In the last year, Dr. John McCarty accepted the directorship of the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. Before accepting the position, Dr. McCarty served as a quality-assurance director in the unit for several years and is committed to continual improvement in quality of care. Recently, new procedures were established in order to optimize the work of the unit's staff. For example, nurses were moved to case management, a change that allowed a patient to have the same dedicated clinical nursing staff at each visit.

Collaboration is becoming an increasingly important part of the unit's work including the facility's involvement in multi-center studies on regional and national levels, such as the North ... consortium. This practice can bring patients unique clinical protocols and results in a wider variety of services offered.

The visibility of the unit has increased significantly over the past few months. In March, a local TV channel aired an interview with Dr. McCarty in which he discussed the ways of increasing the efficiency of bone marrow transplantation. In April, the BMT unit received FABCT Accreditation demonstrating that the facility meets the strict quality medical and laboratory practice standards that are required by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Hematopoietic Cell Therapy.

Dr. McCarty's vision is for the unit to become the core of an educational and research program devoted to bone marrow transplantation. With such an impressive record of accomplishments already under way, there is no doubt our renewed BMT unit will flourish.
Mentoring Academic Leaders: Three Years of Growing Success for Women Faculty Members

The Department of Internal Medicine is proud to announce another successful applicant to the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. In the 2001–2002 academic year, Dr. Karen Sanders will join the class of Fellows.

The ELAM program is the only in-depth national program that prepares women faculty for senior leadership positions at academic health centers. The program is sponsored by the Institute for Women’s Health at MCP Hahnemann University. It brings together senior women faculty for skills training, mentoring, networking, and professional development. ELAM’s significant contributions to increasing women’s leadership in academia has gained national recognition. The program received two major awards in the field, from the American Council on Education and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Over the past three years, three faculty members of our Department have been accepted to this competitive and prestigious national program. Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz was a member of the 1999–2000 Class and Dr. Mary Nettelman was a member of the 2000–2001 Class.

“It was exciting to be in a program with so many outstanding and successful women in academic medicine,” Dr. Kaplowitz said. “Our group bonded very rapidly, and we learned as much from each other as from the instructions in the program.”

“ELAM was a unique and fulfilling experience,” Dr. Nettelman added. “The women in my class and the alumni from other classes form a cohesive national network which is absolutely invaluable.”

“As a department, we are proud of our successful applicants and our role in preparing women faculty members for leadership in academic medicine,” said Dr. Richard Wenzel, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Clinical Activities: Letters

The Massey Cancer Center received the following letter:

Thank you so much for helping me find Dr. [Mary Helen] Hackney. I had my second opinion appointment with her last Tuesday and decided on the spot that she was the only oncologist for me. I cannot begin to tell you how welcoming, reassuring and kind everyone was on my visits to Massey. I am so impressed with the group of caring professionals working there.

Deadline for Submission for Between Rounds

Between Rounds, the Department’s annual publication of poetry, photography, art, and original musical scores, is open for submission until October 15th. Please be sure to proofread submissions carefully and send all work to the Department of Internal Medicine: c/o Katia Dobrotvorskaia Box 980663 Phone: (804)828-5484 Email: katia@hsc.vcu.edu

News Briefs

Dr. Curt Selesler was a pro bono speaker at the 2nd Annual Central American Course in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in San Jose, Costa Rica, in April 2001. He spoke on nosocomial pneumonia, mechanical ventilation, and ARDS. Dr. Selesler was also a guest editor for the spring issue of Seminars in Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, and wrote an article entitled, “Managing sedation, analgesia, and neuromuscular blockade in the ICU.”

Dr. Tom Smith has been appointed to the Institute of Medicine National Cancer Policy Board. The Board is charged with making policy recommendations to the President and Congress, and performing unbiased assessments of critical technologies and cancer-related issues.

The VCU Division of Hematology/Oncology has fielded Road Running teams at the Komen Foundation Race for the Cure, the Utrosk 10-K, and the Extrema Extreme 10K. Congrats to all who finished, especially the last one over the rocks of the James River!

Dr. Evelyne Goudreau was recently awarded a special plaque from the Interventional Fellow Group recognizing her for Interventional Cardiology teaching for fellow education. This reflects Dr. Goudreau’s contribution to the training program in both Medicine and Cardiology.

Faculty Publications


