Faculty Publications (continued from page three)


NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Lenore Buckley to Lead VCU Medical Center at Stony Point

There is no question that Dr. Buckley will provide vital leadership energy and vision for the future of Stony Point.

– Dr. Richard Wenzel

Lenore Buckley, MD, MPH, Professor of the Department of Internal Medicine, has been appointed medical director of VCU Medical Center at Stony Point, a growing multi-specialty outpatient facility. A graduate of Cornell and Harvard, Dr. Buckley is an accomplished leader and superb medical educator. She will coordinate clinical services for MCV Physicians as well as the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Richard Wenzel has outlined his vision for Stony Point: to provide state-of-the-art clinical services that support MCV Physicians’ mission and the strategic plan for the health system. Currently, about one third of the facility is occupied by MCV Physicians’ clinical programs and the remainder by hospital-based services including a laboratory, a new physical therapy unit, radiation oncology, a new breast imaging center, and expanded radiology services including a state-of-the-art musculoskeletal imaging center with MRI, CT and interventional musculoskeletal services (epidural, facet and joint injections). Dermatology and Orthopedics have significantly expanded their space at Stony Point. Neurosurgery will also be adding providers at the Stony Point site. Pediatric specialty services have moved to the second floor. Dr. Sherman Baker is the medical director of the Hematology Oncology program at Stony Point.

The Women’s Health Center recently received the designation of a National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health from the Department of Health and Human Services. They will have a new patient information center supported by the Theresa Thomas Foundation.

“There is no question that Dr. Buckley will provide vital leadership energy and vision for the future of Stony Point,” said Dr. Richard Wenzel, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Neal Roberts, MD, has been selected by the American College of Rheumatology for a Clinician Scholar Award to recognize and support his dedication and skills at providing high-quality educational experiences to trainees in Rheumatology. He was one of three individuals selected nationally to receive this prestigious three-year award.

Ryan Mire, MD, former chief resident at DOIM, has written a booklet on how residents should approach seeking their first professional position. The booklet is endorsed by the Massachusetts Medical Society publications committee, which also publishes the New England Journal of Medicine.
Electrical Therapy of Congestive Heart Failure: A 2004 Mindset Change

In 2004, congestive heart failure has become an epidemic associated with significant morbidity and an unacceptably high mortality rate. Traditional therapy, in terms of pharmacology, aimed at interrupting the neurohumorostic storm of congestive heart failure has and improved patients' symptoms, slowing the progression of the disease and increasing survival. However, there appears to be a limit on how far we can take medical therapy in increasing survival in our patients with congestive heart failure.

Another successful point of attack on this problem has emerged in the last five years with the application of electrical therapy for congestive heart failure. The first insight into this successful application was seen with the implantation of the Automatic Cardiac Defibrillators (AICD), which have clearly been shown to decrease mortality and increase survival in those patients particularly with low ejection fractions that are secondary to coronary artery disease.

This data are now being translated successfully into those patients with primary cardiomyopathies. Within the last five years, the concept of biventricular pacing in those patients with a low ejection fraction, ventricular dysynchrony and left bundle branch block has been clearly shown to increase survival, significantly improve the quality of life of our patients, and when combined with an automatic internal defibrillator, further increase survival. The Heart Failure and Electrophysiology sections of the Division of Cardiology at the VCU HS has been at the forefront of these clinical investigations. This now leaves us with a very large patient population who have uncompensated congested heart failure and a narrow QRS on the electrocardiogram.

At the cutting edge of technology is the concept of cardiac contractility modulation (CCM) which is the implantation of an electrical wire connected to an implanted computer which delivers impulses to the heat that prolongs the action potential and thereby increases contractility. The combined Heart Failure and Electrophysiology group at VCU HS is one of the first groups in the United States to begin the procedure and is now continuing under strict recent protocols.

Thus, in the field of congestive heart failure, there has been a “shogun marriage” between electrophysiologists who are capable of placing wires and electrodes in the heart, congestive heart failure doctors who are principally concerned with the pharmacological therapy of congestive heart failure, and advanced technology. This marriage has created a relatively new broadened discipline, now combining two large groups that, led by Dr. Kenneth Ellenbogen and Dr. Michael Hess, contribute to push back the frontiers of the dilemma of congestive heart failure. By combining the expertise of both disciplines, we are able to further significantly improve both quality of life and survival in our patients with heart failure.

Contributed by Michael Hess, MD, Director, Heart Failure/Transplantation Program, and Kenneth Ellenbogen, MD, Vice Chair, Division of Cardiology

New Procedures in Pulmonary Medicine

Interventional pulmonology is a fairly new subspecialty that includes advanced bronchoscopy, percutaneous tracheotomy and pleural procedures such as pleuroscopy. The Department of Internal Medicine has recruited a specially trained pulmonary interventionalist, Dr. Wes Shepard, to lead this activity. Dr. Shepard did his Internal Medicine and Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship at VCU and subsequently completed his interventional fellowship at the Lahey Clinic in Boston. The advanced bronchoscopic techniques include therapeutic procedures as well as newer diagnostic technology such as autofluorescence bronchoscopy for the detection of early airway cancers. Therapeutic bronchoscopy involves the use of rigid or flexible bronchoscopy with laser therapy, electrocautery, balloon dilation, brachytherapy and the placement of all varieties of silicone and metallic airway stents. It also includes photodynamic therapy for the treatment of early stage airway tumours or airway obstruction.

Most of the bronchoscopic techniques are used to treat the airway complications of lung or other cancers and are especially useful as a minimally invasive way of opening larger central airway obstructions. There are also a variety of benign conditions that cause airway stenosis that can be treated with these same techniques. Although very few training programs in interventional pulmonology exist, the field is rapidly expanding. We plan to provide unique care for these patients at Virginia's only hospital offering the full spectrum of these procedures.

Faculty Publications

Dr. Wes Shepard


Faculty Publications (continued from page three)


Dr. Lenore Buckley received the following letter:


Dr. Lenore Buckley to Lead VCU Medical Center at Stony Point

There is no question that Dr. Buckley will provide vital leadership energy and vision for the future of Stony Point.

– Dr. Richard Wenzel

Lenore Buckley, MD, MPH, Professor of the Department of Internal Medicine, has been appointed medical director of VCU Medical Center at Stony Point, a growing multi-specialty outpatient facility. A graduate of Cornell and Harvard, Dr. Buckley is an accomplished leader and superb medical educator. She will coordinate clinical services for MCV Physicians as well as the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Richard Wenzel has outlined his vision for Stony Point: to provide state-of-the-art clinical services that support MCV Physicians’ mission and the strategic plan for the health system. Currently, about one third of the facility is occupied by MCV Physicians’ clinical programs and the remainder by hospital-based services including a laboratory, a new physical therapy unit, radiation oncology, a new breast imaging center, and expanded radiology services including a state-of-the-art musculoskeletal imaging center with MRI, CT and interventional musculoskeletal services (epidural, facet and joint injections). Dermatology and Orthopedics have significantly expanded their space at Stony Point. Neurosurgery will also be adding providers at the Stony Point site. Pediatric specialty services have moved to the second floor. Dr. Sherman Baker is the medical director of the Hematology Oncology program at Stony Point.

The Women’s Health Center recently received the designation of a National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health from the Department of Health and Human Services. They will have a new patient information center supported by the Theresa Thomas Foundation.

“There is no question that Dr. Buckley will provide vital leadership energy and vision for the future of Stony Point,” said Dr. Richard Wenzel, Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Neal Roberts, MD, has been selected by the American College of Rheumatology for a Clinician Scholar Award to recognize and support his dedication and skills at providing high-quality educational experiences to trainees in Rheumatology. He was one of three individuals selected nationally to receive this prestigious three-year award.

Ryan Mire, MD, former chief resident at DOIM, has written a booklet on how residents should approach seeking their first professional position. The booklet is endorsed by the Massachusetts Medical Society publications committee, which also publishes the New England Journal of Medicine.