of Gastroenterology, Dr. Kirby is also known as an outstanding teacher and a major moving force in the integration of nutrition into the mainstream of GI practice. The clinical nutrition service developed by Dr. Kirby at VCU has been a vital component of its medical specialty reputation.

Dr. Kirby has established himself as one of the few academic gastroenterologists who regularly contributes practical clinical studies. He pioneered the development of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy and holds a technique patent for the jejunostomy device. He is regarded as a national leader in the field of clinical nutrition and medical devices and procedures related to nutrition support. His national stature in this field is attested to by a number of invited talks, nationally and internationally, and publications in prestigious journals such as Gastroenterology and American Journal of Gastroenterology. He is also on the editorial board of several journals.

Dr. Kirby is currently a professor of Medicine, Psychiatry and Biochemistry and is board-certified in Nutrition, Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. He has contributed to many books and co-edited a book on nutrition with Stanley Dudrick, known as the father of nutrition.

“Dr. Kirby is an asset to our program and the medical community in Virginia,” said Dr. Arun Sanyal, chief of the Gastroenterology Division. “He has not only developed a world-class hospital-based nutrition program but also oversees a large home-based nutrition program. His excellence can be gauged from the extraordinary outcomes of these programs. We are truly lucky to have a physician of his caliber in our midst.”

Upcoming Grand Rounds

February 5 “Acute Renal Failure”
George M. Feldman, M.D.
Professor, Division of Nephrology
Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University

February 12 “VATS – What Is It?”
Jonathan Kirby, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Virginia Commonwealth University

February 19 “Is Our Professionalism All It Should Be?”
Diane Buckling, M.D.
Associate Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Department of Internal Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University

February 26 “Dealing with Death and Dying in Medical Education”
Laurie J. Lyckholm, M.D.
Associate Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Department of Internal Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University

March 4 Clinicopathologic Conference
Medicine/Radiology/Pathology

March 11 “The Health Effects Of Air Pollution”
Dudley F. Rochester, M.D.
Professor Emeritus and Past Chairman, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, University of Virginia

March 17 Special Wednesday Grand Rounds
Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President, The Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington, D.C.

March 25 “Alexander the Great and West Nile Virus Encephalitis”
John Marr, M.D., M.P.H.,
Director, Office of Epidemiology, Virginia Department of Health

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

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