Faculty Publications


Bone Marrow Transplant Team: Bringing National Recognition to the Department of Medicine

The Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) program at VCU Medical Center has enjoyed phenomenal growth – in the size and scope of its research enterprise, in its volume and in its “sphere of influence.” This growth has been due to a number of factors.

First, we are a comprehensive bone marrow transplantation center offering autologous and allogeneic transplantation using both related or unrelated donors from all stem cell sources, including bone marrow, peripheral blood and umbilical cord stem cells. This means that unlike other regional transplant centers, patients who need transplants need not be referred elsewhere.

Second, we have cultivated a careful and coordinated comprehensive research panel of clinical trials that complements and expands on the existing protocols in the Massey Cancer Center so that patients and referring physicians alike can enjoy access to cutting-edge transplantation research in both expanded indications, new techniques, novel agents and improved supportive care. This has fueled our initial growth, which in turn has provided synergy for our program to be invited into even higher quality and higher visibility (inter)national trials, further attracting new patients and referral patterns.

Third, our superior outcomes, experience and access to cutting-edge transplant techniques and technology has allowed us to be considered a Center of Excellence for the major insurers who support our patient base in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

Finally, our successes have given us the capability to thrive and absorb the increasing demand for our services even as other regional bone marrow transplantation programs have closed down, most notably those at Georgetown and at the University of Virginia. In fact, fellows from other centers who require clinical experience in BMT to board in both Hematology and Oncology are trained in our program. Overall, the high quality and advanced expertise our program amassed elevated our visibility from an excellent regional focus to high national recognition.

Much credit for the success the BMT program has enjoyed must be attributed to the integrated efforts of the Cancer Center, the Division, the Department and the VCU Medical Center through important collaborative clinical and research partnerships.

We look to continue to grow and develop a world-class program to support patients who need our services...

– John McCarty, MD
VCU Internal Medicine Residents Lead State Programs in Research and Clinical Practices

Internal Medicine residents recently had a successful weekend at the state American College of Physicians associates meeting. The residents presenting clinical vignettes and research abstracts were extremely impressive. They represented the institution well with their polished, well-prepared and intellectually stimulating work.


We have to particularly note Dr. Kyong Chong whose clinical vignette presentation was selected as the best out of the 30! She will be funded by the state ACP chapter to present her work at National ACP meeting this April.

Also congratulations to Bo Chao, Kyong Chong, Andrew Poklepovic, Shea Bethea and Andrew Hackworth whose presentations were selected for presentation at the state ACP scientific meeting this March.

A big thanks also to Kristen Miller, Daryn Appleton and Dan Katz for representing VCU in the medical jeopardy competition this year!

We thank all the dedicated advisors and mentors who made all of this work possible: Dr. George Verrovec, Dr. Robert Adler, Dr. Geoff Krystal, Dr. Alan Dow, Dr. Bennett Lee, Dr. Jeff Kushinka, Dr. Frank Falco, Dr. Christian Barrett and the chiefs.

Contributed by Stephanie Ann Call, MD, MSPH

Internal Medicine Training Program Director

Internal Medicine Faculty to Lead Preventive Medicine Residency

In January 2007, Dr. Gonzalo Bearman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, was asked to lead the School of Medicine Preventive Medicine Residency Program.

The mission of the VCU Preventive Medicine Residency Program is to train physicians in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health so that they are effectively able to identify, assess, promote, preserve and investigate in a scholarly fashion, the health of individuals and communities. The VCU Preventive Medicine Residency Program has been in existence for nearly forty years and is the only ACGME-accredited Preventive Medicine Training Program in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Many of the VCU PMR graduates are currently employed by the Virginia Department of Health in various positions including Directorships of County Health Departments and Commissioner of Health.

The program consists of two phases: the academic year and the practicum year. On successful completion of the academic year, the resident is awarded the Master of Public Health degree. During the practicum year, the resident rotates at various agencies in the Richmond area to gain experience in public health practice and administration. Residents who enter the program with a Master of Public Health degree proceed directly to the practicum year. All residents must have completed at least a clinical internship prior to beginning their training in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. At the conclusion of the program, residents are Board Eligible for certification in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine.

Contributed by Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Community Medicine
Associate Hospital Epidemiologist

UPCOMING MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

March 1 Pharma and Addiction
Sidney Schnoll, MD, PhD
Vice President, Risk Management Services
Pinney Associates

March 8 American College of Physicians Abstracts Winners
Internal Medicine Housestaff

March 15 Clinicopathological Conference

March 22 TBA
Trey Wickham, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Department of Internal Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center

March 29 Billing for MDs
Scott Manaker, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Pulmonary, Allergy & Critical Care Division
Department of Internal Medicine
University of Pennsylvania Medical Center

April 5 Huntington’s Disease and Palliative Care
Abrin H. Moss, MD, FACP
Director of the Center for Health Ethics and Law
Virginia Commonwealth University

April 12 Annual Charles Thomas Lecture
Organized by the Division of Rheumatology
Allergy & Immunology

April 19 Palliative Care in the Intensive Care Unit
Kenneth P. Steinberg, MD
Associate Professor
Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
University of Washington Medical Center

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All Internal Medicine Grand Rounds are held at 12:00 noon in the Hermes A. Kontos Medical Sciences Building Auditorium unless otherwise noted. The calendar is subject to change.
Faculty Publications


cardioverter-defibrillator lead failure.

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