

department of Medicine Newsletter

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THE WARREN ALPERT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF BROWN UNIVERSITY



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

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Chairman's Message: The Investigator In All Of Us

It's complicated!

Academic Medical Centers are extraordinarily complex, expensive places full of people justifiably considered specialists in their field. As funds to support our missions of clinical care, teaching and research become more scarce, there are increasing calls for "mission-based budgeting." In layman's terms, this means that if you want to do research, then you better find some way to pay for it. The recent difficulty of obtaining federal funding to support many types of research has driven career scientists either out of research altogether or into their laboratories full time in an effort to maintain their research funding. The constant negative drumbeat about research support has given pause to a whole generation of trainees who otherwise might be interested in a research career, but who elect to pursue strictly clinical careers because it is perceived as more economically secure. All this at a time when there are still so many questions left to be answered!

While I am certainly a strong proponent of NIH funded basic and clinical research, I think it is worthwhile to broaden our thinking about research in general. To many of us, research is an obscure practice involving pipettes in a basic laboratory or high-powered computers in the clinical arena. But research starts with and is sustained by a thought process that is familiar to any clinician – it is just that the language is different. On the wards we say we are developing a differential diagnosis. In the laboratory it is developing hypotheses. On the wards, we perform physical examinations and tests to refine our differential diagnosis. In the lab we perform experiments to test our hypotheses. On the wards we are frequently perplexed or unconvinced by the results of individual tests, prompting us to send further tests to confirm the diagnosis. In the lab we always confirm the results of an experiment either by repeating the experiment or by using a separate experiment to yield a consistent result.



Louis Rice, MD

As physicians at a major academic medical center, it is incumbent on us to not only provide the best possible care for our patients, but to advance medical knowledge for all. With this in mind, I would like to encourage all of us to take a few extra steps when we are caring for our patients. If you don't know the answer to the question that comes up on the wards, *look it up*. Assess the evidence supporting that answer in the primary literature, and if, as is often the case, the evidence is weak, start to think about how you would answer the question if you could design the experiment yourself. In most cases, this activity will simply be a thought experiment, but in some it may spark a real curiosity to find the answer. For those in whom it does, we in the Department will be committed to supporting your efforts to find that answer with advice, critique and, if the idea is credible enough, support to design and complete a study addressing the question.

This year, we have asked the new intern class to conduct just such an exercise, and to discuss their idea and questions with their advisors and program directors. We have provided them, during orientation, with a template for organizing their thoughts with

Chairman's Message *continued*

respect to answering a question encountered in their clinical work. Our goal for this exercise is to, as stated above, grease the wheels of thoughtful inquiry stimulated by clinical care – something that has always been at the foundation of internal medicine.

Regardless of whether engaging in such a process will yield groundbreaking advances, making a practice of performing these thought experiments will have several benefits. It will increase your knowledge of the medical literature and its limitations. It will make you more aware of the limitations of different study designs. It will improve your ability to think clearly about the medical literature. It will raise the level of discussion regarding patient cases, and it will be fun.

The real fun of research is in the thought process, and that is readily available to us all – free of charge.

Arrighi Appointed Chair of ACGME Accreditation Council



James A. Arrighi, MD, Program Director of the cardiology fellowship and Director of Nuclear Cardiology at Rhode Island Hospital, has been appointed chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate

Medical Education (ACGME) Residency Review Committee for internal medicine, effective July 1, 2012. The ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-M.D. medical training programs within the United States. Arrighi has been a member of the review committee since 2009.

The ACGME has 28 review committees – one for each of the 26 specialties. Each review committee is made up of six to 15 volunteer physicians. Accreditation is accomplished through a peer review process and is based on established standards and guidelines. The function of the Residency Review Committee (RRC) in internal medicine is to make accreditation decisions for all internal medicine residencies and fellowships, and to set the accreditation standards on which decisions are based.

Internal Medicine Clerkship Program Launches Clinical Pathologic Conference

On January 27th, 2012 The Internal Medicine Clerkship, under the sponsorship of Chairman of Medicine Dr. Louis Rice, held its inaugural Clinical Pathologic Conference (CPC). The idea for the CPC was brought by Assistant Professor of (Clinical) Medicine Joe Rabatin from his 18 years at New York University where, for decades, a lively monthly CPC continues.

Given an unknown case, and limited data, students are asked to work through the case, and develop a thoughtful diagnosis. Meanwhile, a faculty discussant is chosen to represent the master thinker. We convene to hear the students' responses, and the faculty member's erudite diagnosis in this compelling example of critical and clinical reasoning.

Dr. Mazen Al-Qadi, chief resident for the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of RI, presented the case of a patient he had cared for in 2009, a 56 year old woman with catastrophic Phospholipid Syndrome. A medical student from each site was chosen by the program directors to present a brief defense of four different diagnoses. Dr. Edward Wittels, professor of Hematology and Oncology, also presented his ideas of the explanation for this patient's illness.

Dean Edward Wing was in attendance, as was former Dean Richard Besdine who commented

about the importance of teaching clinical reasoning. Dean Besdine said "one of the most important skills in thinking through a clinical case is to avoid pre-mature closure. This is a common mistake, where a clinician has an explanation for a disease which fails to take into account all aspects for the disease process. It's important to consider all of the patient's history, for example, an early hip fracture in this case."

Dr. Rice reminded the audience that we must make our clinical thinking better. Over-reliance on radiology and laboratory testing is a problem. Great clinical thinking is at the center of Internal Medicine.

A second session held in July was led by Dr. Bethany Gentileco, Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Programs at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospital, and Internal Medicine chief resident Sophia Fircanis, MD. They presented a case of an elderly woman with a complicated medical history presenting with acute renal failure and an abnormal urine sediment. The constellation of students and faculty expert did a wonderful job dissecting the case. The final diagnosis, supported by pathology from the renal biopsy, was Membranoproliferative Glomerulonephritis, secondary to cryoglobulinemia in the setting of prior B-cell lymphoma

UM Primary Care Practices Recognized as Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH)

Eight of University Medicine's practices are now recognized as Patient-Centered Medical Homes designated by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). A Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a new approach to delivering healthcare by creating care teams within each primary care practice to provide the highest quality of care to patients in a comprehensive manner. Patient's primary care provider will work as a team with the Nurse Care Manager, hospitals, and specialists to ensure that every patient gets the appropriate care.

Four practices from the UM Division of Primary Care, two from General Internal Medicine and one from Geriatrics have successfully transformed their practices into a Level 1 PCMH. These practices have been working for the past year on key elements including increasing patient access to the practice, implementing evidence-based guidelines into their daily workflows, and tracking and following-up on referrals and all lab tests ordered. In addition, all of these practices now have a Nurse Care Manager as part of their team to focus on care coordination and management for chronically ill patients as they move to the next recognition level of PCMH.

Governor Street Primary Care practice has also renewed their NCQA Level 3 PCMH recognition, which is the highest level achievable. This practice has worked diligently to maintain their recognition under the most recent NCQA standards which incorporates meaningful use, focusing on vulnerable populations, and care coordination to decrease avoidable and unnecessary hospitalizations.

Congratulations to all members of these practices for their new recognition as a PCMH practice! These practices continue their hard work and dedication to this initiative as they strive for achieving and maintaining their NCQA recognition.

New Hires in Cardiology

This summer, four wonderfully accomplished faculty joined us in the arrhythmia services section: Mike Kim, M.D. is the new director of the arrhythmia services section, Antony Chu, M.D. is the director of complex ablations within the section. They will be joined by Arnoldas Giedramas, M.D. and Laura Gravelin, M.D. having completed their electrophysiology training at Brown last year.



Michael Kim, MD

Michael H. Kim, MD is the Director, Arrhythmia Service for the Cardiovascular Institute of the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals and on the faculty of the

Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Previously, he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL and the Associate Director of the Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

He is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Rochester School of Medicine. All Postgraduate training (Internal Medicine, Chief Resident Medicine, Cardiology/Electrophysiology) was completed at the University of Michigan Hospitals. He has authored or co-authored over 150 publications in peer-reviewed medical journals (papers and abstracts) and currently serves as an editorial referee for numerous specialty journals including the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Heart Rhythm*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, and the *Journal of Cardiac Electrophysiology*. He serves on the editorial board for the *Journal of Cardiac Electrophysiology*.

His clinical and research interests focus on atrial fibrillation, catheter ablation,

cardiovascular outcomes, quality of care, health economics, device based therapies, and arrhythmias in general. He is a national expert in atrial fibrillation disease management strategies and in cardiovascular outcomes with a perspective on arrhythmias.



Antony Chu, MD

Antony Chu, MD is the director of complex ablations within the arrhythmia services section at the Cardiovascular Institute of the Rhode Island and Miriam

hospitals and will be joining the faculty of the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Tony joins us from the Reading Hospital Medical Center where he was the director of atrial fibrillation and a clinical faculty member of the Thomas Jefferson University Cardiovascular Division.

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the Yale University School of Medicine. His postgraduate training was all at the hospital of University of Pennsylvania including his cardiac electrophysiology fellowship.

He is board-certified in Cardiovascular Disease. He is additionally certified in cardiac CT and MRI, as well as echocardiography. He has won numerous awards during his fellowship. His research interests are focused on atrial arrhythmias and their management.



Arnoldas Giedramas, MD

Arnoldas Giedramas, MD is joining us as a clinical electrophysiologist in the Cardiovascular Institute the Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals and will

have a teaching appointment at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. We are all familiar with Arnold as he completed Fellowship in cardiovascular disease as well as electrophysiology here at Brown. Prior to joining us he completed his internship and residency at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and received his medical degree from the University of Connecticut.

He has had a long interest in electrophysiology, participating in research during his medical school and internship and residency. This research examined outcomes among patients receiving ICD implants for prevention of sudden cardiac death and has led to national publications.



Laura Gravelin, MD

Laura Gravelin, MD is starting as a part-time clinical electrophysiologist in the Cardiovascular Institute at the Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals

and will have a teaching appointment at the Alpert medical school of Brown University. She will additionally be working in the cardiovascular research center within the division.

She received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College. She attended medical school at Tufts University School of Medicine followed by residency at Yale. She completed her general cardiology fellowship and clinical cardiac electrophysiology training at Brown University.

She is a member of multiple national organizations and has had teaching and advisory roles on national committees. Her current research examines sudden cardiac death and mechanisms of ventricular arrhythmia.

Gentilesco Named Associate Program Director



Dr. Gentilesco is our newest Associate Residency Director for the Residency Programs in Internal Medicine. She was appointed to this role in July 2012. Dr. Gentilesco received her MD from the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. She completed her residency at Stanford Hospital and Clinics. She began her career as a hospitalist in California before moving to Rhode Island in 2007. Dr. Gentilesco

serves as the Assistant Clerkship Director for the Miriam Hospital-based Core Clerkship in Internal Medicine. She has received several Teaching awards, including the Beckwith Award, our department's highest honor for educators. She serves as the Chair of the Miriam Hospitalist Academic Committee and, in that role, has worked with the Sheridan Center to plan/develop clinical teaching skills programs among that important group at Miriam. She has redesigned the mortality review process for Internal Medicine residents. Most recently, she co-directed with Dr. McGarry the new Intern Clinical Skills Program.

Awards, Accreditation and Appointments for Division of Endocrinology

Dr. Geetha Gopalakrishnan has been appointed to the Board of the Association of Program Directors in Endocrinology and Metabolism (APDEM) and is the Chair of the Next Accreditation System (NAS) Task Force for APDEM. The task force has been charged with creating, defining and developing milestones for training programs in endocrinology.

Dr. Gopalakrishnan is also co-editing the Tarascon Adult Endocrinology Pocketbook. The Pocket book is a succinct endocrine guidebook that will allow practicing physicians and trainees to quickly reference information regarding pathophysiology, diagnostic approach and management strategies for endocrine disorders. Several

faculty from the Endocrine Division are contributing authors including Drs. Harikrasha Bhatt, Vicky Cheng, Ivana Lukacova-Zib and Hilary Whitlatch. Publication is anticipated for Dec 2012.

Drs. Ben O'Donnell and **Hilary Whitlatch** won the Presidential Poster Award for their poster "Development of Polyarthritits During Methimazole Therapy for Grave Disease" at the Endocrine Society's Annual 94th Annual Meeting and Expo in June 2012. Dr. O'Donnell also received the Presidential Poster Award the year prior for his work evaluating the reoccurrence of thyroid cancer in patients identified to be cancer free. Dr. Lukacova-Zib functioned as his primary mentor for this project.

The **Division's Bone Density** program based at 146 West River Street in Providence, RI has been accredited by the International Society for Clinical Densitometry. It is the first program in RI and one of 15 Bone Density programs in the United States awarded this distinction. By receiving ISCS accreditation, the Bone Density Program at Women's Medicine Collaborative has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and quality performance in this field.

Khurshid Assumes Leadership of Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program



The Hematology/Oncology Division's fellowship program underwent a leadership change, with Dr. Tony Mega stepping down and Dr. Humera Khurshid assuming leadership on March 1, 2012. Dr. Mega successfully led the program for over five years, training 18 fellows of outstanding quality. The reputation of the fellows coming out of the program, particularly with regard to solid tumor oncology, is amongst the best in the country. Dr. Mega's devotion to the fellowship, his development of its excellence, and his current support in the transition has been a tremendous asset to the division. He will be transitioning to focus his efforts on the development of a Urologic Malignancies Section within the Division of Hematology/Oncology. We are very excited about the potential of this section, and also the potential of Dr. Mega advancing and expanding his research base.

Dr. Humera Khurshid came to us from Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island and has been on the faculty here since August 2010. She is an outstanding teacher with a clear focus on lung cancer. She is highly regarded as a clinician and will be working closely with Dr. Peter Quesenberry with regard to many of the research aspects of the division. A T32 Training Grant has been submitted for six additional positions, and we are looking forward to hearing the results of that. Dr. Mega has been working with Dr. Khurshid for developing plans for the future. We aim to continue the high excellence with solid tumor oncology training, to emphasize additional training in hematology, and to transition to a more research oriented fellowship. A fellowship committee has been formed, which will guide the proposed changes.

We are indebted to Dr. Mega for his outstanding work and look forward to continued success in the fellowship program.

Research News from Division of Hematology/Oncology

Research work in the Division continues on the therapeutic potential of extracellular vesicles. A recent meeting in Gothenburg Sweden April 18-21, 2012 was attended by Drs Laura Goldberg, Jason Aliotta, Bharat Ramratnam, and Peter Quesenberry. At this meeting a new journal was launched, The Journal of Extracellular Vesicles, and Dr. Peter Quesenberry is the American Editor of this journal, and Dr. Jason Aliotta is on the editorial board.

The division continues to establish focused sections with regard to different areas of clinical endeavor. We now have in place the following sections: Hematologic Malignancies, led by Dr. James Butera, Thoracic Malignancies led by Dr. Humera Khurshid, Genitourinary Malignancies led by Dr. Anthony Mega, Breast Cancer led by Dr. Rochelle Strenger, Humanities led by Dr. Fred Schiffman, and Melanoma/Sarcoma and Head & Neck led by Dr. Ariel Birnbaum and Dr. Maria Constantinou.

Dr. Jodi Layton has joined the division and will be working with the Genitourinary Malignancies Section.

We have been developing a unique approach for the therapy of cancer involving infusion of peripheral blood cells. This protocol has just been approved by the FDA and we are proceeding with IRB submission and hope to be opening this for refractory leukemia and lymphoma in the near future

Name Change and New Faculty for the Division of Geriatrics & Palliative Care

With the approval of Dean Edward Wing and Dr. Louis Rice, Dr. Richard Besdine has renamed the Division of Geriatrics. It is now **the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine**.

Mriganka Singh, MD joined the faculty in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine on August 1, 2012, as a clinician educator, after a 1-year fellowship in Geriatric Medicine in our program here at Lifespan and Brown. She will spend 50% time as the geriatrician lead for a new collaborative program with the Trauma Surgery Program at Rhode Island Hospital. In this role, while co-managing vulnerable elderly patients, she will enrich general surgery house staff experiences with an educational program to enhance their ability to prevent, recognize, and manage common geriatric problems arising in the hospital. She also will care for ambulatory primary care and consultation patients in the Geriatrics Practice at East Avenue, and for nursing home residents at several of our affiliated facilities. Dr. Singh's office is located in POB 438 at the RI Hospital campus at 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903 (Tel. 401-444-5248; Fax 401-444-3397). She will also have a clinical office at 407 East Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860 (Tel. 401-728-7270; Fax 401-444-6453).

Julio Defillo-Draiby, MD joins our faculty in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine July 1, 2012, as a clinician educator, after a 2-year clinical and research fellowship



in Geriatrics at Yale. He will spend 60% time as the geriatrician lead for a new collaborative program with the Orthopedics Joint Replacement Center at

The Miriam Hospital.

In this role, while co-managing vulnerable elderly patients, he will enrich orthopedics house staff experiences with an educational program to enhance their ability to prevent, recognize, and manage common geriatric problems arising in the hospital. He also will care for ambulatory primary care and consultation patients in the Geriatrics Practice at East Avenue, and for nursing home residents at several of our affiliated facilities. Dr. Defillo-Draiby office is located in POB 438 at the RI Hospital campus on 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903 (Tel. 401-444-5248; Fax 401-444-3397). He will also have a clinical office at 407 East Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860 (Tel. 401-728-7270; Fax 401-444-6453).

New Hartford Foundation Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine Award 7/13–6/16 (~\$300,000 total):

A competitive renewal application was funded to continue training promising fellows and junior faculty for academic careers in geriatrics, both research- and teaching intensive.

Drs. Stefan Gravenstein, Vince Mor and Aurora Pop-Vicas were awarded an investigator-initiated grant from Sanofi-Aventis regarding the effectiveness of the High Dose influenza vaccine. The HD vaccine is similar to the standard influenza vaccine except that it carries four times the amount of antigen in a single same-volume dose, and is more immunogenic for older individuals. Their grant will determine the feasibility to studying the HD vaccine effectiveness in long-term care setting using administrative data.

News from the Fellowships

Geriatric Medicine Fellows for 2012-2013 are Drs. Stephanie Chow (Brown Family Medicine resident) and Christina Rincon (Brown Medical School graduate); Dr. Rachel Rackow, a graduate of our Internal Medicine residency program, is the very first fellow in our new Hospice and Palliative Medicine training program.

News from the Pulmonary & Critical Care section at the Providence VA

Elizabeth Harrington, PhD, served as Chair of the Pulmonary Circulation Assembly Program Committee and was responsible for arranging the Pulmonary Circulation Program for the American Thoracic Society International Conference in San Francisco in May, 2012. Beth was elected to this position by members of the Assembly. In her "day job(s)," Beth Harrington is Associate Professor of Medicine, staff biologist at the Providence VAMC Vascular Research Laboratory, and Associate Dean for BioMed Graduate and PostDoctoral Studies at Alpert Medical School.

Beth has great help since Jim Klinger, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, was elected to be Vice-Chair for the ATS Pulmonary Circulation Assembly Program Committee!

Linda Nici, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Pulmonary/Critical Care Section at the Providence VAMC, was elected to Chair the Council of Chapter Representatives of the American Thoracic Society and is serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the ATS.

The American Thoracic Society is the premiere international organization of physicians and scientists in the area of Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep Medicine.

Sharon Rounds, MD, was honored by Edward Wing, MD, Dean of the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, on November 16, 2011, by receipt of the Dean's Award for Advancement of Women Faculty within the Division of Biology and Medicine Alpert Medical School of Brown University. The award is made annually to a leader who has demonstrated a commitment to the recruitment, retention and advancement of women faculty through new or established programs and activities.

Dr. Rounds was recognized for "extraordinary work as an academic leader, both at Brown and at the national level, you have promoted our women faculty's advancement, recognition and our faculty's contributions to the field of [medicine] and research."

Sharon Rounds is Professor of Medicine and of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and is Chief of the Medical Service at the Providence VA Medical Center.

New Research Awards

Wen-Chi (“Hank”) Wu, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and **staff cardiologist at the Providence VAMC** has been awarded a \$100,000 research grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research and Development Service to assess whether Video-Conference Shared Medical Appointments to Improve Rural Diabetes Care. Dr. Wu is PI for this one year grant.

The Division of Endocrinology clinical trials program has been awarded three pharmaceutical grants. **Dr. Harikrishna Bhatt** is investigating the safety and efficacy of a long acting GLP-1 agonist in type 2 diabetics with moderate renal impairment. **Dr. Vicky Cheng** will be assessing the efficacy of a new agent for the treatment of Cushing’s disease and **Dr. Ivana Lukacova-Zib** will be partnering with the Cleveland clinic to evaluate cardiovascular outcomes in diabetics treated with a new antidiabetic agent.

Thomas Doyle, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, and **Jennifer Ouellette**, GI Nurse Practitioner, of **The GI and Primary Care Services at the Providence VA Medical Center**, have received a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs for \$100,000 for a chronic hepatitis C (HCV) quality improvement proposal, entitled, *Improvement of Hepatitis C Care Among Homeless and Recently Homeless Veterans With Hepatitis C: A Providence VA PACT-Based Collaborative Educational Intervention for VASH (VA Subsidized Housing) Outreach Social Workers*.

Curt Beckwith, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases is the recipient of a \$99,999 NIH-funded grant supporting research to adapt and evaluate technology-based tools to facilitate rapid HIV and hepatitis C testing, primary and secondary prevention counseling, and adherence to HIV treatment for jailed populations in Providence RI and Washington DC. This innovative research will use computerized counseling and tailored text messaging to expand testing, prevention, and treatment in both low- and high-HIV prevalence jail settings, addressing essential components of the Seek, Test, and Treat strategy among criminal justice populations. This research has the potential to result in the creation of effective technology-based tools that can be readily disseminated to a broad array of correctional facilities across the U.S in order to facilitate efficient identification, treatment, and linkage to care for HIV-infected persons.

Charles Carpenter, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases has received a 5-year, \$1.2 million dollar grant to support the *Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research*. The NIH-funded grant will support the development of junior investigators, and also serve as the basis for extensive collaborative, multi and Interdisciplinary research.

Philip Chan, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases is the recipient of an NIH-funded, \$120,400 grant supporting his project, which uses molecular epidemiology to investigate the transmission of HIV among high-risk individuals in the United States including men who have sex with men (MSM), African Americans, and other disadvantaged groups. By identifying risk factors associated with HIV transmission, appropriate interventions can be implemented in the future to halt the spread of infection.

Susan Cu-Uvin, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases received a \$10,000 NIH-funded grant for The “*CFAR 2012 HIV in Women Symposium*” The goal of the 2012 Joint Symposium on HIV Research in Women was to identify gaps in knowledge in research on HIV and women and to develop strategies that will move the field forward. The Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) were the hosts of the Symposium which was held on September 18–20th at the Providence Biltmore Hotel. The symposium covered topics in special issues in women on HIV prevention, reproductive health and health disparities & social vulnerabilities. In addition, several networking opportunities were available for junior faculty through Mentoring workshops and a poster session. Opening remarks were provided by Brown President, Christina Paxson and Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences, Dean Edward Wing. Over 165 junior and senior researchers from the national CFAR network were in attendance including 11 international trainees.

Susan Cu-Uvin, MD and **Bharat Ramratnam, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases** have received a \$436,790 NIH-funded grant to determine whether reproductive hormones affect the risk of acquiring HIV-1 infection in both the pre- and post-menopausal stages of a woman’s life.

Awewura Kwara, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases has been awarded a 5-year, \$502,458 NIH-funded grant to develop a multidisciplinary research

program to study the pharmacology of available and new anti-TB and anti-HIV medications in children in West Africa. The treatment of TB, and TB/HIV coinfection in children can reduce the high death rates, but it is complicated by poor drug absorption, drug-drug interactions, and lack of appropriate drug formulations. Long-term research goals are to provide urgently needed evidence to guide rational decisions about prescribing anti-TB and anti-HIV medications in children.

Matthew Jankowich, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and staff physician in the Division of **Pulmonary/Critical Care at the Providence VAMC** is site PI for a multicenter VA Cooperative Study entitled “Extended Steroids in Community Acquired Pneumonia,” a randomized, placebo-controlled, double blind clinical trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Methylprednisolone in Hospitalized Veterans with Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia. This 5 year study has annual direct costs to the site of \$58,000 per year.

Publications and Grant Awards in the Med-Peds Program

Elizabeth Toll, MD, Clinical Associate Professor in the **Pediatrics and Medicine department** has authored a “Piece of My Mind” contribution to JAMA, The Cost of Technology. JAMA, June 20, 2012—Vol 307, No. 23. She was also awarded a GME grant on Training Residents to provide Behavioral Health Care to children in primary care settings.

Michelle Forcier, MD, an adolescent medicine specialist at Hasbro with interests in LGBT care, promoting sexual health and long-acting reversible contraception, will join the Med Peds faculty as a part-time preceptor and providing exposure to LARC training for residents. She and **Suzanne McLaughlin, MD**, were awarded a GME grant: Gender, Sexuality, and Diversity: Innovations in Improving Pediatric and Medicine-Pediatric Education to Care for Sexual Minorities.

Dr. Mylonakis Returns to Brown as Infectious Diseases Chief



Eleftherios Mylonakis, M.D. was appointed as the new Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and at the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals. Dr.

Mylonakis was chosen after an exhaustive national search that attracted a range of highly qualified candidates.

Dr. Mylonakis received his M.D. and Ph.D from the National University of Athens in 1990 and 1994, respectively. After Internal Medicine training in Greece, he came to the United States in 1995 and completed internship, residency and Chief Residency in Internal Medicine at the Miriam Hospital

and Brown University. Following his Chief Residency, he moved to Massachusetts General Hospital for his fellowship in Infectious Diseases. In 2002, he joined the Harvard faculty as Instructor and then as Assistant Professor of Medicine. He was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard in 2009.

Dr. Mylonakis' research focuses on the study of host and microbial factors of infection and the discovery of novel antimicrobial agents. He has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, industry and the Ellison Medical Foundation. He has published more than 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals, edited six books and spoken extensively at national and international meetings. His research has been recognized by the American Society for Microbiology with a Young Investigator Award and by the Infectious Diseases Society of America

with its Oswald Avery Award. He is also an elected member of the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation and serves as the founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Virulence."

Dr. Mylonakis will be succeeding Timothy Flanigan, M.D., who has served as Chief of the Division since 1999. By any measure, Dr. Flanigan's tenure as Chief of the Division must be considered a great success. The Infectious Diseases Division receives more than \$8,000,000 in federally funded clinical and basic science research projects, the majority of which are awarded from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Flanigan will be remaining in the Division and continuing to pursue his research as well as a number of important outside interests. We are enormously grateful for his many efforts over the years and look forward to continuing fruitful collaborations.

Department of Medicine Congratulates Winners of The Dean's Excellence in Teaching Awards



The Department of Medicine was well-represented at The Dean's Excellence in Teaching Awards ceremony on June 6, 2012. The Dean's Excellence Awards recognize the dedicated campus-based faculty, hospital-based instructors, and office-based teachers who effectively teach and mentor our medical students and residents. The Dean's Excellence in Teaching Awards are presented to clinical and basic science faculty for their exemplary teaching in preclinical courses, core clerkships and clinical electives. These faculty members are recognized for their exceptional teaching and mentoring as lecturers, small-group leaders, and laboratory, hospital-based and office-based preceptors.

George P. Bayliss, MD
Harikrashna Bhatt, MD
Ariel Birnbaum, MD
Douglas Burt, MD
Bradley J. Collins, MD
Allen M. Dennison, MD
Mary Ann Fenton, MD
Nancy Freeman, MD
Geetha Gopalakrishnan, MD
Sajeev Handa, MD
Colin Harrington, MD
Adam Harris, MD

Douglas Hixson, PhD
Susie Hu, MD
Ahmad Ismail, MD
Matthew Jankowich, MD
Thomas Jean, MD
Brian Kimble, MD
Erna M. Kojic, MD
Naomi Kramer, MD
John Lonks, MD
Michael J. Maher, MD
Edward W. Martin, MD
Donnah Mathews, MD

George R. McKendall, MD
Lynn McNicoll, MD
Leonard A. Mermel, DO, ScM
Terri Montague, MD
Brian Montague, DO, MS, MPH
Steven F. Moss, MD
James Myers, MD
John W. O'Bell, MD
Aurora Pop-Vicas, MD, MPH
Michael Poshkus, MD
Kittichai Promrat, MD
Roger D. Raymond, MD

Katherine Richman, MD
Benjamin Sapers, MD
Rochelle Strenger, MD
Iris Tong, MD
Caroline A. Troise, MD, PhD
Sarita Warrior, MD
Marilyn Weigner, MD
Jiaying (Jane) Wen, MD
Eric Winer, MD
Sabrina M. Witherby, MD

Memorial Hospital

The Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of RI is pleased to welcome the June 2012 arrival of the intern class. They are a diverse group, representing medical colleges across the globe. They bring an international perspective to medical practice in the United States, as well as a rich history of experiences in clinical medicine and research.

Maxwell Eyam Afari: Maxwell was born in Ho, Ghana. He completed his medical education at Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2009. After graduation, Maxwell has been working as a Research Fellow at Cardiovascular Research Foundation-Columbia University and was previously a Research Associate in NYU & SUNY Downstate Emergency Department.

Rasha Alqadi: Rasha was born in Hebron, Palestine. She completed her medical education at Al Quds University, Jerusalem in 2007. After graduation, Rasha moved to the United States with her husband, raising two small daughters while making plans to pursue her medical career. She has done several rotations at Brown University, and she volunteers at the Esperanza Free Clinic.

Mohammad Ashkiani: Mohammad was born in Mashhad, Iran. He will be completing his medical education at the Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica in 2012. He and his family emigrated to Toronto, Canada when Mohammad was 13.

Adil Bhutta: Adil was born in Multan, Pakistan. He completed his medical education at Nishtar Medical College, Multan, Pakistan in 2010. After graduation, Adil worked as a House Officer at Nishtar Hospital.

Thomas Guerrero: Thomas was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador. He completed his medical education at the Universidad de Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2007. Upon graduation, he worked as an attending physician at the Public Health Ministry in Ecuador, and did basic clinical research at Respiralab Research Group, Ecuador. He has also presented and won an award from the MECOR/ATS National Conference regarding Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Latin America.

Mobeen Ur Rehman: Mobeen was born in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. He completed his medical education at Baqai Medical & Dental College, Pakistan in 2009. Mobeen did an internship and then served as a Medical Officer at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center, Karachi, Pakistan.

Mohammed Salhab: Mohammed was born in Amman, Jordan. He completed his medical education at the University of Jordan, Jordan in 2010. After graduation, Mohammed completed an internship year at the Ministry of Health, Jordan. Most recently, he is doing a research residency at the King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan.

Hammad Shafqat: Hammad was born in Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his medical education at Army Medical College, Pakistan in 2010. During medical school, he was involved in a project assessing the requirement of liver transplant in Pakistan which has been accepted for publication. After graduation, Hammad performed basic scientific research at Roger Williams Medical Center exploring signal transduction and role of various genes in resistant leukemias.

Rajesh Shrestha: Rajesh was born in Dolakha, Nepal. He completed his medical education at Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 2010. Following graduation, he worked as a medical officer at Tsho Rolpa General Hospital & Nursing College in Nepal.

Takehide Umeda: Takehide was born in Mitaka, Japan. He completed his medical education at Akita University, Japan in 2003. After graduation, Akita completed a 3 year General Internal Medicine Residency and then completed a General Internal Medicine Fellowship. Since fellowship, Umeda has been training at the United States Naval Hospital in Japan.

Chief Resident 2012-2013:

Abdullah Chahin: Abdullah graduated from the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island/Alpert Medical School in June 2012. He completed his medical education at Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan in 2006. After graduation, he worked in research and trained in Internal Medicine at King Abdullah University Hospital (2007-2009) and then moved to the US. During his training at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Abdullah worked on several bench research projects on sepsis. He has also presented several research papers and clinical vignettes in local, regional, and national meetings. In addition, Abdullah has initiated a weekly special teaching session which he and fellow senior resident Abdullah Alquadan currently lead. These sessions are targeted toward students and interns with the intention to introduce evidence-based medicine to daily medical practice. His primary areas of interest are Infectious Disease, Critical Care Medicine, and Healthcare Management.

Congratulations to 2011-1012 Chief

Resident Mazen Al-Qadi, MD: Mazen graduated from the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island/Alpert Medical School in June 2011. He completed his medical education at Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan in 2003. His primary area of interest is Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Mazen is very active in medical education and basic & clinical research. In his Chief Resident year he was instrumental in establishing quarterly CPC conference for medical students in the third year clerkship. He has presented several posters in national and international scientific meetings and published several abstracts. He received the award for best poster presentation and second place award for best oral presentation at the MHRI annual Kenney Research Day in 2011. Dr. Al-Qadi enters the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota in July 2012.

The Eleventh Annual Alpert Medical School, Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching



The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund has been established at Brown Medical School through generous gifts to endowment from the Beckwith Family Foundation.

The 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.

Each year the Fund supports the presentation of the Annual Brown Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching. This award is to recognize superb teaching by its faculty. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, program and course directors in the Brown Medical School Department of Medicine. Each winner is presented with a plaque and a cash prize.

Michelle Anvar, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine (Clinical)

Dominic Corrigan, MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Mary Anne Fenton, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Susie Hu, MD

*Assistant Professor Medicine,
Teaching Scholar*

Erna Kojic, MD

*Assistant Professor Medicine,
Research Scholar*

Paul Pirraglia, MD

*Assistant Professor Medicine,
Teaching Scholar*

Charles Sherman, MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Iris Tong, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Honors and Awards for University Medicine and its Physicians



UM Physicians among the 2012 PBN 40 Under Forty Winners

Congratulations to **Dr. Rebekah Gardner**, General Internal Medicine, and **Dr. Jorge Castillo**, Hematology/Oncology, for being named to the Providence Business News "40 Under 40 List" for 2012. The 40 Under Forty winners are chosen based on career success and community involvement. Everyone named is committed to making a difference locally, nationally or internationally. An Award Ceremony was hosted on Thursday, July 26th at the Newport's International Tennis Hall of Fame to recognize this year's recipients.

UM Named one of the Healthiest Employers in RI!

UM was named by Providence Business News as one of the Healthiest Employers in RI! Gabe Shepherd accepted the award for UM that was presented at a luncheon at the Providence Marriott on Thursday, 8/9.

UM ranked 4th among other employers of similar size. This competition was based on a company's demonstration that they are operating effective health and wellness programs for their employees.

Working together toward a healthy, active lifestyle sets a good example for our patients and helps us to help each other achieve personal fitness goals.

UM among the 2012 Best Places to Work in RI Winners



University Medicine ranked 3rd among large employers in RI at the Providence Business News' 2012 Best Places to Work in RI Awards Ceremony held on June 14, 2012 at the Crowne Plaze in Warwick, RI. This designation is based on the results of an opinion/engagement survey administered to physicians and employees by a third party administrator and an employer survey that describes benefits, company culture, etc. UM's ranking improved from 10th to 7th to 3rd in the last three years! This year they out ranked companies like Amica and Amgen.

Meet the Internal Medicine Chief Residents



Mark Hepokoski, MD was born and raised in rural Minnesota, and he graduated from The College of Saint Scholastica in 2005 with a B.A. in chemistry. As an undergraduate,

he volunteered at a local nursing home, homeless shelter, and emergency room as he tried to figure out a career plan. It was community service that led to his decision to go into medicine. He attended medical school at the University of Minnesota where he developed an interest in rural health. Mark spent nine months living and working in a rural area where he completed a weight loss project at a local business, and provided health education to elementary schools and parent groups.

In 2009 Mark moved to Providence to begin his internal medicine residency training at Brown. His experience in the ICU led to his interest in pulmonary and critical care. He is currently pursuing a fellowship in this field, and he hopes to have a career in academic medicine. His research interests include patient education, and non-invasive cardiac monitoring in the management of sepsis.

Mark is proud to be from Minnesota, but he loves living near the ocean. He spends much of his non-hospital time surfing or jogging by the beach. His other hobbies include basketball, movies, and playing guitar.



Sophia Fircanis, MD is a native Rhode Islander who returned to the state for residency training. She completed her undergraduate studies at Tufts University, focusing in Biology

and English Literature. After college, she moved to New York City and worked as a clinical trial coordinator focusing on hematologic malignancies. After two years, she began her medical education at New York Medical College, and graduated in 2009, only to say goodbye to New York for the shores of Rhode Island.

Outside of the hospital, Sophia loves to travel, read, cook and explore the restaurant scene in Providence. She is currently applying to continue her training in Hematology and Oncology.



Nicholas Csikesz, MD Nicholas Csikesz, MD grew up in Westford, MA before attending Duke University, graduating with a B.S. in biomedical and electrical engineering. As an undergraduate,

he did research in a cardiology lab, played on the club soccer team, and was a 'Cameron Crazy.'

After this brief sojourn to the South, Nick returned to New England for medical school at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. It was there that he met his wife, Courtney. At UMass, Nick again spent time doing western blots in a cardiology lab. In his clinical years, he also did clinical outcomes research and tutored pre-clinical students. Nick and Courtney went through the 'couples' match' process and were thrilled to move to Providence, where Nick entered the Categorical Internal Medicine program at Brown while Courtney pursued dermatology at nearby Roger Williams Medical Center.

During residency, Nick realized that critical care medicine is where his true passion lies, and he intends to pursue fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care medicine upon the completion of his chief residency. He is driven to improve the environment around him, whether that is the TV in the resident lounge, the noon conference lunch schedule, or more substantive issues like improving the wards experience for housestaff by working to localize each teams' patients to a single floor in the hospital.

Outside of the hospital, Nick enjoys soccer, cooking, travel, politics and the Boston sports teams, but most of all enjoys spending time with his daughter Annabel, who surprised Nick and Courtney by arriving a month early in February 2012 while they were at a conference in Florida, which made for quite the birth story.



Heather Cassidy, MD Heather Cassidy is a Colorado native who moved East to attend Williams College where she graduated with a degree in biology in 2002. She subsequently joined

a clinical research group investigating musculoskeletal diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital. While at the Brigham

she supported the launch of the Brigham Rheumatoid Arthritis Sequential Study, a groundbreaking prospective cohort of rheumatoid arthritis patients, and was involved in population-based education initiatives for the prevention and early detection of Lyme disease. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. At CU, her lifelong experiences caring for a brother with developmental disabilities were channeled into medical education: she teamed with the Vice Chair of Medical Education to create curricula on medical care for adults with developmental disabilities, and she developed an interdisciplinary lecture series, The Disability Dialogue. She returned to New England to join Brown's General Internal Medicine Residency and is pursuing a career in academic general internal medicine. Her "free" time is shared with her husband, a resident in Brown's Orthopaedic Surgery program, and their newborn son.



William Hahn, MD Will Hahn was originally born in Mexico City. The peso promptly collapsed and his family then fled to the Bay Area before deciding to settle in the more pleasant

climate of Syracuse, New York. He received his undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Biology (with a focus in molecular biology) from Williams College, where he also played lacrosse and participated in archaeological research. He returned to Upstate New York for medical school, where he did public health research in Guatemala during his preclinical years. On a separate trip to Guatemala, he met his future wife Beth Dawson-Hahn (nee Dawson) who is currently a chief resident in the department of pediatrics. In his fourth year of medical school, he received a Ben Kean traveling fellowship from the ASTMH to perform laboratory research on dengue fever. He enjoys literature, travel, and athletics (in some order). Currently, he is applying for a fellowship in infectious disease.

Graduate Medical Education – Rhode Island Hospital – The Miriam Hospital – VAMC 2012 Internal Medicine Residency Match

PGY 1 General Internal Medicine/Primary Care 2012-2015

Zubia Alam, MD
Tulane University

Laura Anderson, MD
University of Vermont

Manasa Ayyala, MD
Temple University

Steven Betit, MD
New York University

Pamela Egan, MD
SUNY Upstate

Yasmin Khawja, MD
Albert Einstein College of Med

Patricia Ng, MD
Stony Brook University

Sarah Riedo, MD
Temple University

Jael Rodriguez, MD
University of South Florida

Mariah Stump, MD
University of Vermont

PGY-1 Categorical Internal Medicine 2012-2015

David Anjelly, MD
Drexel University

Patrick Butsch, MD
University of Vermont

Cristina Cellurale, MD, PhD
University of Massachusetts

David Cohen, MD
Alpert Medical School

Laura DePouli, MD
University of Vermont

Alexander Drelick, MD
Albert Einstein College of Med

James Ferguson, MD
University of Massachusetts

Patrick Gleason, MD
University of South Carolina

Shana Gleeson, MD
Pennsylvania State University

Piyush Gupta, MD
University of Vermont

Chioma Ihunnah, MD, MPH
UMDNJ-RW Johnson

Lindsay Jones, MD
Creighton University

Jane Kamuren, MD
Moi University

Sarah Maben, MD
University of Rochester

Sharleen Mulliken, MD
VA Commonwealth University

Giorgio Napoli, MD
SUNY Downstate

Mark O'Connor, MD
University of Massachusetts

Thomas Ollila, MD
Drexel University

Amar Oza, MD
Northwestern University

Meghana Rao, MD
George Washington University

David Rybnicek, MD
Univ. N Carolina-Chapel Hill

Steven Schaub, MD
University of Vermont

Scott Sperling, MD
University of Maryland

Miriam Thomas, MD
The University of Toledo

Liza Valdivia, MD
Tufts University

Justin Van Klein, MD
SUNY – Buffalo

Shahab Virani, MD
Florida State University

Ann Wojtaszczyk, MD
SUNY – Buffalo

Joseph Yu, MD
UMDNJ – New Jersey Med

PGY-1 Preliminary Internal Medicine 2012-2013

Leonardo Campos, MD
Chicago Medical School

Laura Donovan, MD
Emory University

Dale Han, MD
Morehouse School of Medicine

Jay Levin, MD
Alpert Medical School

Jonathan Lin, MD
Alpert Medical School

Alex Means, MD
Loyola University

Eric Prince, MD
University of Washington

Laura Sternick, MD
Northwestern University

Michelle Tsang Mui Chung, MD
Alpert Medical School

Annie Wang, MD
Alpert Medical School

Cynthia Vuittonet, MD
Alpert Medical School

PGY 1 Medicine/Pediatrics 2012-2016

Nkiruka Emeagwali, MD, PhD
Meharry Medical College

Matt Germak, MD
University of Massachusetts

Ryan Hirschfeld, MD
University of Massachusetts

Brian Lee, MD
Jefferson Medical College

Office of the Chairman of Medicine
 Rhode Island Hospital
 593 Eddy Street
 Providence, RI 02903

Department of Medicine Appointments and Promotions

Appointments 2/1/12-8/31/12

Memorial Hospital

General Internal Medicine
 Sajid Yusuf Saraf, MD
Instructor (Clinical)

The Miriam Hospital

General Internal Medicine
 Christina Beyer, MD
Clinical Instructor

Arkadiy Finn, MD
Clinical Instructor

Bradley Manning III, MD
Clinical Instructor

Laura Shawhughes, MD
Clinical Instructor

Infectious Diseases
 Ming Li, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Obstetric Medicine
 Erica Hardy, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Rhode Island Hospital

Cardiology
 Anthony Chu, MD
Assistant Professor

Endocrinology
 Harikishna Bhatt, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)
 Vicky Cheng, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

General Internal Medicine

Veenu Garewal, MD
Clinical Instructor

Umut Selamet, MD
Clinical Instructor

Hanady Zainah, MD
Clinical Instructor

Infectious Diseases
 Eleftherios Mylonakis, MD
Professor, Research Scholar

Providence VAMC

Cardiology
 Aravind Kokkiralala, MD
Instructor (Clinical)

General Internal Medicine
 Emily LeVeon, MD
Instructor (Clinical)

Hematology/Oncology
 Katherine Faricy-Anderson, MD
Instructor (Clinical)

Senior Promotions 2/1/12-8/31/12

Memorial Hospital

General Internal Medicine
 Joseph Rabatin, MD
Associate Professor (Clinical)

The Miriam Hospital

Cardiology
 Paul Gordon, MD
Associate Professor (Clinical)

Hematology/Oncology
 Howard Safran, MD
Professor, Research Scholar

Rochelle Strenger, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

Infectious Diseases
 Mary Flynn, PhD
Associate Professor (Clinical)

Erna Kojic, MD
Associate Professor, Research Scholar

Awewura Kwara, MD
Associate Professor, Research Scholar

Karen Tashima, MD
Professor, Research Scholar

Rhode Island Hospital

Cardiology
 J. Dawn Abbott, MD
Associate Professor, Teaching Scholar

General Internal Medicine
 Frank Basile, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

Geriatrics
 Lynn McNicoll, MD
Associate Professor (Clinical)

Hematology/Oncology
 Mary Anne Fenton, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

Kidney Disease and Hypertension
 Rujun Gong, MD
Associate Professor (Research)

Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep
 James Klingler, MD
Professor, Research Scholar

Providence VAMC

Cardiology
 Gaurav Choudhary, MD
Associate Professor, Research Scholar

General Internal Medicine
 Thomas O'Toole
Professor, Teaching Scholar