Recently I was invited to speak at an outside institution on the topic of “Measuring the Value of Good Departments of Medicine.” To prepare for the Grand Round presentation, I surveyed Department Chairs and asked for a list of the top three “most important, measurable attributes of a good department.”

Despite financial challenges, the quest for new research grants, and the competitive clinical arena today, the number one response has been a good housestaff program, according to 30% of respondents. National recognition, and clinical activities, respectively, were attributes listed as numbers two, three, and four.

The reasons to value excellence in the residency program include the excitement of working with bright young physicians, improved possibilities of scholarship from the housestaff, superior clinical care and high quality outcomes, and a “pipeline” for the fellowship programs and eventually for faculty recruitment.

Early reports from Michael B. Edmond, M.D., MPH, Residency Program Director, are that the numbers and quality of applicants for next year’s internship are the best ever – for the fourth year in a row! Currently our residents come from 44 U.S. medical schools, with progressive interest over the last few years from students studying in institutions west of the Mississippi River.

Soon we will begin the annual process of interviewing and selecting the best and the brightest to join our educational program. We have a top-25 categorical medicine program, one of 12 U.S. programs with progressive interest over the last few years from students studying in institutions west of the Mississippi River.

The entire MERT Team responded, and Dr. Rowe did an excellent job of managing the patient and the team. The patient did well and was transferred to a hospital.

Dr. Thalial also helped with the emergency and has really been a team player since she has come to Stony Point. She has participated in all of our MERT training and has volunteered to help Dr. Rowe and Dr. Reddy with the emergency response needs.

We really appreciate this kind of support.

The Value of an Excellent Housestaff

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The Department anticipates a great deal of exciting visitors this fall from the most diverse student body ever to interview. Our continued interest in providing a culture for inquiry, creative ways to transmit knowledge, and warm relationships with residents will win the day.
New Markham Award Announced

Dr. J. David Markham, Professor Emeritus, has established a second Markham Award. In addition to the J. David Markham Award for Excellence in Teaching, he has provided funds to establish the J. David Markham Award for Compassionate Physician and Role Model.

The recipient of the new Markham Award will be a faculty member selected by committee as the best physician and role model in the clinical environment for housestaff. The nominee must be involved in patients’ continuing inpatient and outpatient care, and demonstrate excellence in compassionate care through concern for patients’ quality of life, major life activities, co-morbidity, or disease management requiring interaction with other practitioners. The nominee will also be judged on patient rapport, patient education, patient rights, and patient confidentiality. The nominee must demonstrate a visible commitment to compassionate care in teaching and practice, and show sensitivity to the impact of compassionate physician behavior on housestaff members.

The new award is distinguished from the Excellence in Teaching Award by being based on compassionate care, particularly in the inpatient setting. Nominations are open to all faculty of the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Markham served as Associate Professor in the Division of General Medicine and Primary Care between 1986 and 1989, in addition to private practice. After retiring, he served as a consultant to the Medical Society of Virginia Review Organization, the Virginia State Board of Medicine, and the Medical Malpractice Review Panel of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Dr. Markham served as a Captain in the U.S. Army in the European theater between 1942 and 1946, twice receiving the Presidential Meritorious Unit Citation, five Combat Stars, a Medical Combat Badge, a Bronze Arrowhead for the D-Day invasion, and the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in ground combat.

In other symposia news: Dr. John Nestler, Professor and Chairman, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, chaired a symposium on "Poly cystic Ovary Syndrome: The Insulin Resistance Connection," at the September meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. At the symposium, Dr. Nestler delivered a talk entitled "Use of Insulin-Sensitizing Drugs in PCOS."

1999 Service Award Recipients for Internal Medicine

The Department of Internal Medicine was well represented at the October 4th presentation of the School of Medicine Annual Teaching Awards.

The Award for Educational Innovation was shared by Michelle Y. Whitworth-Coil, M.D., and Rita M. Miller, M.D. Nominees for Teaching Excellence awards included Douglas M. Homan, M.D., and Mary D. Nettleton, M.D.

Winnies in the Outstanding Course and Clerkship Certificate Awards were:

M-I Foundations of Clinical Medicine.
- John M. Whitworth, M.D.

M-III Population Medicine.
- Michael Edmond, M.D., MPH

M-V Gastroenterology.
- Michael Edmond, M.D.

M-VIII CardiacAus.
- Richard K. Darling, M.D.

M-VIII Respiratory.
- Paul P. Fairman, M.D.

M-VIII Nephrology.
- Tom M. Medicine.

M-VIII Neurology.
- Domenic A. Sica, M.D.

M-VIII Neurology.
- Mary Ann Pfender, M.D.

M-III Infectious Diseases.
- Jeffrey P. Perry, M.D.

M-III Hematology.
- Julie A. Rhodes, M.D.

M-III Infectious Diseases.
- Joy P. Rose, M.D.

M-III Endocrinology.
- Marion Sheppard, M.D.

M-III Dermatology.
- Mitchell L. Shulman, M.D.

M-III Infectious Diseases.
- Tina Y. Smith, M.D.

M-III Hematology.
- Karel V. Tucker, M.D.

M-III Endocrinology.
- Sandra R. Walker, M.D.

M-III Pharmacology.
- Melanie A. Wiggins, M.D.

Hematology/Oncology Symposium Held at the Jefferson Hotel

On October 9th, at the Jefferson Hotel, the Division of Hematology/Oncology held its Third Annual Symposium for Cancer Treatment. The main topic this year was "Evidence-Based Urology: New Developments, Treatment of Testicular, Bladder, and Prostate Cancer." The Symposium included speakers from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Karmanos Cancer Institute, and the Cleveland Clinic. This year’s symposium was coordinated by Dr. Thomas Smith, Associate Professor and Chairman, Division of Hematology/Oncology; and Dr. John Roberts, Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology.

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1999 Service Award Recipients for Internal Medicine

Name

- Linda J. Allen, M.D.
- Ruth G. Adams, M.D.
- Peter A. Boling, M.D.
- Carla F. Colucci
- Jeyanthanathan Chelliah
- Simon Henry Clemo, M.D.
- Kevin R. Cooper, M.D.
- Kenneth A. Ellenbogen
- Shalom S. Ferrara
- Steven D. Feiner, M.D.
- Kim Hall
- Andrea Hastillo, M.D.
- Bruce E. Hillier, M.D.
- Charlotte M. Hoffman
- Elizabeth C. Huber, M.D.
- Thomas M. Kriekard, M.D.
- Wendy S. Klein, M.D.
- Marjorie A. Knick
- Joseph E. Levassor
- Betty W. Magner
- Pramesh K. Mohan, M.D.
- George F. Monksy, M.D.
- Perry Franklin Mullinax, M.D.
- Mary Ann Pfender, M.D.
- Jeffrey P. Perry, M.D.
- Julie A. Rhodes, M.D.
- Joy P. Rose, M.D.
- Marlon Sheppard, M.D.
- Mitchell L. Shulman, M.D.
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Year

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- Endocrinology
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Mr. Carl Fischer received the following letter: My wife was a cancer patient on your [bone marrow transplant] in- and out-patient floor and respiratory ICU from January ... I was there I felt assured everything was done for my wife that could be done. Her doctor was Dr. Saul Yanovich, a very caring, informative, positive man. The confidence of the staff kept my wife going, strengthening her attitude. Very close to my heart are Dana Casper, Pat Baskin, Norman, both of Dr. Yanovich’s associates, and Kim. These people touched our lives deeply with their care.

Dr. Mary Nettleman received the following letter from MERT, the Medical Emergency Response Team: I wanted to let you know what a great job your physicians are doing at Stony Point in assisting with our emergencies. Last week Dr. Reddy stepped in to care for a patient who was in our Ophthalmology Clinic but experiencing chest pain. We moved her to the Internal Medicine Clinic, and she was cared for by Dr. Reddy and the nursing staff. Because of his willingness to take the time to evaluate the patient calmly, we were able to avoid having to transfer her to the ER, and she was able to be treated for an eye infection.

Yesterday, Dr. Rose responded to another emergency in our Sport, Spine and Surgery Department. A patient had received an injection, dropped her pressure and was bradycardic. The entire MERT Team responded, and Dr. Rose did an excellent job of managing the patient and the team. The patient did well and was transferred to a hospital.

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