

department of Medicine Newsletter

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THE WARREN ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

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Two Miriam Hospital Physicians Named 'Public Health Heroes'

The Association of State and Health Territorial Officials (ASTHO) has designated Drs Gary Bubly and Josiah D. Rich as "Public Health Heroes." Bubly and Rich were nominated by the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) for this honor. Overall, only 41 physicians and researchers nationwide have been recognized for their public health service.

According to HEALTH, Bubly was nominated for his assistance in writing regulatory language regarding emergency dispensing of medications from emergency rooms. He has also been a driving force in developing Rhode Island's legislation on the state's new Prescription Monitoring Program, which allows for daily/real time reporting from pharmacies and web access for providers, so ER physicians can make sound decisions when writing prescriptions for controlled substances.

Rich was recognized for his work in advocating for health policy changes to improve the health of people with addiction, including improving legal access to sterile syringes and increasing drug treatment for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated populations. He has also been instrumental in developing Project Bridge, an outreach and intensive case management program for HIV-positive ex-offenders moving back into the community, and serves as co-director of the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, based at The Miriam Hospital.

Michael Fine, MD, director of HEALTH remarked on the high degree of dedication and professionalism of Rich and Bubly. "They are examples of the great resource that is Rhode Island's primary care and medical community, as well as examples of how much progress can be made through the partnership of primary care and public health."

In addition to their clinical roles, Bubly is a clinical associate professor of emergency medicine and medicine at The Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University, and Rich is professor of medicine and epidemiology at Alpert Medical School.



Gary Bubly, MD



Josiah D. Rich, MD

The Division of Infectious Diseases Welcomes Dr Bettina Knoll

Even at this early stage, Dr. Knoll is well regarded by her colleagues and supervisors as evidenced by numerous peer- and foundation-elected awards that she won during her residency at the Mayo Clinic.

Early in her training, Dr. Knoll became interested in immunocompromised hosts and in pursuing translational research in the genetics/genomics of infectious. During her first year of her infectious diseases fellowship at Mayo Clinic, she developed a research proposal on the role of Toll-like receptors in the pathogenesis of hepatitis C virus infections. This project was approved by the Research Committee and supported in part by the CR Award of the Center for Translational Science Activities at Mayo Clinic.

Dr. Knoll pursued additional clinical training with a two-year transplant infectious diseases fellowship begun in June 2010 at Massachusetts General Hospital. During that year Bettina was part of a multidisciplinary team caring for kidney, liver, pancreas, islet cell, heart, lung and hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients. She developed a syndrome-specific fever work-up algorithm for solid organ transplant recipients to be used by surgical residents in the MGH emergency department with the goal to reduce the number of unnecessary microbiological tests, and to optimize appropriate test use.



During her year at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute she participated in outpatient management of allogeneic stem-cell, composite-tissue, lung, and kidney transplant recipients, as well as of immunocompromised patients in the setting of cancer treatment. A cohort study of non-tuberculous mycobacterial infection among lung transplant recipients was recently published in *Transplant Infectious Diseases*, a report on infections following facial composite tissue allotransplantation accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Transplantation* and further projects from that year are currently pending for publication.

We anticipate that Dr. Knoll will build an infectious diseases service dedicated to the hematology and oncology patients at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital with the goal to cater to the needs of the services for in- and out-patients, assist with management of cancer patients with infectious syndromes and establish consistent treatment approaches for commonly encountered infectious syndromes in this population to increase patient satisfaction and outcome.

In summary, Dr. Knoll combines a unique understanding of clinical research sciences with clinical ability and a wonderful personality. She cares deeply for her patients and she is among the most compassionate young colleagues that I have ever worked with.

Samuel C. Dudley, MD, PhD, Appointed Cardiology Chief



Samuel C. Dudley, MD, PhD, has been appointed chief of the division of cardiology at the Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals and chief of the division of cardiology in the Department of

Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

In this role, Dudley will oversee all cardiology services on the two campuses including patient care and clinical research. He is also responsible for the research and educational programs at all the Brown teaching hospitals to further strengthen the program's position as a regional and national leader in cardiac care. His appointment is effective March 1.

"Dr. Dudley is a unique combination of physician, researcher and entrepreneur," says Timothy J. Babineau, MD, president and chief executive officer of Lifespan. "We are confident that his leadership skills and hands-on approach will serve to strengthen the program and support all cardiac physicians; that his compassion and commitment to the highest quality patient care will be of great benefit to our patients; and that his commitment to cutting-edge research will solidify our cardiac program as one of the best in the country."

Dudley's research efforts into such areas as

sudden cardiac death have resulted in the development of an innovative blood test designed to identify those patients most at risk. His entrepreneurial spirit has led him to receive more than 20 patents and to launch a biotech firm focused specifically on commercializing this blood test.

"We look forward to the important contributions that Dr. Dudley will make to education and research in cardiology. His clinical skills and research interests strongly complement clinicians and researchers at the Medical School, in the basic science departments and public health," says Edward J. Wing, MD, dean of medicine and biological sciences at Alpert Medical School.

Dudley comes to Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he served as chief of cardiology and co-director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research. He previously served as chief of cardiology at the Atlanta (Ga.) VA Medical Center and associate professor of medicine and physiology at Emory University in Atlanta.

Dudley earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and his medical degrees from the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. He completed his residency, postdoctoral fellowship and cardiology fellowship at the University of Chicago. He serves on several editorial boards for publications including

the *Frontiers in Cardiac Electrophysiology*; *Journal of The American College of Cardiology*; *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics*; and *The Open Biochemistry Journal*. He is fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association and is a member of the Association of University Cardiologists, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, Heart Rhythm Society, Cardiac Electrophysiology Society, and the Cardiac Muscle Society, among others.

His research interests include cardiac cell replacement therapy, diastolic heart failure and sudden cardiac death. He is the inventor on more than 20 patents including a blood test to predict sudden death risk, a blood test for diastolic heart failure, a possible treatment for diabetes and obesity and eight novel therapeutics for diastolic heart failure and sudden death prevention. He is chief science officer of ROS Technologies, a company he founded to commercialize the blood test for sudden death risk.

The Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital is a collaboration of cardiovascular services at the two campuses, along with cardiology programs in the community. The CVI bridges cardiac experts on both campuses, providing them with the necessary resources to deliver streamlined, high-quality, patient-centered care with the latest tools and technologies available for diagnosis and treatment.

Chairman's Message: A Focus on Teamwork

One of my favorite quotes has been attributed to Ronald Reagan while he was President of the United States: "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." I like that quote because it reflects a deep and fundamental respect for the importance of teamwork in accomplishing important goals. It is a respect often expressed, though frequently misinterpreted, by important public figures. Other examples include Hilary Clinton's "It takes a village" to raise a child, or Barack Obama's "You didn't build that," referring to the fact that all successful businesses are built on the shoulders of the successful ventures of the past (would we have Facebook without the internet?) or with shared creative energy of more than one individual (Would Steve Jobs have been successful without Steve Wozniak?).

There are very few activities where teamwork is more important than in the care of patients. Whether in the hospital or community setting, patient care is rarely the realm of a single person, despite what the popular literature might suggest. "Dr. House" may be brilliant, but his attitude toward co-workers would almost certainly lead to more negative than positive patient outcomes in the real world. In the hospital, physicians depend on so many others to deliver high quality health care. We depend on the custodial staff to maintain a clean environment, on the dietary staff for appropriate nutrition, the social work staff to facilitate appropriate support for patients, on our nursing colleagues for the daily bedside care of our patients, and the administrative staff to make sure that everything runs smoothly. Effective communication between all of these partners

is critical to promoting good outcomes for our patients. Acknowledgment of and respect for each other is the foundation of effective communication and high quality patient care.

When we have to give bad news to a patient, we often ask that a family member or other person close to the patient be present to hear the conversation. This request reflects our understanding that the emotional state of the patient will be affected by the news, perhaps in a way that will prevent the patient from effectively hearing the details of our message. Communication between colleagues in the context of aggressive or disrespectful behavior can be similarly compromised, making it critically important that we ensure that all of our interactions occur with appropriate consideration for the mindset of the people with whom we are communicating. Otherwise our message may get misinterpreted, important work may not get done, and patients will eventually suffer.

As colleagues and professionals, we have an obligation to each other to share constructive feedback with the goal of improving our work and performance. In that spirit, there is really no such thing as "negative" feedback. Of course we often need to give feedback to colleagues that, while meant to improve their performance, is critical of past behaviors. In such circumstances, I often think back to advice from my old friend and colleague Keith Armitage, the Director of the Internal Medicine House Staff Program at Case Western Reserve. Keith preferred the "sandwich" approach, in which critical feedback is balanced fore and aft between positive observations about their skills or behavior (assuming that such positive comments can be made truthfully – if not, then it will be a rough



Louis Rice, MD

conversation). The point is to try to create an environment in which your feedback will be received in the spirit it was intended, to improve performance and thereby deliver better care.

Which brings me back to the Reagan quote. I believe that the best work environments are created when there is no shortage of credit given to all of the people who contributed to achieving a goal. For supervisors, this is particularly important. Giving credit as a supervisor has an amplifying effect. The more you give away, the more you receive. In a world where zero-sum games are more and more the rule, giving credit freely and openly serves to multiply the positive feelings that create a pleasant and productive workplace. Beyond positive felloes, such practice motivates, energizes and stimulates the creative productivity of those with whom we work, leading to better research, education, administration and, most importantly, patient care. I ask that all of us take the time to recognize the good work of our colleagues every day, moving us closer to a team environment in where there is no limit to what we can do.

Paul Pirraglia appointed Chief of the Primary Care Service at the PVAMC



Paul Pirraglia, MD, MPH, was appointed Chief of Primary Care at the Providence VA Medical Center on December 1, 2012. Dr. Pirraglia graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a BA in psychology. He attended Cornell University Medical College, where he graduated with Honors in Research. He completed his residency at Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University and then completed a general internal medicine fellowship at Massachusetts General

Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He also earned a Masters Degree in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Pirraglia joined the faculty of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown

University in 2003 and began working as a primary care provider at the Providence VA Medical Center at that time.

Dr. Pirraglia has a distinguished research and teaching background. He was the recipient of a VA Health Services Research & Development Career Development Award from 2005-2008 for research on the overlap of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with depression and anxiety, and he continues to do research on providing care at the intersection of physical and mental health. He is a strong proponent of primary care, serving as the New England Regional President of the Society of General Internal Medicine from 2009 to 2010. Recognized for his educational skills through the receipt of the Beckwith Teaching Award in 2012, he continues to precept residents in the Primary Care Clinic and in the VA Journal Club.

Aligning Quality Objectives for the Department of Medicine

Lynn McNicoll, MD;
Karen Rosene-Montella, MD

Physicians are increasingly recognizing their central role in improving the quality of care provided to our patients, from both the system standpoint and from our own individual practices. For almost a decade, the Department of Medicine has had quality representatives from each Division implementing division-specific quality improvement projects that have been quite successful. In the last few years, the Department has recruited several experienced leaders in quality to oversee and support these initiatives, first by appointing Dr. Karen Rosene-Montella as Vice-Chairman of Quality and Outcomes, and later, Stefan Gravenstein, as Director of Quality Management and Outcomes. In November, Lynn McNicoll, MD, succeeded Dr. Gravenstein. Our mission is to continue to grow and mature the quality improvement initiatives, and also to align projects with insurers' requirements, CMS projects and Lifespan priorities. This strategy not only improves our efficiency in doing quality work, but also improves our collaborations and relationships with all these entities, as we become increasingly intertwined, and transform ourselves into a true and viable accountable care organization.

An example of this strategy is the Department of Medicine's efforts to align its projects with the Lifespan triple aim of improving 1) Quality



Lynn McNicoll, MD



Karen Rosene-Montella, MD

and Safety, 2) Patient Experience, and 3) Engagement of Employees and Physician Partners. In addition, the Department has been working aggressively to establish robust OPPE (Ongoing Physician Performance Evaluation). As a JCAHO-certified institution, these ongoing evaluations need to be systematic and thorough. The Department is using the same template to fulfill these requirements, and using some of the division-specific quality projects to conduct OPPE.

There are more than 65 different quality projects throughout the Department. Although each division is doing excellent quality-related work, the primary care practices are especially notable for the quality work through the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) initiative. With the Governor Street practice as lead, all primary care practices within University Medicine have attested for meaningful use, are submitting data to PQRS (Physician Quality Reporting System), and will be applying for Level 3 PCMH certification soon. This not only allows primary care physicians to monitor their own rates of quality measures for diabetic, hypertensive, or overweight patients, but also increases our revenue.

The Department of Medicine is proud of the efforts on the part of each Division to improve care for our patients. We are learning from each other and expanding our efforts as projects are becoming more refined and sophisticated.

Internal Medicine Residency Program Celebrates Successes in 2013 Fellowship Match

The Department of Medicine congratulates our internal medicine residents on a successful fellowship match! We are very proud of the prestigious programs throughout the country that our residents will be joining, and we are also fortunate that so many are continuing their training here at Brown. Because of the recent changes in the fellowship match process, this list includes graduates from the class of 2012 (marked with an asterisk) and 2013. We look forward to the next issue of this newsletter, when we will share the career plans of our residents who will be joining primary care practices and working as Hospitalists.

Cardiovascular Diseases

Robert Kuhn, MD *
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Bharath Sathya, MD *
UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson, New Jersey

Michael Sorrentino, MD
Stonybrook University, NY

Kristal Young, MD
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Endocrinology

Mae Whelan, MD
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Gastroenterology

Niren Jasutkar, MD
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Lawrence Murphy, MD
University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA

Diana-Frances Whitehead, MD
Dartmouth University, New Hampshire

Hematology-Oncology

Sophia Fircanis, MD *
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Randall Ingham, MD
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Benjamin Kuritzky, MD
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Anthony Pham, MD *
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Infectious Disease

J. Bradford Bertumen, MD
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Joanna Bradley, MD *
Stanford University, Stanford, California

Katie Fillion, MD *
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

William Hahn, MD *
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Palliative Care

Kathleen Lee, MD
Mt Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY

Pulmonary Diseases & Critical Care Medicine

Debasree Banerjee, MD
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Nicholas Csikesz, MD *
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Jennifer Fung, MD *
Mt Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY

Mark Hepokoski, MD *
University of San Diego, La Jolla, California

Joseph Kaserman, MD
Boston University, Boston, MA

Andrew Moraco, MD
University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA

Aida Morse, MD *
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Sameer Shah, MD *
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Rheumatology

Joanne Szczygiel, MD *
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Angela M. Caliendo, MD, PhD, Appointed Chief of General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals

Angela M. Caliendo, MD, PhD, has been appointed chief of the division of general internal medicine at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals. In this role, Caliendo will oversee all internal medicine services on the two campuses including patient care and clinical research. She also will serve as executive vice chair of the department of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. Both appointments are effective February 1, 2013.



“Dr. Caliendo’s broad medical background and extraordinary leadership talents make her an ideal choice to lead the division,” said Louis Rice, MD, chief of the department of medicine at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals. “The division of general internal medicine cares for a large proportion of the patients admitted to the hospital. As we adjust to the inevitable changes in the way health care is delivered and paid for, Dr. Caliendo’s expert knowledge of clinical testing gained from her service as medical director of Emory University Hospital’s clinical laboratories will be critical for our design of safe and effective new care paths for hospitalized patients.”

“I am very pleased to have a physician of Dr. Caliendo’s caliber join the department of medicine at the medical school,” said Edward J. Wing, MD, dean of medicine and biological sciences at the Alpert Medical School. “Her rich and varied experiences in research, clinical care and

academics make her a tremendous resource for students and the entire Alpert community.”

Caliendo comes to Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals from Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., where she served in numerous roles including medical director of Emory Medical Laboratories and clinical microbiology and molecular diagnostics, as well as attending physician in the division of infectious diseases. Additionally, she served as professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at Emory University School of Medicine.

Caliendo earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Grove City College in Pennsylvania and both her postdoctoral and medical degrees from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She completed her internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston; her fellowship in infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital; and her fellowship in executive leadership in academic medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. She is a member of numerous organizations, and serves as chair of the microbiology medical devices panel at the Food and Drug Administration, and is a member of the research committee in the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Her research interests include antiretroviral resistance in HIV-positive women, and the development of molecular diagnostic tests for various infectious diseases.

News from the Providence Veterans Medical Center

Katherine Faricy-Anderson, Instructor of Medicine (Clinical) has been awarded a highly competitive Seed Money award from the Health Services Research and Development Seed Grant Program, Research Enhancement Award Program, Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The award is entitled: “Patient Expectations of Cancer Treatment in the Metastatic Setting: a Pilot Study.” The award is \$29,500 for 1 year.

A group from the **Pulmonary Vascular Research Laboratory** at the Providence VAMC has been awarded a Clinical Research Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs, entitled “Tadalafil for Pulmonary Hypertension Associated with COPD.” This is a multicenter trial involving the Providence, Boston, and West Los Angeles VA Medical Centers. **Sharon Rounds, MD** Professor of Medicine, is co-PI for the trial. The Providence VAMC site co-PIs are

Gaurav Choudhary MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, and **Matthew Jankowich, MD** Assistant Professor of Medicine. Total Direct Costs are \$150,000 per year for 4 years, beginning June, 2013.

Brian Kimble, MD Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, is an amazing photographer in his “spare time.” One of his photographs will be published in the March 7, 2013, issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Providence VA Medical Center researcher, **Amal Trivedi, MD** (Associate Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice and of Medicine) was recently selected as a 2013-2014 Australian-American Health Policy Fellow. The Australian-American Health Policy Fellowship aims to give future health policy leaders from the United States the opportunity to conduct policy-

oriented health research in Australia. It also provides an opportunity to gain first-hand exposure to innovative Australian models of health care delivery and work with leading Australian health policy experts.

Satish Sharma, MD Professor of Medicine, has been appointed Acting Chief of Staff at the Providence VAMC. Dr. Sharma is also Chief of the Specialty and Acute Care Service Line for VISN1 (New England) and had been Chief of Cardiology at the Providence VAMC. **Wen-Chi (Hank) Wu, MD** has been appointed Acting Chief of Cardiology at the PVAMC.

Brief updates from the Department of Medicine

Dr. Karen Tashima of The Division of Infectious Diseases will be presenting an oral late breaker at CROI, the 20th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, in Atlanta in March. On behalf of the ACTG (AIDS Clinical Trials Group) A5241 OPTIONS study team, Dr. Tashima will be presenting data from this NIAID-funded, multicenter study examining the non-inferiority of not including a class of HIV medications called NRTIs in a new regimen of active HIV medications compared with adding NRTIs. She is the Study Chair of this large study being conducted at 64 sites across the U.S. Her clinical trials team at The Miriam Hospital Immunology Center enrolled 16 subjects in the study.

Dr. Jane Carter of The Division of Infectious Diseases was awarded the World Lung Health Award by the American Thoracic Society which will be presented to her at the award ceremony at the ATS meeting in Philadelphia, May 2013. She was also awarded continuation funding from TB Reach for a year. Received funding award for grant "Innovations in TB Case Finding in Western Kenya." The award is from WHO (World Health Organization in Geneva, in the amount of \$800,000.

Dr. Lynn E. Taylor of The Division of Infectious Diseases and Dr. Karen Tashima's study, "Neurocognitive and Brain Benefits of HCV Eradication in HIV/HCV Coinfection," was approved by the IRB and is open for enrollment at the Miriam Hospital Immunology Center. The study is sponsored by Lifespan (Seed Grant). This study will examine whether there is neurocognitive improvement in people coinfecting with both HIV and hepatitis C virus infection (HCV), following successful HCV treatment leading to viral eradication. We are looking to recruit fifteen HIV/HCV coinfecting patients who are about to start HCV treatment.

Dr. Andrew Levinson of The Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine travelled to Tübingen, Germany in February to teach at the Eberhard Karls University as part of an exchange program which included a Brown critical care medicine fellow (Jason Frost, MD) and four Brown medical students (Whitney Eng, Thomas Scupp, Erin Valenti and James Christian Brown). Dr. Levinson helped teach the 2 week "Winter Course in Critical Care" which combined didactic teaching in pulmonary and critical care medicine with simulation training and ICU clinical experience for a group of international medical students. This is the second year of collaboration between Brown and Eberhard Karls University.

Drs. Sarita Warriar, Rebekah Gardner, Mike Maher and Kate Mavrich of The Division of General Internal Medicine are presenting a workshop at this year's **Society of General Internal Medicine** national meeting. The workshop title is "Beyond Pain Contracts: A Practical, Multidisciplinary Model for Safer Opiate Prescribing" and is based on Rhode Island Hospital's Multidisciplinary Pain Committee. They are collaborating with colleagues from both Baystate Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine as well as Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Sarita Warriar will also be presenting at the Annual Education Retreat of the **Northeastern Group on Educational Affairs**, a subset of the AAMC which focuses on professional development of medical educators. Her work along with Drs. Jennifer Jeremiah and Kate Mavrich will be a highlighted innovation in medical education and is titled "A Clinician Educator Track for Internal Medicine Residents."

Peter D. Friedmann, MD, MPH of The Division of General Internal Medicine was recently elected to the American Board of Addiction Medicine & the ABAM Foundation. ABAM is the nation's first medical specialty board that certifies addiction medicine physicians across a range of medical specialties. The board sets standards for physician education, assesses physicians' knowledge and requires and tracks life-long education. It is an independent specialty board established in 2007. Dr. Friedmann has also been Elected Vice-Chair, Medical Faculty Executive Committee, Alpert Medical School.

Drs. Brad Collins, Beth Gentile, Nikhil Mull and Kwame Dapaah-Afryie of The Division of Hospital Medicine at The Miriam Hospital presented clinical cases and research work at the Annual meeting of the Society of Hospital Medicine. Four members of the Division presented abstracts at the 2012 meeting in San Diego. Three abstracts have been accepted for presentation at the 2013 conference which is being held in May in Washington DC. The abstracts will be presented by Dr. James Atkinson and Dr. Kwame Dapaah-Afryie. The cases being presented in May are:

1. Refractory "Psoriatic arthritis" due to Infliximab
2. BAN WHAT Syndrome? – Banwarth syndrome due to Lyme disease
3. Hypercalcemia due to bone marrow sarcoidosis.

The Division of Hospitalist Medicine at The Miriam Hospital has created a formal elective program in Hospital Medicine for interested Medical residents. This is 2-4 week program and provides clinical and professional information for residents to be successful in their future careers as Hospitalists. **Dr. Jill O'Brien** has named the Division's educational Coordinator. In her new role she will be directly responsible for the hospital medicine elective program in addition to coordinating other Divisional education programs.

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Doctors and Nurses Enjoy Retreat in Cape Cod to Improve Care for the Elderly

Lynn McNicoll, MD;
Staci Fischer, MD

Twenty-two doctors and nurses spent a sunshine-filled weekend on Cape Cod in May 2012 as part of the CRIT – Chief Resident Immersion Training in the Care of the Elderly program. Drs. Staci Fischer and Lynn McNicoll received a grant from the Hearst Foundation in 2011 to provide a weekend retreat to residents and fellows-in-training to learn about leadership skills, with a focus on care of elders. We included nurses to enhance the interdisciplinary experience. Last year, 13 physicians (from medicine, surgery, psychiatry, neurology, and critical care) and 9 nurses or other healthcare providers took advantage of this opportunity to spend a wonderful weekend on the Cape learning from a team of 7 faculty members from geriatrics, medicine and surgery.

The kick-off dinner on Friday featured an invited guest, founding Dean of the Alpert Medical School, Dr. Stanley Aronson. Dr. Aronson spoke about his career and experience taking care of older persons, but also from a personal standpoint having had several health related concerns for himself and his former wife Betty. The participants appreciated hearing from both the professional and personal perspective from such an articulate and respected member of the medical community. His words echoed through the weekend, as we discussed a case of an 86-year-old woman who was admitted to the hospital and required surgery, suffering from many of the complications that older persons are prone to, such as delirium.

The patient is discussed in three modules, which consist of small group discussions regarding the care/theme, then brief, targeted lectures on geriatrics care (such as delirium and pain management) and brief lectures on leadership issues (such as conflict resolution and giving feedback).

Part of the retreat is the development of a year-long project on a quality-related issue involving the care of older persons within each participant's related field. For example, a surgical resident proposed a project to improve the care of trauma patients by improving education on palliative care and increasing the rate of palliative care consults. Another proposed to modify the intake form for trauma patients to include more details about advanced directives. An orthopedic resident chose to create an educational program to educate both residents and faculty on the management of older orthopedic patients. At the conference, participants had the opportunity to meet with faculty to brainstorm, refine, and finalize a project that they have been working on all year. In March, we will celebrate their progress.

This year the conference is scheduled to be the weekend of **May 17-19, 2013, in Mystic**, Connecticut right across from Mystic Aquarium and not far from Mystic Pizza. Participants are encouraged to bring their families, since afternoons are free to enjoy with their loved ones.

Space is limited for this excellent inter-disciplinary conference. We encourage interested residents, fellows and allied professionals to apply by contacting Drs. Fischer or McNicoll.

Department of Medicine Appointments and Promotions

Appointments September 2012 to February 2013

The Miriam Hospital

Geriatrics

Jensey Stafford, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Obstetric Medicine

Courtney Bilodeau, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Rhode Island Hospital

Cardiology

Arnoldas Giedrimas, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

General Internal Medicine

Alexander Diaz de Villalvilla
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Kapil Sharma, MD
Clinical Instructor

Lauren Schlanger, MD
Clinical Instructor

Kinjal Shah, MD
Clinical Instructor

Infectious Diseases

Jeffrey Coleman, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Beth Fuchs, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Bettina Knoll, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Panagiotis Ziakas, MD, PhD
Instructor (Research)

Women & Infants Hospital

Hematology/Oncology

Tina Rizack, MD
Assistant Professor (Clinical)