SPOTLIGHT ON

In early 2007, Saint Louis University joined 28 other universities across the United States by establishing a local chapter of Global Medical Brigades (GMB).

26 undergraduate students, one SLU physician, one private physician, and one RN comprised the first brigade. GMB is a secular, international student operated volunteer organization whose mission is to provide sustained health care relief to underserved communities. Local chapters recruit student volunteers and health professionals, collect donations for medicines and medical supplies, and transport these donations to Honduras. The group then runs and staffs a mobile health clinic for rural Hondurans with limited or no access to healthcare.

Each GMB chapter is responsible for electing student officers and recruiting up to 35 students and physicians for one or two week-long missions each year. The group coordinates donations, inventories the supplies, and then packs suitcases which are shipped or carried to the brigade headquarters. In preparation for this initial brigade, the SLU students collected donations in excess of $90,000. Weekly meetings were held on the undergraduate campus for several months prior to the brigade. Students practiced medical Spanish, packed medications, and learned how to take vital signs.

Upon arrival in Honduras, the group visited Sociedad Amigos de los Niños (SAN) through which GMB operates in Honduras. SAN (www.saninos.org) is a nonprofit organization founded 40 years ago by Sister Maria Rosa Leggo of the Order of Saint Francis. Through SAN, Sister Maria Rosa has provided shelter, medical care, education, training and spiritual guidance to over 35,000 underprivileged children, mothers and families.

The SLU brigade was headquartered 1 hour outside of the capital city of Tegucigalpa in the village of Nuevo Paraiso, a community for single mothers and orphaned children. Within the village was a chapel, day care center, elementary school, high school, a hospice for children with AIDS (Montaña de Luz), a vocational farm for young boys (Flor Azul), a permanent medical clinic (Clínica Santa Rosa de Lima), and variety of micro-businesses. The brigade accommodations included 10-bed dormitory rooms with hot showers, flush toilets, three meals each day, and ample bottled water.
At the completion of this first brigade, 1100 Hondurans received medical care from the SLU volunteers.

The SLU GMB chapter plans to make annual visits to Honduras, most likely in January of each year. SLU faculty are encouraged to participate in this experience, along with medical students, residents, and fellows. Each volunteer is responsible for room, board, and transportation costs ($650) and the airfare to Honduras. For more information about this brigade, contact Julie Gammack, 
gammackj@slu.edu, 314-977-8457. Dr. Gammack was a leader of this brigade and she notes:

“In preparation for this mission, I attended several monthly planning meetings with the undergraduate students on North campus. During these meetings we organized and packed medications, learned medical Spanish, and taught the students to take vital signs. I made several trips to local medical supply stores and pharmacies to purchase donations for the Honduran villages, however the majority of medications were purchased with large donations that were solicited by the student organization. Once in Honduras I (along with two other physicians and one nurse) lived in a dormitory with the students for a week. Each day we would label and pack medications and medical supplies for the daily brigade into the rural communities. We traveled by bus 1-2 hours to remote villages where we would set up our medical/pharmacy station--usually in the central school or town hall. Each doctor would have several students who would translate, triage patients, and take vital signs. Patients would line up outside and we would see them in family groups--usually mom and her several children. After a brief history and examination we would prescribe whatever medications were needed and they would pick these up at the pharmacy station. Most of the time patients were given tylenol, multivitamins, antiparasitic treatment, antacids, and cough/cold medications. This was truly a family practice experience. During each of the four day brigades, we would work from 10am-3pm and saw 150-400 patients.

Julie Gammack
NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Miriam B. Rodin, M.D., Ph.D., joined the Division of Geriatric Medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine as an Associate Professor in October, 2007. Dr. Rodin is board certified in Internal Medicine with certificates of added qualifications in Geriatrics and the American Association of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She also holds certification in Medical Direction in Long Term Care from the American Medical Directors Association. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Illinois-Urbana and her M.D. from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Before coming to SLU, she was in the Section of Geriatrics at the University of Chicago. Dr. Rodin focuses on all aspects of geriatric care with special interest in geriatric oncology, hospice and palliative care, nutrition and wound care. She has been the medical director of two nursing homes. She serves on the editorial boards of JAGS and JAMDA and is a reviewer for a number of journals.

Alexandra Voinescu, M.D., joined the Division of Nephrology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in November, 2007. Dr. Voinescu is board certified in Internal Medicine. She received her M.D. degree from “Iuliu Hatieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She completed her Internal Medicine residency and Nephrology fellowship at the University of Missouri-Columbia Health Science Center.

Announcements

Cardiology Services at Des Peres Medical Arts Pavilion and Des Peres Hospital
In an effort to increase access for our patients and referring physicians, the Division Cardiology has expanded office hours at the Des Peres Medical Arts Pavilion. Cardiology services at Des Peres include outpatient consultation, evaluation and management visits, echocardiography, stress testing, and stress echocardiography. Pharmacologic stress testing and Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography are available for patients that may have difficulty walking on a treadmill. Cardiology’s expansion increases our ability to perform prompt scheduling and timely reporting of preoperative cardiac assessment at our Des Peres facility as well as in our Cardiology office at the University Club Tower.

Also, a full time cardiology consultation service is now available at Des Peres Hospital. A cardiology consultation can be arranged by calling 314-577-8877. Night and week-end consultations can be obtained by calling the Saint Louis University operator at 314-577-8000 for the Des Peres Hospital operator at 314-966-9100.

General Internal Medicine at Des Peres
The Division of General Internal Medicine primary care practice is located in the Des Peres Medical Arts Pavilion next to Des Peres Hospital. Drs. Thomas Olsen and Bishnu Devkota each see patients four half-days a week. For appointments, call 977-9600.
eCME Game
Cyberounds, http://www.cyberounds.com, the award-winning online CME website, has just launched a new eCME game, AML Tour, a bike race which takes you through the challenging virtual landscape of acute myeloid leukemia. AML Tour is accredited for 9.0 AMA PRA Category 1 credits and is authored by SLU’s John Morley, M.D., and faculty from Harvard, Mayo, Michigan, Ohio State and M.D. Anderson.

IM Mentoring Program’s 4th Roll-Out
The Department of Internal Medicine began a faculty mentoring program in the spring of 2005 as a means for supporting the ongoing professional development of our faculty. In the program, junior faculty are paired with experienced faculty to assist with the identification and realization of goals as clinical scientists and/or clinical educators in the following areas: research, teaching, service, leadership development and personal growth with an emphasis on research. Thus far, there have been three program roll-outs with approximately 48 faculty participating. The program is now in its fourth roll-out and is currently inviting protégés and mentors to participate.

The program evaluations have shown a number of positive outcomes of the program and partnerships. Some key findings include (the full evaluation is available upon request):

- At least 7 abstracts, 3 publications, 8 IRB proposals and 10 grant proposals have resulted from the partnerships in Rollout 1 and 2.
- Two grants have been funded:
  - Rollout 1: Intramural $32k SLU Liver Center Grant
  - Rollout 2: $100,000 Novartis Grant

If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact one of the following committee members: Drs. Ray Slavin (Chair), Sharon Frey, Sarah George, Dan Hoft, Charlene Prather, Mark Schnitzler, Julie Gammack, and Jennifer Kohler Giancola.

2008 Faculty Rank Advancements (effective July 1, 2008)

Rama Bandlamudi, M.D., to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine.

Frank L. Bleyer, M.D., to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine.

Thomas E. Burroughs, Ph.D., to Professor of Internal Medicine.

Julie K. Gammack, M.D., to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine.

Michael J. Lim, M.D., to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine.

Alan R. Maniet, D.O., to Professor of Internal Medicine.

Ratna Ray, Ph.D., to Associate Professor of Internal Medicine (secondary).

Marcia L. Sokol-Anderson, M.D., to Professor of Internal Medicine.
Awards

Arthur J. Labovitz, M.D., is the inaugural professorship holder in the newly established Jack Ford Shelby Endowed Professorship in Cardiology.

Mr. Jack Ford Shelby is a graduate of the University of Texas. He also served his country as a fighter pilot in the Air Force and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Shelby is the former CEO of Camie Campbell, Inc. and the current Chairman Emeritus. Among his other accomplishments, he is the former Chairman of the Board for the St. Louis Heart Association and recipient of the Dr. Arthur Strauss Award in 1988. Just as importantly, he has been a generous donor to Saint Louis University School of Medicine for many years. In his generosity, Mr. Shelby has made a gift to establish this professorship in cardiology in recognition of the outstanding patient care provided to him and his desire to support the research and educational goals of the Division of Cardiology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

Mark Schnitzler, Ph.D., SLUCOR, was the final podium speaker at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons 8th Annual State of the Art Winter Meetings, Marco Island in January 2008.

Krista Lentine, M.D., M.P.H., SLUCOR and Nephrology received the “Top Ten Abstract Award” for her podium presentation “Maintenance of Allograft Function May Reduce the Risk of Cerebrovascular Disease Events after Kidney Transplantation” at the American Society of Transplant Surgeons 8th Annual State of the Art Winter Meetings, Marco Island in January 2008.

Preparing a Teaching Portfolio: A Workshop for Clinician Educators

A teaching portfolio can serve as a critical tool in the promotion process. This one-hour workshop will review criteria for promotion for faculty in the clinical educator track and provide an overview of how a teaching portfolio can be used in promotions and as a career development tool. A date for the faculty-wide workshop has yet to be determined. However, plans are underway for Dr. Stuart Slavin to conduct a workshop expressly for the Department of Internal Medicine Faculty.

New Research Grants Awarded

William A. Banks, M.D., Geriatrics, $310,584 from NIH/NIA for 1R01AG029839-01A1, “Oxidative Dysfunction of LRP at the Blood-Brain Barrier in Alzheimer’s Disease.”

Xiaofeng Fan, M.D., Gastroenterology, $294,000 from NIH/NIDDK for 1R01DK080711-01, “Hepatitis C Virus Quasispecies in the Resistance to Antiviral Therapy.”

Marcia Sokol-Anderson, M.D., Infectious Diseases, $20,000 from Washington University / HRSA for “Ryan White Part C Outpatient Early Intervention Services Program.”

Abstracts/Scientific Presentations


Dolan MS, Dodla S, Xie F, Cloutier D, Porter T, Labovitz A. Safety and efficacy of commercially available ultrasound contrast agents in a clinical setting. 51st American College of Cardiology.


Clinical Ticker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRACTICE LOCATION</th>
<th>FY 07 YTD LESS NUC MED AMB ENCs</th>
<th>FY 08 YTD FEB 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANCER CENTER</td>
<td>8,783</td>
<td>6,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARDINAL GLENNON</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES PERES</td>
<td>2,465</td>
<td>1,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOB</td>
<td>49,405</td>
<td>35,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDWEST ENDOCOPY</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP CATH LAB</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLEEP DISORDERS CENTER</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLUH</td>
<td>15,246</td>
<td>9,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBN/FHC/CHOPCIC</td>
<td>7,374</td>
<td>4,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY CLUB TOWER</td>
<td>10,753</td>
<td>6,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>6,083</td>
<td>4,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>100,953</td>
<td>66,547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 07 Monthly Amb Enc Figure (less NUC MED)</th>
<th>64,743</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 08 Monthly Amb Encs / FY 07 Monthly Amb Encs</td>
<td>100.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dates of Note

March 28-29, 2008 – 2nd Annual Updates in Diabetes and Endocrinology, Learning Resources Center, Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Contact Marge Smith, 977-8458.

June 3-4, 2008 – 19th Annual Saint Louis University Summer Geriatric Institute “Innovations in Geriatric Care.” Saint Louis University School of Medicine Learning Resources Center. Contact Nina Tumosa, Ph.D., 894-6560.

June 13, 2008 – Department of Internal Medicine Annual Faculty Meeting, 7:30-8:30 am, LRC Auditorium. The annual residents and faculty photograph will be taken immediately following this meeting.

June 14, 2008 – 25th Annual Department of Internal Medicine Graduation Celebration, 6:30-10 pm, Busch Student Center Ballroom. This celebration is open to all faculty, residents and subspecialty residents (fellows) who are completing their training this year. Contact Ms. Charlotte Robinson at 577-8762 for more information.

Website
Access the Department of Internal Medicine website at http://internalmed.slu.edu.

Information for Next Newsletter
If you have any news, grants, notices, achievements that you would like to be included in the next newsletter or if you think something important was missed, please let Camille Goff know at goffcj@slu.edu.

Editor
Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D., FACP
Professor of Internal Medicine
Acting Chairman