



Sixth Annual Beckwith Family Visiting Professorship Lecture and Awards for Outstanding Teaching



Guest Lecturer, Dr. Kelly Skeff with Drs. Michele Cyr, Albert Most, Michael Schleinitz and Jennifer Jeremiah

The Department of Medicine held its Sixth Annual Beckwith Family Awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. It followed the Beckwith Visiting Professorship Lecture where Kelly M. Skeff, MD, PhD, FACP, George DeForest Barnett Professor of Medicine from Stanford University was the guest lecturer presenting “*The Expanding Curricular Opportunities in Medical Education.*”

This is the 6th year that the Department of Medicine has given awards to recognize superb teaching by its faculty. The Beckwith Family Research and Education Endowment Fund is used to support the education and research mission of the Department of Medicine, with an emphasis on the education and training of medical residents. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, program and course directors in the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University Department of Medicine. Each winner was presented with a plaque and a cash prize.

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The recipients this year were:

- ♦ **Thomas Bledsoe, MD**
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of General Internal Medicine
Director, Center for Biomedical Ethics, Brown University
- ♦ **Fred J. Schiffman, MD**
Professor of Medicine
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Vice Chairman of Medicine, The Miriam Hospital
- ♦ **Allen M. Dennison, MD**
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of General Internal Medicine
- ♦ **Dominick Tamaro, MD**
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of General Internal Medicine
Associate Chief of Clinical Affairs, Rhode Island Hospital
- ♦ **Marguerite Neill, MD**
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
- ♦ **Associate Director/Co-Director, Residency Programs**

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Chairman's Message

Edward J. Wing, MD



The arrival of Arthur Klein, MD, Senior Vice President & Chief Physician Officer, Lifespan Corporation and Associate Dean for Strategic & Special Projects, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has brought a new vision, tremendous energy, and a new relationship between Lifespan, its hospitals and physicians. Arthur has been particularly supportive of the Department of Medicine. His efforts have centered on restructuring Cardiology, planning for the expansion of oncological programs that will lead eventually to a NCI designated Comprehensive

Cancer Center, and support for our genomics program. Even more important has been an overall vision for an academic medical center that will be in alignment with the strengths of all the hospitals and The Warren Alpert Medical School. Arthur has given physicians a strong sense of collegiality and support that has been most appreciated.

Highlighted in this edition of the newsletter are the winners of the Department of Medicine Beckwith Family awards for teaching. The winners are absolutely exceptional teachers. I regard recognition of their excellence as an essential and delightful responsibility of the Department. And finally, I wish to thank all of the teachers in the Department at all levels for their excellent work. It is not hard to understand why we are rated the best Department in the Medical School in terms of our teaching.

And finally, we had an outstanding match with residents in our four programs; Categorical, Primary Care, Med/Peds, and Preliminary. Memorial Hospital had an excellent match as well. Our new residents come from outstanding schools and we're pleased to welcome them to Rhode Island.

Past Recipients of the Department of Medicine Teaching Awards:

Yousaf Ali, MD
 Andrew Artenstein, MD
 Mel Anderson, MD
 Alfred Buxton, MD
 E. Jane Carter, MD
 Amos Charles, MD
 Fredric V. Christian, MD
 Robert Crausman, MD
 Michele G. Cyr, MD
 Joseph Diaz, MD
 Walter Donat, MD
 Kevin M. Dushay, MD
 Allan D. Erickson, MD
 Mark Fagan, MD
 Edward Feller, MD
 Staci Fischer, MD
 Pamela A. Harrop, MD
 Jennifer Jeremiah, MD
 James R. Klinger, MD
 George Lee, MD
 Michael J. Maher, MD
 David Marcoux, MD
 Kelly A. McGarry, MD
 Anthony E. Mega, MD
 Leonard A. Mermel, DO
 Steven Opal, MD
 Athena Poppas, MD
 Raymond O. Powrie, MD
 Harlan Rich, MD
 Sundaresan T. Sambandam, MD
 Benjamin L. Sapers, MD
 Caroline A. Troise, MD
 Philip B. Vaidyan, MD
 Tony C. Wu, MD



The Department of Medicine Newsletter is published quarterly. To submit an article or provide information contact Denise Lavelly-O'Hara at 444-5127, e-mail to dlavelly-ohara@Lifespan.org or contact Dan Bryant at 444-6893, e-mail to dbryant@Lifespan.org

Research Awards

Piero Biancani, PhD, from the Division of Gastroenterology, has received funding for his NIH resubmission 'Inflammation and Signal Transduction in Esophagitis.' Averaging approximately \$200k in direct cost funding per year for 5 years, this is a continuation of an R01 initially funded in 2000. The project concerns Gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD), which is the most common esophageal disorder affecting 10% of adults over age 40. Previous data has shows that esophageal inflammation begins with activation of the TRPV1 receptor in the mucosa and the synthesis of platelet aggregating factor (PAF) in the mucosal layer. The grant will further those studies by focusing on the onset of inflammation in response to acid in the esophageal lumen, especially the H2O2 production and presence in the process. These studies could lead to novel therapeutic approaches to GERD.

Eduardo Nillni, PhD, in the Division of Endocrinology has received \$60,000 over two years from Brown University for the Bray Fellowship program. Mario Perello, PhD, a postdoc within Dr. Nillni's laboratory, was awarded this fellowship for a project titled 'Study of the Biosynthesis and Processing of Prothyrotropin Releasing Hormone (PROTRH) in the Hypothalamic Paraventricular Nucleus (PVN) in a Rat Model of Diet-Induced Obesity (DIO).' The project will test the hypothesis that the high leptin levels of DIO animals produce signaling on hypophysiotropic proTRH neurons that decrease the expression, biosynthesis, processing, and secretion of proTRH-derived peptides in the hypothalamus. The other specific aim is to determine if DIRECT leptin signaling on proTRH neurons occurs in the PVN of DIO animals.

Biodefense Research Grant Renewed

Steven M. Opal, M.D.

Dr. Steven Opal, Division of Infectious Diseases, Memorial Hospital, recently received confirmation that the competitive renewal grant in Biodefense Research from the New England Regional Center for Biodefense has been funded for an additional year. This research grant is a collaborative effort with Dr. Stephen Gregory, a research microbiologist and immunologist at Rhode Island Hospital and Dr. Alan Cross from the University of Maryland Medical School Vaccine Research Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The project is investigating the protective efficacy and mechanism of protection of an anti-core glycolipid vaccine directed against bacterial endotoxin as a preventative vaccine against certain classes of biohazardous pathogens that may be used in a bioterrorist event. The vaccine is specifically designed to generate high titer antibodies against highly conserved antigens expressed on the cell surface of gram-negative bacteria. *Francisella tularensis* (the organism of inhalation forms of tularemia) and *Yersinia pestis* (the etiologic agent in pneumonic plague) are both gram-negative bacteria and both express this conserved surface structure in its outer membrane. Drs. Opal and Gregory have previously demonstrated that high-titer antibodies directed towards this antigen protects animals from a wide variety of gram-negative bacteria. They are now in the process of determining if this vaccine could provide protective benefit against these biohazardous pathogens. The long term goal of this research is to provide first responders (firemen, policemen, emergency workers, hospital personnel) with a vaccine that would give them general protection against a variety of bacterial pathogens that might be of biodefense concern. This would allow some level of protection for first responders while the etiologic agent is determined and specific therapy is administered. The hope is to carry these studies forward from small animal models to more complex inhalation models in high-level biocontainment studies before considering administration of this vaccine to human volunteers.

Longstanding Summer Research Program Competitively Renewed by NHLBI

Sharon Rounds, MD

The Short-Term Training Program to Increase Diversity in Health-Related Research, R25 HL 688992, has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Heart Lung Blood Institute. This program has been on going at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University since 1992. The original grant (under the T35 mechanism) was led by Frederic Hoppin, MD, Emeritus Professor of Medicine. Sharon Rounds, MD, Professor of Medicine, is currently Training Director, and Elizabeth Harrington, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine is Associate Training Director.

This Short-Term Training Program brings undergraduate students from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds to Brown for biomedical research experiences. The core of the program is a 9-week summer research project under the supervision of an accomplished Brown faculty member. The Brown Short-Term Training Program works in close collaboration with the Leadership Alliance, a consortium of colleges and universities that aims to develop outstanding academic leaders and is based at Brown. The Short-Term Training Program works in conjunction with the Brown Summer Research/Early Identification Program, led by Valerie Wilson, PhD, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Clinical Professor of Community Health. Professor Wilson is also Director of the Leadership Alliance.

Students are matched with a faculty member and are provided with outstanding research experience, supplemented by other academic and non-academic activities. The summer research experience culminates in two symposia to present research results--the Brown student summer research symposium and the Leadership Alliance National Symposium.

There are 25 training faculty from 7 departments at Brown. Thirteen faculty are in the Department of Medicine, 6 from the Providence VAMC and 7 from The Rhode Island Hospital. The training faculty are accomplished and experienced researchers from a variety of disciplines. Research laboratories are located at the Providence VA Medical Center, on the Brown campus, Rhode Island Hospital, Women and Infants Hospital, and Butler Hospital.

A total of 104 students from 45 home institutions have participated in this program since 1992. In the past 10 years, 38 (51%) of 74 summer students have matriculated in graduate degree programs in biomedical areas, training for the PhD, MD/PhD, MPH/PhD, MS, DDS, DO, PharmD, and MD degrees, while 18 students are still

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Left to Right: Hank Wu, Gaurav Choudhary, Qing Lu, Sharon Rounds, Akua Owusu-Sarfo, Beth Harrington, Paul Pirraglia. Akua was a summer research student in 2001 with Sharon Rounds and Beth Harrington. When she was an undergraduate at Clafin University. Akua returned to Brown and is now a graduate student in the Brown Pathobiology Program, working in Beth Harrington's laboratory.

Eduardo A. Nillni, PhD is selected for the Physiology of Obesity and Diabetes Study Section, Center for Scientific Review

Dr. Eduardo A. Nillni has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Integrative Physiology of Obesity and Diabetes Study Section, Center for Scientific Review for the term beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2011. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in

scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors. Service on a study section also requires mature judgment and objectivity as well as the ability to work effectively in a group.

Membership on a study section represents a major commitment of professional time and energy as well as a unique opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical

research effort. Study sections review grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations on these applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their fields of science. These functions are of great value to medical and allied research in this country. These functions are of great value to medical and allied research in this country.

Brown Medical School/The Miriam Hospital Partnership in Togliatti, Russia

Natasha Rybak

In 1999, if you asked anyone, including physicians, in the city of Togliatti in Russia, if there were HIV patients in the city they would have said “No, we don’t have any HIV here”. And they may have been right as in 1999, there were only 16 documented cases of HIV, but by 2005, they were in the midst of an HIV epidemic so severe that the number of confirmed cases of HIV infection had soared to almost 10,000. In a city with a population of about 750,000 located along the banks of the Volga River just north of Kazakhstan, this came as a great surprise. In addition this number is likely much higher as many people remain untested for HIV.

Togliatti is a young city, which began to grow exponentially in the 1970’s when a Lada car factory was built there. The name Togliatti comes from the name of the Italian communist who brought plans for an auto manufacturing plant based upon the Fiat. The explosive epidemic in Togliatti occurred between 1998 and early 2000’s as the Lada factory kept the area economically stable during difficult times. With injection drug use at a prevalence of about 5 % and many people sharing needles, unaware of the risk of HIV, transmission was rampant. In 2001, a study of community-recruited injection drug users in Togliatti found a 56% HIV prevalence rate among the 426 individuals tested. Many of these individuals were very young, with some first injecting drugs at the age of 12 years. One young 21-year old man I met has had HIV for 7 years. He said that he only injected drugs once, became scared and was later found to be positive. Only his mother, grandmother, and one friend know his status.

This is a very familiar story here, people start injecting drugs at a young age, quit (if they are lucky) and then expect to move on with their lives, have a career, get married, and then find out they have not just HIV but Hepatitis B and/or C as well. More



Natasha Rybak, BMS (front row 2nd from the left) and the HIV Support Group

recently, the face of the epidemic is changing with sexual transmission becoming a common mode of transmission.

In the city of Togliatti, very few of these patients infected with HIV have become ill with AIDS. Since the HIV epidemic in Russia was so recent and explosive there is very little infrastructure to deal with an epidemic, especially one that affects a population with many co-morbidities including addiction, mental health, alcohol abuse, and Hepatitis C and/or B. There is an insufficient number of physicians experienced with treating AIDS and very few social services prepared to address this epidemic. In addition, Russia currently has very vertically structured, or “silod” health care system with little communication between specialists and primary care providers. The new epidemic of HIV overlaps with high rates of TB, further complicated by high rates of MDR TB, estimated to be as high as 30-40% in the Samara Oblast. Patients with HIV require coordinated care provided by the TB dispensary, local polyclinics (primary care clinics), the AIDS Center, prisons, drug rehabilitation centers and mental health care facilities.

Brown Medical School/ Miriam Hospital began a partnership with the city of

Togliatti, Russia 3 years ago through an American International Health Alliance funded exchange project. Through this partnership, Josiah D. Rich, MD, MPH, Charles Sherman, MD, Peter Karczmar, MD, Cindy MacLeod, RN and Leah Holmes, MSW from the Miriam Hospital have traveled to Togliatti to aid in HIV treatment and recognition of opportunistic diseases. Colleagues Nancy Paul and Bob Hitt from SSTAR (Stanley Street Treatment and Recovery) also traveled to Togliatti. Many hours were spent working with colleagues in Togliatti, sharing lessons experienced through the HIV epidemic in the U.S. In addition, health care providers from Russia traveled to Providence to see firsthand how treatment had evolved in the U.S. Dr. Rich and Dr. Larissa Mikhailova, a narcologist from Togliatti successfully applied for a grant from the Civilian Defense Research Foundation (CDRF) to encourage the collaboration between local outreach workers and case managers and the Togliatti AIDS Center to engage patients in care.

As a fourth year medical student here at Brown Medical School, I have been fortunate to become involved in this project and to travel to Togliatti for a month. I divide my time between the AIDS Center, which serves as

2007-08 RIH/TMH VAMC Chief Medical Residents Appointed

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Drs. Eric J. Gartman, Julie A. Guilbert, Leah M. Marano, Matthew I. Quesenberry and Sarah V. Tsiaras to the position of Chief Medical Residents for the academic year 2007–2008. As in the past, we have had the advantage of selecting from an extraordinary group of medical residents.

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding individuals.



Eric J. Gartman, MD



Julie A. Guilbert, MD



Leah M. Marano, MD



Matthew I. Quesenberry, MD



Sarah V. Tsiaras, MD

Eric J. Gartman, MD, graduated from Middlebury College in 1999 with a BA in Biology. At Middlebury, he played defensive end for the varsity football team and was honored as a New England Small College Athletic Conference scholar-athlete in 1998. A research experience during college led to a one-year position in orthopedics research at the Nicholas Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City following graduation.

Eric graduated from The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2004 and was awarded the Rudolph Angell Award from the Department of Medicine at graduation. While in Rochester, he participated in translational research examining the implications of certain gene mutations related to the hereditary Long QT Syndrome. Eric is a third-year categorical resident in Internal Medicine and is currently interviewing for a fellowship position in pulmonary/critical care medicine. He is continuing his current research in ICU outcomes and is presenting his data at the May 2007 International Conference of the American Thoracic Society.

Outside of the hospital, Eric keeps himself busy playing multiple competitive recreational sports with fellow aged residents (flag football, hockey, softball, and basketball), cooking, and planning his upcoming wedding to Jennifer Turner, a senior resident in the Medicine-Pediatrics residency program.

Julie A. Guilbert, MD graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Trinity College in Hartford, CT in 2000. She was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and the Pi Gamma Mu National Social Science Honor Society. Active in community service, she completed her premed courses and returned to her hometown of Worcester, MA. There she attended UMass Medical School where she earned her medical degree in 2004.

While in medical school, Julie participated in the Students Teaching AIDS to Students program and tutored local children through Big Brothers and Big Sisters. She also volunteered in the UMass Pathways Program (multicultural and underserved populations promoting health care education through travel and community activities) and Youth Under Severe Stress and was the recipient of the UMass Pathways Program in Multicultural and Underserved Award.

Travel to Costa Rica and Ecuador during medical school inspired a strong interest in international medicine. Julie plans to pursue a career in Infectious Disease following her chief year. Julie is currently a third-year categorical resident in Internal Medicine.

Leah M. Marano, MD is a graduate of Villanova University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree, magna cum laude, in Biology in 2000. She was the recipient of

the Lawrence C. Gallen Award from the Department of Biology for academic performance and service. She then attended Georgetown University School of Medicine and received her Medical Degree in 2004. She received several awards for academic achievement at the time of graduation. These included the Donald M. Kerwin, MD Award for exemplary performance in pathology, the Mario Mollari Award for the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and the Frank G. Standaert Award in the Department of Pharmacology.

Leah is currently a 3rd year resident in the General Internal Medicine Program. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband, Mike, and their 1-year-old daughter, Sophia. Some of her favorite activities are gardening and spending time outdoors. She plans to pursue a career in primary care upon completion of her chief residency.

Matthew I. Quesenberry, MD, graduated from The University of Massachusetts Amherst with a BA in English in 1997. While at UMASS Matt was awarded the William Field Alumni Scholarship in English Studies and several of his fiction short stories received awards for excellence in creative writing. Upon completion of his college degree, he took a position as a research assistant in the Human Genome Project at The National Institutes of Health in Bethesda Maryland from 1997–1999. He worked specifically with the

Prostate Investigative Group within the Human Genome Project to try and map out and find the gene or genes that were responsible for hereditary prostate cancer. He also worked on mapping out and finding the gene that is responsible for Progressive Juvenile-Onset punctuate cataracts. Overall this experience confirmed his dedication to medicine and also resulted in the publication of several scientific papers.

Matt attended The University of Massachusetts Medical School and received his Medical Degree in 2004. He is currently a 3rd year resident in the Categorical Internal Medicine Program and is applying for Hem/Onc Fellowships for 2008-2009. His interests include literature, film, playing

basketball and other sports, as well as creative writing.

Sarah V. Tsiaras, MD graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College where she earned a BA in Biochemistry (1999). While at Dartmouth, she wrote a thesis on the etiology of stress fractures in female athletes, and played on the varsity soccer team. She also spent some time away from Hanover, studying in Barcelona, Spain and volunteering at a children's hospital in San Jose, Costa Rica. After graduation she did a year of research at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was involved in the genetic screening of patients with Kallmann's Syndrome and Idiopathic Hypogonadotropic Hypogonadism (2000).

Sarah attended Harvard Medical School, where she remained active in both research and athletic activities. She ran the Cape Cod and Boston Marathons her first year in Medical School (2001). She also spent a month working at a clinic in Yuscaran, Honduras where she developed one of her more useful clinical skills: medical Spanish. Sarah is now a senior resident in the Categorical Internal Medicine Program. She spends most of her time outside the hospital with her husband Bill and their nine-month-old son Luke. She is currently applying for a fellowship in cardiology, to begin July 2008.

Dominican Republic Exchange Program

Mark Fagan, MD

Now entering its fourth year, the Department of Medicine's exchange program with Cabral y Baez Hospital in Santiago, Dominican Republic continues to expand. Drs. Fagan, Diaz, and Stein originally established the program with the support of the Department. To date, approximately ten Department of Medicine faculty, five internal medicine residents and 25 Brown medical students have worked at Cabral y Baez, and 8 Cabral internal medicine residents have rotated through the medicine service at Brown. In late May, Dr. Francisco Mejia Ortiz, internal medicine program director at Cabral, will be visiting the Department of Medicine. In June, Dr. Claudia Rodriguez, director of the HIV clinic at Cabral, will visit the department. Drs. Mejia and Rodriguez hold clinical faculty appointments in the Department of Medicine at Brown.

Participating Brown faculty, residents and students take part in the teaching conferences

and rounds of the Cabral Department of Internal Medicine. They also rotate through the HIV and other hospital-based outpatient clinics. The program has also formed a relationship with a non-profit, community-based primary care clinic, A Mother's Wish, where participants work with a Dominican doctor in a rural setting.

Dr. Michael Stein has worked closely with Dr. Rodriguez to organize a database for the 700 HIV infected patients that she follows at Cabral. Two Brown medical students, Sophia Califano and Joshua Spaete, are currently in Santiago working with Dr. Rodriguez. With help from Dr. Stein, Dr. Rodriguez was successful in advocating for additional hospital resources, culminating in the opening of a new HIV clinic in April, 2007.

Planning for exchange groups for 2007-2008 is underway. Interested students, residents or faculty should contact Mark Fagan at (401) 444-5344 or Joe Diaz at (401) 729-2761.



Anna Kertzer and Carmen Barnes examining a patient at A Mother's Wish.



Making rounds at Cabral y Baez Hospital.

Rhode Island Hospital - Internal Medicine Residency Match 2007

General Internal Medicine/Primary Care

Lorena Bonilla
University of Colorado

Joanna D’Afflitti
SUNY Downstate

Carey Field
Dartmouth Medical College

Laura Flynn
Virginia Commonwealth
University

Joseph Frank
Indiana University

Katharine Price
University of Rochester

Shivani Reddy
New York University

Trong Trinh
Drexel University

**Internal Medicine/
Categorical**

JMegan Baumgart
Albany Medical College

Man Chin Chang
University of Connecticut

Nathan Connell
University of Miami

Samir Dalia
Northeastern Ohio
Universities

Sarah DeNucci
Brown Medical School

Richard DeSouza
University of Massachusetts

Matthew Ethier
University of Massachusetts

Kathleen Fanjoy
Jefferson Medical College

Meghana Gadgil
UMDNJ-New Jersey
Medical School

Aarti Gupta
SUNY Buffalo

Omar Hyder
Brown Medical School

Ajita Kundaikar
SUNY Downstate

Jianging Li
Drexel University

Zeina Maani
Jordan University

Joseph Manlolo
Medical College of Wisconsin

Daniel Markley
UMDNJ-RWJ
Medical School

Bryna McConarty
University of Massachusetts

John Mills
UMDNJ-RWJ
Medical School

Benjamin O’Donnell
Medical University of Ohio

Kathryn O’Donnell
Temple University

William Robinson
Albany Medical College

Melissa Roether
University of Connecticut

Aaron Samuels
University of Maryland

Kinjal Shah
Creighton University

Bashar Staitieh
University of Kansas

Elizabeth Stevenson
Drexel University

Nilofar Syed
Case Western Reserve
University

Hao Tran
Drexel University

Jill Tremblay
Georgetown University

Amy Yang
Tulane University

**Internal Medicine/
Preliminary**

Stephanie Ajudua
Brown Medical School

Victoria Chiu
Brown Medical School

Theron Dobson
Michigan State University

Robert Dyer
Brown Medical School

Jesse Goddard
Saint George’s University

Jennifer Jenkins
Brown Medical School

Karl Meisel
Michigan State University

Carin Restivo
UMDNJ-RWJ
Medical School

Shane Ruter
Brown Medical School

Dalia Saha
Brown Medical School

Ikue Shimizu
Brown Medical School

Ani Tajirian
Brown Medical School

Shahin Elyahoo Sheigani
Chicago Medical School

Medicine Pediatrics

Justin Eldridge
Jefferson Medical College

Sylvia LaCourse
University of Louisville

Raina Phillips
University of Illinois

Natasha Rybak
Brown Medical School

Visit our website at: www.brownmedicine.org

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island - Internal Medicine Residency Match 2007

Chief Resident

Purva Agarwal Purva will be a graduating from the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island/Brown Medical School in June 2007. She completed her medical education at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, India in 2000. She is fluent in Hindi. Her hobbies are dancing, music, and painting.

Internal Medicine Residency

Wesam Ahmed
University, Egypt

Abdulraham Abdulbaki
University of Damascus, Syria

Ali Al-Alwan
University of Jordan, Jordan

Joseph Bautista
University of the East, Philippines

Indira Konanur
University of North Texas Health Science Center-Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Texas

Syed Naqvi
King Edward Medical College, Pakistan.

Aravind Sanjeevaiah
Bangalore Medical College, India

Syeda Sayeed
Dow Medical College, Pakistan

Shachi Tyaqi
Himalayan Institute of Medical Science, India

Omar Zmeili
University of Jordan, Jordan



Marguerite A. Neill MD Appointed Chair of the Rapid Communications Task Force of the IDSA

Dr. Peggy Neill, Division of Infectious Diseases, Memorial Hospital, was recently appointed Chair of the Rapid Communications Task Force of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA). As an extension of CDC-funded efforts to provide authoritative and timely information on bioterrorism for clinicians, the task force is developing architecture for communication of breaking public health news. The focus is on content of importance to infectious disease specialists who are often asked, on short notice, to provide expert opinion and guidance. Because ID specialists are often in key positions in the hospital and community, both an effective communications network and an appropriate architecture are needed to accommodate the spectrum of "breaking" public health news (from emergency to timely), and the privileged nature of some communications. The project is designing a menu of electronic communications with options for customization and content management, with emphasis on moving content nimbly and with authoritative oversight.

Brown Medical School/The Miriam Hospital Partnership in Togliatti, Russia continued from page 5

the primary site of HIV care for the entire city of Togliatti and as the site of our patient visits for the CDRF project entitled "TB Prophylaxis as a Model of HIV Care". I also spend my time with the outreach workers and case managers, who are based out of a drug treatment center and non-profit organization named "Parents Against Drugs". With the outreach workers, we spend time on the streets encouraging those addicted to drugs or prostitutes to engage in local health care facilities for HIV, TB and HCV testing and care. In addition, the outreach workers serve as a source of information and distribute clean syringes and condoms to patients on the streets.

At the AIDS Center I spend my time with two Infectious Disease physicians who care for most of the outpatient visits to the AIDS Center. They are very busy initiating anti-retroviral therapy and since December they have started more than 140 HIV patients on therapy (less than 50 before that). They are quickly learning how to deal with issues of patient education, adherence, side effects and co-morbidities including high rates of HCV and TB. In addition, I have witnessed an increasing number of patients who acquired HIV through sexual transmission and many of the female HIV patients are in various stages of childbearing, either pregnant or

contemplating pregnancy. With these many issues, the physicians at the AIDS Center are doing a tremendous job with some guidance and little experience.

Rhodes T, Lowndes C, Judd A, Mikhailova LA, Sarang A, Rylkov A, et al. Explosive spread and high prevalence of HIV infection among injecting drug users in Togliatti City, Russian Federation. AIDS. 2002. 16, F25-F32

Atun RA, Lebcir R, Drobniewski F, Coker RJ. Impact of an effective multidrug-resistant tuberculosis control programme in the setting of an immature HIV epidemic: system dynamics simulation model. Int J STD AIDS. 2005 Aug;16(8):560-70.

Natasha Rybak BMS MD'07 wrote this article while she spent the month of April 2007 in Togliatti, Samara, Russia working on Dr Rich's CDRF project to improve HIV care and prevent tuberculosis. She plans to begin the Brown Med-Peds Residency in June 2007.

Longstanding Summer Research Program Competitively Renewed by NHLBI continued from page 4

undergraduates. Eight Brown Short-Term Training Program summer research alumni have returned to Brown, matriculating in MD, PhD, and MD/PhD programs. Thus, this program has been enormously successful in attracting talented students from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds to biomedical research.

The Fifteenth Annual Senior Residents Research Day



Lauren Beste, MD - 2006 Melvin D. Hoffman Award Winner



Sarah Tsiaris, MD - Best Oral Presentation



Resident Research Day Poster Presentation



Drs. Samuel Poon and Hannah Ahmed Recipients of Best Poster of a Clinical Vignette and Best Poster of a Research Proposal

The Fifteenth Annual Senior Resident Research Program was held during the Department of Medicine Grand Rounds in the Rhode Island Hospital George Auditorium on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

The top three abstracts chosen for oral presentations were:

- *Successful Mitral Valve Repair is Associated with Preoperative Left Ventricular Function and Immediate Post Repair Anterior Leaflet Mobility*—Presented by Sarah Tsiaris
- *Rising Severity Scores in Severely Ill Patients: Predicting Futility*—Presented by Eric Gartman
- *Accuracy of Door-to-Balloon Time as a Measure of Door-to-Reperfusion Time in ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction*—Presented by Lori Vales

There was a concurrent poster session for the remaining 32 senior's research posters in the lobby adjacent to George Auditorium.

The event was very well attended and 25 preselected Department of Medicine Faculty judged the presentations.

The awards were as follows:

- Best Oral Research Presentation presented to Sarah Tsiaris
- Best Research Poster presented to Hanna Ahmed, *Comparison of Outcomes in ST-Segment Versus Non-ST-Segment Elevation Acute Myocardial Infarction in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Dynamic Registry*;
- Best Poster Of A Clinical Vignette presented to Samuel Poon, *Cryoglobulinemic Vasculitis Masquerading as Guillain-Barré Syndrome*.

Lauren Beste, who won the 2006 Melvin D. Hoffman award for Best Primary Care Research Proposal, presented her project, *Development of a Chronic Care Model for Hepatitis C in a Homeless Population: Lessons Learned*. The Hoffman award was established in 1987 to support primary care residents' research and to honor the memory of Melvin D Hoffman MD, a well-respected general internist who practiced and taught at the Miriam and Rhode Island Hospitals and the newly created Brown Medical School.

13th Annual Department of Medicine Research Forum Features Douglas A. Lauffenburger

The Annual Department of Medicine Research Forum will take place on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. at Smith-Buonanno Hall and Andrews Hall on campus at Brown University. Dr. Lance Dworkin, Professor of Medicine is Chairman of the event.

Douglas A. Lauffenburger, Ph.D., Uncas & Helen Whitaker Professor of Bioengineering, Director of the Biological Engineering Division, Massachusetts Institute of

Technology will deliver the keynote address entitled "Understanding and Predicting Signaling Network Regulation of Cell Function: A Quantitative Systems Approach."

Members of the Department of Medicine are invited to participate in the poster session that follows the guest speaker presentation. In past years, many students, trainees and faculty from Brown University-affiliated hospitals have participated. Investigators present new posters or material that has been presented at other regional and national meetings in the

past year. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be provided during the poster session.

Application forms for the submission of poster titles will be circulated throughout the Department and are available by email from Margaret Malo at MMalo@lifespan.org and phone 793-4039.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, June 8, 2007.

We look forward to your participation at this exciting annual event.

PROFILES

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

Dr. Mason Gasper, DO, has been an active Staff member of the Division of Neurology at the Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (MHRI) since October 06. and is an Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept of Clinical Neurosciences at Brown Medical School. He completed his Neurology residency and Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship at RIH/Brown Medical School, his medical degree from the University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, Maine. Dr. Gasper is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. and a member of the American Academy of Neurology, American Association of Electro diagnostic Medicine and the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Michelle Mellion, MD, has been an active Staff member in the Division of Neurology the Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (MHRI) since July 2006 and is an Assistant Clinical Professor, Dept of Clinical Neurosciences at Brown Medical School. She completed her Neurology residency and Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship at RIH/Brown Medical School and medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. Dr. Mellion is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. and a member of the American Academy of

Neurology, American Association of Electrodiagnostic Medicine and the American Osteopathic Association.

Both Dr. Mellion and Dr. Gaspar specialize in adult general neurology including Neuropathy/myopathy, Neuromuscular diseases, Epilepsy, Stroke, Headache/migraines, Movement disorders, Neurodegenerative diseases, and Multiple Sclerosis.

Anthony Thomas, DO has recently joined the Cancer Center at MHRI as the new Director. He also assumes the role of Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology. Dr. Thomas trained locally in the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Roger Williams Medical Center and completed fellowship training in Hematology and Oncology at Brown. He is a graduate of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Thomas's vision of MHRI's Cancer Center is to be the best clinical Community Cancer Center in our region. The Cancer Center has a very active 12-chair infusion suite, with 2 isolation beds, and a laboratory. The Cancer Center offers the most up-to-date treatment of any type of malignancy and is continuing to expand to have 4 practicing physicians by the end of 2007.

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds - Tuesday Mornings at 8:00 AM

George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital

Lecture Hall, The Miriam Hospital, Room 653, VA Medical Center • Library Video Room, Newport Hospital (teleconferenced from RIH)

June 5, 2007:
Morbidity & Mortality Conference

June 12, 2007:
The Grace McLeod Rego Memorial Lecture
"It's Not Your Grandma's Residency Anymore:
The Past, Present, and Future of Internal
Medicine Residency Education"
Donald R. Bordley, M.D., Associate Chair for
Education, Director, Categorical Internal Medicine
Residency Program, Department of Medicine,
University of Rochester, William L. Morgan
Professor of Medicine, University of Rochester
Medical School

June 19, 2007:
Pulmonary Update
Nicholas Ward, M.D., Assistant Professor of
Medicine, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care,
Rhode Island Hospital

Kevin Dushay, M.D., Assistant Professor of
Medicine, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care,
Rhode Island Hospital

June 26, 2007:
"Hepatocellular Carcinoma"
Kevin P. Charpentier, M.D., Assistant Professor
of Surgery, Division of Organ Transplant, Rhode
Island Hospital

July 3, 2007:
CANCELED

July 10, 2007:
Morbidity & Mortality Conference

July 17, 2007:
"Prescribing Medications for the Pregnant Patient"
Raymond Powrie, M.D., Associate Professor of
Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Women &
Infants Hospital

July 24, 2007:
Geriatrics Update

July 31, 2007:
"The Use of PCI in Non-infarct Patients: When
Should Non-infarct Patients be Cathed?"
David Williams, M.D., Professor of Medicine,
Cardiology, Rhode Island Hospital

* The Rhode Island Hospital fully intends to comply with the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any participant of this conference is in need of accommodation, please contact the Rhode Island Hospital CME office at (401) 444-4260.

* The Department of Medicine Grand Rounds series is supported by an unrestricted educational fund as contributed by: Abbott Laboratories, Hoechst Marion Roussel, Merck & Co., The Liposome Company, Parke-Davis, Schering, Pfizer, Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company.



department of
Medicine **Newsletter**
BROWN MEDICAL SCHOOL Spring 2007

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