In continuance with the recent hospital upgrades, the Main 8 West Medicine Telemetry and Step-Down Units were relocated to the newly renovated North 9 Medicine Intermediate Care Telemetry Unit on June 9, 2004. The new unit is capable of housing up to thirty patients and features a mix of private and semi-private rooms. All rooms are negative pressure rooms, making this the unit of choice for airborne infections such as SARS, influenza, tuberculosis and also in the event of biological terrorism. Innovations include touch-screen telemetry monitors and monitoring capability throughout the North Hospital, which gives much greater flexibility with patient placement as well as allows us to provide much safer care.

While this undertaking took months in the making, the transition occurred seamlessly with hardly a wrinkle, thanks to the hands-on efforts of nurse manager Sue Harrison, Clinical Nurse Specialist Julie Kubiak, the entire nursing staff and the movers. “This unit is a wonderful new home for our medicine patients and the nurses, physicians and allied health professionals who care for them,” said Lauren R. Goodloe, Ph.D., R.N., Director of Medical and Pediatric Nursing of the VCU Health System. “The move is a fulfillment of a many-year dream to have our medicine units located in one hospital. My sincere thanks to Dr. Richard Wenzel for his ongoing support and vision to make this happen.”

This move is the last piece of the North 9 renovation, which initially began with the creation of a dedicated Internal Medicine Housestaff wing, complete with team rooms, a conference room and call rooms. The creation of this space means the consolidation of the Acute Care Medicine and Intermediate Care Telemetry patients into one hospital, eliminating much of the travel between North and Main Hospitals.
AAP Membership at 11 in the Department

Of 340 institutions, including Universities, Public Health entities and research facilities, the Department of Internal Medicine of VCU ranked number 62 in number of members elected to the Association of American Physicians with 11 members. The AAP is one of the most prestigious organizations in Academic medicine recognizing both leadership and scholarship, especially in research. The National Institutes of Medicine have 81,77, and 72 members, respectively.

President of U.S. Pharmaceuticals Addresses Grand Rounds

Last month, the Department of Internal Medicine had a remarkable and unusual Grand Rounds speaker. Pat Kelly, president of Pfizer U.S. Pharmaceuticals, Vice President of Pfizer Inc., and a member of the Pfizer Leadership Council addressed the Grand Rounds.

A graduate of Duke University, Mr. Kelly began his career at Pfizer in 1980 as a temporary clerk. Since then, he had positions of increasing responsibility in Pfizer’s pharmaceutical marketing and research. He has been actively involved in the launch of every new Pfizer pharmaceutical medicine since 1984. Currently, Mr. Kelly leads the world’s largest privately funded biomedical research company, an organization in the top tier of pharmaceutical industry with revenues of over $26 billion last year.

Mr. Kelly believes in changing the healthcare delivery system in the U.S. with the focus on improving health outcomes through managing quality and cost, as well as disease management, coordinated care and wellness. He is also a strong advocate of health information for consumers and believes that when appropriate and properly executed, direct-to-consumer communication provides vitally important health benefits to patients. In his Grand Rounds talk, Mr. Kelly indicated that the move from financing radical treatments to financing wellness and evidence-based medicine is the key for better effectiveness of the healthcare system. “It is an unusual opportunity for our faculty and housestaff to have the healthcare perspective of a corporate president,” said Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc., Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine. “Pat Kelly created debate and stimulated the audience to examine their strong convictions.”

Recognition of a Distinguished Career in Nursing

Ginger Edwards, M.S., N.P, recently received the MCV Alumni Association 2004 Nurse Alumnus Award for Outstanding Practice as part of the 36th Annual Mahoney-Hamner Nursing Alumni Lecture during Reunion Weekend. The award is presented annually to a graduate who exemplifies an innovative, professional and scholarly approach to his or her practice and contributes to the development of others.

Ms. Edwards has been a pioneer in the role of NPs as specialty practitioners throughout an extensive and distinguished career as a practitioner at VCU. “Ms. Edwards deserves our praise and admiration for her professionalism, skill and dedication to the Department,” said Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc., Chairman of DOIM.

2004 Housestaff Awards

The Annual Housestaff Awards Ceremony took place June 3rd, 2004. A number of housestaff were recognized for their accomplishments in front of their peers and many faculty members who gathered for this special event. The ceremony was followed by the traditional ice cream social.

Best Ward Attending:
André Pinson, M.D.

Best Attending in an ICU or Subspecialty Setting:
Lisa Brath, M.D.

Obert Miren, M.D. Award for the Best Fellow:
Matt Williams, M.D.

Michael Wayne Reiff, M.D. Award for the Outstanding Intern:
Kelsey Salley, M.D.

Finalists: Venkat Ramachandran, M.D., Doug Johnson, M.D.

Outstanding Junior Resident:
Jefrey Kushinka, M.D.

Finalists: Anne Lipke, M.D., Dammy Pedram, M.D.

Higgins Award for the Outstanding Senior Resident:
Carlos Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D.

Finalists: Rajiv Panikkar, M.D., Jeff Hoag, M.D.

Outstanding House Staff Clinician Award:
(for Highest Evaluations by the Internal Medicine Faculty)
Christine Jones, M.D.

Finalists: Drs. Lisa Ellis, Carlos Hubbard, Betsy Kleiner, Jeff Kushinka, Anne Lipke, Rajiv Panikkar, Kelsey Salley, Mark Townsend, Sue Wolfer

Scholar’s Prize:
(for Excellence in Scholarship during Residency)
Interns: Paul Arnold, M.D.

Finalists: T.J. Wallace, M.D., Kelsey Salley, M.D.

Junior Residents: Kevin Comar, M.D.

Finalists: Juddi Yeh, M.D., Matt Earnest, M.D.

Senior Residents: Jeff Hoag, M.D.

Finalists: Christine Jones, M.D., Carlos Hubbard, M.D.

Arthur Klein, M.D. Memorial Award:
(for the Internal Medicine house officer chosen by his/hers peers who best demonstrates the healing values of careful listening to patients and in explaining the causes, course and outcome of their diseases)
Lisa Ellis, M.D.

Finalists: Elizabeth Harris, M.D., Betsy Kleiner, M.D., Carlos Hubbard, M.D., Ph.D.

Excellence in Residency Award:
(for Uncompromising Intellectual and Personal Commitment to the Art and Science of Medicine Elected by Internal Medicine Faculty)
Anne Lipke, M.D.

Finalists: Lisa Ellis, M.D., Rajiv Panikkar, M.D.

Future Faculty Award:
(for Commitment to the Ideals of Education, Research and Clinical Service)
Jeff Hoag, M.D.
News Briefs

Two of our internal medicine housestaff won at the recent VCU Resident’s Research Day competition. Abstracts entered by Dr. T.J. Wallace and Dr. Juddi Yeh were selected for oral presentations and placed first and second.

First Place: T.J. Wallace, M.D., Internal Medicine, “Gene Silencing in Inflammation” – $1000

Second Place (tie): Juddi Yeh, M.D., Internal Medicine, “NSCLC Treated with Gefitinib and NVP ADW-742 Results in Additive Effect” – $500

Clinical Activities: Letters

Dr. Michael Weaver received the following letter:

Dr. Weaver: When I came to you, I was a mass of raw pain with severe suffering who had no hope for the future. Our work together relieved the pain so it no longer affects every thought and decision in my life. Because of that, I am living the future I didn’t think I could have. I am very grateful to you for making it possible.

Dr. Arun Sanyal received the following letter:

Dr. Sanyal: Approximately eight years ago, you saved my wife’s life. She was sent to you by Diego Gomez in Lewisburg, WV, after developing autoimmune hepatitis, related to a course of Levaquin. I was so inspired by your competency, professionalism and kind manner that I returned to college night classes and then applied to medical school. I am now a 4th-year medical student at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. It would be a great honor to be able to complete an elective rotation with you at MCV.