Department of Internal Medicine Faculty Reach Out to Tanzania

Dr. Tom Smith, chair of the Hematology/Oncology and Palliative Care Division, and Patrick Coyne were part of the interdisciplinary team that taught the first Palliative Care course in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, last summer. The training was held at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Muhimbili Medical Center. ORCI and VCU-Massey have had a long-standing relationship since 1994.

The training began with clinical observations and consultations at the Cancer Hospital – the only oncology hospital providing such services as chemotherapy and cobalt radiation therapy in the country of 40 million. The group also conducted home visits in rural areas with the Tanzania Palliative Care Team, and visited a district hospital and orphanage (www.friendsoftanzania.com) that takes both HIV+ and HIV- children.

The End of Life Nursing Collaborative (ELNEC) training, the first such program in Tanzania, was opened by the Minister of Health, the Cancer Clinic Director and the Director of African Palliative Care Association. 45 doctors and nurses from Tanzania, as well as Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia attended. Thanks to the support from the Oncology Nursing Society, 38 participants from all parts of Tanzania were able to participate. The participants learned aspects of palliative care, including pain management, grief counseling and other topics.

The group also conducted home visits in rural areas with the Tanzania Palliative Care Team, and visited a district hospital and orphanage (www.friendsoftanzania.com) that takes both HIV+ and HIV- children.

(continued on page two)
Faculty Profile: Dr. Evelyne Goudreau

Currently an Associate Professor in the Department, Dr. Evelyne Goudreau joined VCU’s faculty 20 years ago. An outstanding interventional cardiologist, she came from Montreal, Canada, having completed her residency at Notre-Dame Hospital. She earned her medical degree and completed her Cardiology fellowship at the University of Montreal.

Dr. Goudreau is widely recognized as a hard-working and highly effective clinician, whose RVUs place her at the 99th percentile of the national benchmark for cardiologists; in other words, 99% of cardiologists in the country are less productive than she is. Her clinical productivity exceeds all other members of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Despite her extraordinarily busy schedule, Dr. Goudreau is a well-published investigator and an accomplished educator, and thus represents an academic role model that any university proudly highlights. She is widely recognized as an expert interventional cardiologist and is frequently invited to speak throughout the world. She is committed to her patients, students and fellows. Her ethical standards are beyond reproach and her medical standards are exemplary. “Dr. Goudreau is a pillar of the cardiology division and is highly valued for her skills,” said Dr. Richard Wenzel, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine. “She is a wonderful role model in academic medicine.”

VCU’s School of Medicine to Hold 9th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Program

VCU School of Medicine on the MCV Campus will host its 9th Annual Faculty Excellence Awards Program recognizing outstanding faculty. The awards ceremony will be held Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 12:10 p.m. in the Kontos Medical Sciences Building Auditorium. A luncheon reception will immediately follow the ceremony on the Kontos MSB Plaza.

Awards to be presented include the Teaching Excellence Awards; the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award; the Women in Science, Dentistry, and Medicine Professional Achievement Award; and the MCV Physicians Distinguished Clinician Award.

All SOM faculty, medical and graduate students, housestaff, postdocs, administrators, and staff are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Debbie Stewart at 826-6591.

Upcoming Medical Grand Rounds – Fall 2007

Oct. 4 Interventional Oncology
Dan Komorowski, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Radiation
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Oct. 11 Caring Hepatitis C: How Far We Have Come and How Far We Have to Go
Mitchell L. Shiffman, MD
Chair, Section of Hepatology; Division of Gastroenterology,
Department of Internal Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Oct. 18 An Update on Human Papillomavirus Vaccines
Kevin A. Ault, MD
Associate Professor
Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics
Emory University School of Medicine

Oct. 25 Clinopathologic Conference
Discussant: Richard P Winzel, MD, MSc
William Branch Porter Professor and Chair
Department of Internal Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Nov. 1 TBA
Myron Levine, MD, DTPH
Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Director of the Center for Vaccine Development
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Nov. 7 Fellows’ Research Day

Nov. 15 Clinopathologic Conference

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 29 ANNUAL ORIAN MUREN LECTURE: COPD
Norbert Volfeld, MD
Associate Professor and Director of Research
Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Dec. 6 Alcohol and Other Drug Use Disorders: Beyond Cocaine and Heroin Needles
Mary Jo Jones de Wit, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Dec. 13 Clinopathologic Conference

All Internal Medicine Grand Rounds are held at 12:00 noon in the Moses A. Kontos Medical Sciences Building Auditorium unless otherwise noted. The calendar is subject to change. VCU is closed December 22-January 1.
Faculty Publications


Shillman, ML. A balancing view: We cannot do it alone. Am J Gastroenterol. 2007 Sep;102(9):1841–3.


Dr. Tom Smith, chair of the Hematology/Oncology and Palliative Care Division, and Patrick Coyne were part of the interdisciplinary team that taught the first Palliative Care course in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, last summer. The training was held at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Muhimbili Medical Center. ORCI and VCU-Massey have had a long-standing relationship since 1994.

The training began with clinical observations and consultations at the Cancer Hospital – the only oncology hospital providing such services as chemotherapy and cobalt radiation therapy in the country of 40 million. The group also conducted home visits in rural areas with the Tanzania Palliative Care Team, and visited a district hospital and orphanage (www.friendsoftanzania.com) that takes both HIV+ and HIV- children.

The End of Life Nursing Collaborative (ELNEC) training, the first such program in Tanzania, was opened by the Minister of Health, the Cancer Clinic Director and the Director of African Palliative Care Association. 45 doctors and nurses from Tanzania, as well as Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia attended. Thanks to the support from the Oncology Nursing Society, 38 participants from all parts of Tanzania were able to participate. The participants learned aspects of palliative care, including pain management, grief counseling and other topics.

Tanzanian nurses shared with the trainers the challenges of improving care of the vast populations suffering from cancer and AIDS, especially in the most remote and poor areas of the country, with few resources available. At present, four hospitals have morphine available but over 100 do not. Palliative care is one entry into the rural villages and poorer areas, where most people will not ever have seen a health care professional. Successful pain management leads to trust, which leads to testing for (continued on page two)