



GW Medicine Notes

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Intern Interviews Underway

This year's interview season for internship applicants who will start in June of 2010 has begun. Once again we are interviewing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday almost every week from now through the first week of February. The applicants start with morning report at 7:30 a.m. and then stay on the 5th floor of the hospital for breakfast and a PowerPoint presentation by next year's Chief Residents. Every year the applicants ask to meet the Chiefs who will be leading them and therefore this year we thought we would try something new and let the 3rd year Residents who will be next years Chiefs do the presentation. (That and the pregnancy epidemic led to this decision.)

Each applicant will then go over to the ACC/Burns building for two interviews from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. After the interviews they return to the 5th floor of the hospital to listen to an inspiring presentation from Dr. Wasserman followed by the nitty gritty of the program from Dr. El-Bayoumi and Dr. Barbour.

The applicants then spend over an hour having lunch with as many current Interns and Residents as we can round up to spend time with them. This is followed by a tour of the hospital and any last minute questions. We try and have the entire day end by 2:00 p.m. so we can send them out before rush hour traffic.

See You There!
The Annual
Faculty/Housestaff
Holiday Party
December 11, 2009

From the Chairman

In 1976 Herbert Boyer, a biochemist, and Robert Swanson, a venture capitalist founded Genentech, the first biotechnology company to use recombinant DNA technology in developing commercially useful products such as drugs. In 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court provided an important incentive for the development of biotechnology companies. In the case of *Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, the court ruled that biological materials may be patented. Thus, private companies could look forward to making substantial profits from therapies that they developed through genetic engineering techniques. In the early 1980's Genentech was an amazing company. It was full of young, aggressive scientists urged on by Swanson to create a new and innovative pharmaceutical company.

The field of thrombolytic therapy for acute MI was in its infancy but exploded in 1985 with the results of the GISSI study that showed that treatment with Streptokinase could reduce mortality in Acute MI. Since the American Heart Meetings were being held in Washington, DC, that fall, Allan Ross and I decided to hold a symposium on this new field of thrombolytics. We needed a sponsor and by luck the first phone call made was to Genentech. Even though they didn't have a product (yet), they agreed to sponsor the symposium and gave us complete editorial control. They were working on a new protein, t-Pa (tissue plasminogen activator), manufacturing it using recombinant biotechnology. Our relationship with Genentech lasted 23 years and even after t-Pa (Activase) was FDA approved in 1987; not once did they attempt to influence the content of the symposium.

But "times they are a changing." In the early 1990's, Roche acquired a partial ownership in Genentech, and this spring completed the takeover. Now Genentech is a company with over 11,000 employees, revenues of over \$13 billion dollars a year that focuses on five disease categories: Oncology, Immunology, Tissue Growth and Repair, Neuroscience and Infectious Disease (note the absence of Cardiology).

Genentech and Roche spent over \$15 million dollars on lobbyists, during the last two years, to keep a key measure in the healthcare bill that grants brand-name drug companies (such as Genentech) a major windfall by severely restricting access to cheaper generic versions of life-saving biologic drugs. Republicans, oppose the bill, but are praising this provision. Considering that one of Genentech's drugs, Herceptin (for breast cancer) costs over \$100,000 a year, having no competition would be no small windfall. Keeping the cheaper generics out of the market is placing profits over survival.

Forty two members of the U.S. House of Representatives put similar or identical statements on the record touting the biotech industry's history of job creation in support of this provision. How could these congressmen give identical statements? Well, they got them from the lobbyists hired by Genentech and spit out the same version time after time. Why would they do this? Just maybe the next plant that Genentech builds will be in one of their districts and maybe some of the \$400,000 dollars that Genentech spreads around to politicians from their PAC will come their way.

I am not surprised that there are at least 42 members of congress that can't write their own speeches but I am saddened by what's happened to Genentech. My disappointment about the end of our long running symposium is tempered by the fact that I am glad we got out before they tried to tell us what to say. Then again they probably only do that with politicians. With us they just give pens.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

Department of Medicine December 2009 Grand Rounds

Dec 3 *"What's New in Dialysis?"*

Susie Q. Lew, MD

Professor of Medicine

Division of renal Diseases & Hypertension

Department of Medicine

George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Electrophysiology Distinguished Visiting Professorship

Dec 10 *"Atrial Fibrillation: New Solutions for an Old Problem"*

Kenneth Ellenbogen, MD

Kontos Endowed Professor of Cardiology

Vice-Chairman of Cardiology

Director of Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology & Pacing

Medical College of Virginia

Richmond, Virginia

Dec 17 *"Heart of the Matter: The Kidney"*

Dominic Raj, MD

Professor of Medicine & of Epidemiology and Biostatistics & of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Director, Division of Renal Diseases & Hypertension

Department of Medicine

George Washington Medical Faculty Associates

Dec 24 *Christmas Holiday*

Grand Rounds Cancelled

Dec 31 *New Years Holiday*

Grand Rounds Cancelled

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. GWUMC designates this continuing medical education activity on an hour-for-hour basis in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

Cardiology Grand Rounds

Dec 2 **M & M**

Dec 9 **Kenneth Ellenbogen, MD**

Kontos Endowed Professor of Cardiology

Vice-Chairman of Cardiology

Director of Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology

Virginia Commonwealth University

The Future of Device Therapy

Dec 16 **TBA**

Dec 23 **No Grand Rounds**
Winter Holiday

Dec 30 **No Grand Rounds**
New Years Eve Holiday

The "Line-up" for December

ADMITTING RESIDENT (202) 715-6034 (CELL)

WHITE TEAM	(202) 715-5669
YELLOW TEAM	(202) 715-6041
GREEN TEAM	(202) 715-6062
RED TEAM	(202) 715-6039
BLUE TEAM	(202) 715-6156
SILVER TEAM	(202) 715-6040
PURPLE TEAM	(202) 715-6042
GOLD TEAM	(202) 715-6044

Chairman's Rounds

GWU Hospital Auditorium, 12:00 Noon

All Faculty Invited to Attend

Dec 01	Dr. Shari Flowers
	Dr. Amanda Rudman Spergel
Dec 15	Dr. Yousef Bader
	Dr. Rayan Alhazmi

Resident Lecture Series December 2009 Noon Conference

Dec 1	Chairman's Rounds
Dec 2	GME Lecture
Dec 3	Medicine Grand Rounds
Dec 4	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 7	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 8	PT/OT/SP Services
Dec 9	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 10	Medicine Grand Rounds
Dec 11	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 14	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 15	Chairman's Rounds
Dec 16	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 17	Medicine Grand Rounds
Dec 18	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 21	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 22	Holiday - No Conference
Dec 23	Holiday - No Conference
Dec 24	Holiday - No Conference
Dec 25	Holiday - No Conference
Dec 28	Recruitment/Resident Luncheon
Dec 29	Holiday - No Conference
Dec 30	Holiday - No Conference
Dec 31	Holiday - No Conference

GWU Medicine Winners of DC ACP Sol Katz MD Memorial Teaching Award

The Washington DC Chapter of the American College of Physicians established the Award of Excellence in Teaching to honor the memory of Sol Katz MD and bestows this award to those who exemplify the values for which he was known. This year, the Sol Katz, MD Award was given to GWU Department of Medicine faculty members, **Dr. Matthew Mintz** and **Dr. Dragica Mrkoci**.

Dr. Sol Katz was trained at Georgetown University Hospital and was appointed as chief of the Division of Pulmonary Disease in 1946. For the next 50 years he remained in DC as Chief of the Medical Service at the VA Hospital and as Chief of the Pulmonary Division at Georgetown University, where he was appointed Professor of Medicine. Dr. Katz was the consummate teacher and mentor. His rounds were the highlight of the week; always patient oriented, documented by quotations from recent medical literature including journals obscure to even the most scholarly of his students. He quoted "evidence based medicine" before it was in vogue. He was instrumental in the training of numerous investigators and physicians who rose to prestigious academic positions and to the countless physicians who elected to enter private practice.

Matthew L. Mintz, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine currently serves as the Director of the Primary Care Clerkship, and the Course Director for the Practice of Medicine and the Problem Based Learning Programs.

A native of California, Dr. Mintz received his bachelor's degree in Music with honors from the University of Chicago. He obtained his medical degree at The George Washington School of Medicine. He then completed his residency in internal medicine in the primary care track and was chief medical resident at GWU. He is board certified in internal medicine. He also completed the Master Teacher's certificate program at the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Mintz has been active in the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM) and has been a member of the Research and the Student Interest Group Committees of that organization. At GWU he has been actively involved in curriculum committees. A strong advocate for general internal medicine, he has been the Faculty Advisor to the Internal Medicine Student Group. He has also been the Faculty Advisor for the Medical School Follies. Dr. Mintz is a Fellow in the American College of Physicians and a member of the Society of General Internal Medicine. He is also a reviewer for several journals and scientific meetings including *American Family Physician*, *Journal of Family Practice*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* and *Research in Medical Education* for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Dr. Mintz' commitment to excellence in teaching was recognized by the GWU Distinguished Teacher Award in 2004 and again when he was elected by the students and his colleagues to Alpha Omega Alpha in 2007. The DC Chapter of the ACP presented him with the Sol Katz, MD Memorial Teaching Award this year as further recognition of his teaching excellence and mentorship for medical students.

Dr. Dragica Mrkoci received her MD degree from the University of Zagreb in Croatia, her country of origin. After receiving training in internal medicine and occupational medicine in Croatia, she practiced both for almost two decades at the Medical Center Karlovac, advancing to serve as the Director of Occupational Medicine in 1991. On coming to the United States in 1993 she trained in psychiatry at St. Elizabeth Hospital/ DCMHS for one year before joining the internal medicine residency program at Georgetown and then George Washington University. She attained Board certification from both the Croatian Board of Occupational Medicine and the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In 1997 she joined the Division of General Internal Medicine at GWU, as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. She served as a Clinical Apprenticeship Preceptor and a third year Clerkship Preceptor. She was also a Didactic Attending. In her role as Director of the Resident Clinic she developed a didactic curriculum for outpatient medicine that was used both for pre-clinic conferences in the outpatient setting as well as Primary Care Noon Conferences. She was also the PI for an ABIM-supported study of the Mini-CEX to evaluate resident clinical competence.

In 2005 she became a Hospitalist at the Washington DC VAMC where she continued her educational work with students and residents. The enthusiastic response to Dr. Mrkoci as a clinical teacher at GWU and at the VA reflects the enormous respect that students and residents have for her clinical acumen, her patient-centered care and her enthusiastic mentoring. She has received many honors including Faculty Member of the Year (1999-2000) and VA Attending of the Year (2005-06) from the GWU Medicine Housestaff, Off Site Staff of the Year (2006-07) from the Department of the Navy, National Naval Medical Center, and now the Sol Katz Teaching Award.

PQRI Is Here

PQRI, the physician's quality reporting initiative, was set up by CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) to encourage physicians to develop systems for submitting quality data to CMS. At this time, CMS is paying an incentive payment to all physicians who successfully report quality data on 3 or more of the measures specified in the PQRI manual.

If at least three measures are reported successfully, then each participating physician will receive payment equal to 2% of their eligible Part B Medicare billings for the entire reporting year.

In order to submit data successfully, we must first be able to find the data in TouchWorks. This means being able to search for eligible patients for each measure (either by age and/or diagnosis) and harvest the quality data specified by the measure. This requires that the data is entered into discrete, searchable fields. Text entered into Structured or Unstructured Notes is not searchable.

Our strategic approach is to choose measures that are most meaningful to our practice, most universally applicable across specialties, and require easy identification of eligible patients and quality data. The first measure we will use will be a measure in which we claim use of a qualified electronic health record. For the other two measures, medicine specialties will benefit from collectively inquiring and recording immunization histories (seasonal influenza vaccination and Pneumovax). For other specialties, the choice of the additional two measures will vary.

We recently received our first check from CMS for our efforts and it was substantial. However, there is much more easy revenue to be made and we want to vigorously pursue this. **Dr. Elena Boyley** is spearheading this project for the Department of Medicine. If she hasn't contacted you yet, she will.

Rheumatology Review Course December 2009

Thursdays 8:00 - 9:00 am ACC 1-401, 1:30 - 3:30 pm Hospital Rm 6-106
Questions? Call (202) 741-2488

- Dec 3 Journal Club
Shiraz Moinuddin, MD
- Dec 3 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Dec 10 Radiology Conference
Kathleen Brindle, MD
Assistant Professor of Radiology
Chief Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Dec 10 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Dec 17 Intra-City Rheumatology Grand Rounds
NOTE LOCATION: GWU
NOTE TIME: 7:30 AM
- Dec 17 Didactic Sessions
1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GWU Hospital, Rm 6106
- Dec 24 **Christmas Holiday - No Conference**
- Dec 31 **New Years Holiday - No Conference**

Kudos & Congratulations

Kudos ... to Dr. Sara Thomas, PGY1, who was commended by her attendings, patients and their families while on rotation at the VA for her professionalism, empathetic nature and leadership.

Congratulations ... to Dr. Showkat Bashir, Assistant Professor, Division of Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases, and his wife Dr. Mir Javid, on the November birth of their son, Suhail.

Congratulations ... to Dr. Maggie Plunkett, Endocrinology Fellow and former Internal Medicine Resident, and her husband Anthony, on the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Tessa on October 27, 2009.

Condolences ... to the family of Ms. Gene Lehnhardt, who passed away on October 13, 2009. Gene served as Executive Assistant to two Chairmen of the Department of Medicine, first Dr. Jorge Rios and then Dr. Alan Wasserman. After a long career in Washington, which started in the Nixon White House, Gene retired from the MFA in 2000 and moved back to her hometown in Pennsylvania to be closer to her sister, nieces, nephews and stepchildren.

See you next month! *The Editor*



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