SPOTLIGHT ON – St. Louis Magazine’s 2011 “Best Doctors”

The Department of Internal Medicine had 47 physicians listed among this year’s “Best Doctors” list, including nine* listed for the first time.

Division of Cardiology
Bernard R. Chaitman, MD
Paul J. Hauptman, MD
Michael J. Lim, MD
Ali A. Mehdirdad, MD *
Megumi Taniuchi, MD

Division of Endocrinology
George T. Griffing, MD
Alan B. Silverberg, MD

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Banke Agarwal, MD
Samer Alkaade, MD *
Bruce R. Bacon, MD
Alex S. Befeler, MD
Iliana Bounueva, MD *
Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, MD
Jennifer LaBundy, MD *
M. Louay Omran, MD
Charlene Prather, MD
Brent Tetri, MD

Division of General Internal Medicine
Erin L. Bakanas, MD
Fredrick Buckhold, MD *

Bishnu P. Devkota, MD
James Drake, MD
Robert M. Heaney, MD
Govindarajulu K. Nagaldinne, MD
Thomas Olsen, MD
H. Douglas Walden, MD

General Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
Marilyn Maxwell, MD
Nora L. Porter, MD
Timothy Rice, MD

Division of Geriatric Medicine
Dulce Cruz-Oliver, MD *
Joseph H. Flaherty, MD
Julie K. Gammack, MD.
Gerald Mahon, MD *
John M. Morley, MD
Miguel A. Paniagua, MD
David R. Thomas, MD

Division of Hematology and Oncology
Paul J. Petruska, MD
Steven M. Pincus, MD

Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology
Sharon E. Frey, MD
Marcia Sokol-Anderson, MD

Division of Nephrology
Bahar Bastani, MD
Kevin J. Martin, MD
Marie Philipneri, MD *
Paul G. Schmitz, MD

Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
George M. Matuschak, MD

Division of Rheumatology
Rama Bandlamudi, MD *
Terry L. Moore, MD
Peri Hickman Pepmueller, MD
Department of Internal Medicine 100th Anniversary

Saint Louis University School of Medicine’s Spring 2011 edition of “Grand Rounds” featured a special section focusing on the department’s inception to the present with an article entitled “100 Years of Excellence” (pp. 6-11).

The Centennial 60-Minute Check-Up Series continues at the St. Louis County Library with “Exercise in Older Adults” on July 25 conducted by Julie Gammack, MD, and “What Type of Arthritis Do I Have?” on August 31 conducted by Terry L. Moore, MD.

RECOGNITION

Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, MD, was asked to give the Bruce Witte Lecture for the Hepatitis B Foundation in Doylestown, PA, on May 12, 2011 in recognition of his contributions to the understanding of hepatitis B. The Hepatitis B Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure for hepatitis B and improving the lives of those affected worldwide through research, education and patient advocacy.

Retiring Division Directors’ Evening of Celebration and Dining

Dr. Di Bisceglie and the division directors hosted an event to honor the retiring division directors in the Department of Internal Medicine on June 13 at Maggiano’s Little Italy. The guests of honor were Bruce R. Bacon, MD, Robert B. Belshe, MD, George M. Matuschak, MD, and Paul J. Petruska, MD.

Faculty, Resident, Student Awards

“Golden Apple Award”
This year, the Class of 2011 has chosen Andrew J. Lechner, PhD, (pre-clinical) and Miguel A. Paniagua, MD, (clinical) to honor for their teaching, mentoring and over-all positive influence during the Class of 2011’s clinical years.

“Goronwy O. Broun Award”
Katherine I. Martin, MD, and Sheena Spielberg, MD, 2011 School of Medicine graduates, were the recipients of this award.

“Coy D. Fitch, MD, Book Award”
Matthew A. Hansen, MD, 2011 School of Medicine graduate, was the recipient of this award.

“Ralph A. Kinsella, Sr., Award”
Elie Jean Chahla, MD, was the 2011 recipient of this award.

“Sir William Osler Awards”
Miguel A. Paniagua, MD and Fred R. Buckhold, III, MD, were the 2011 recipients of this award.

“Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Award”
Shashi Katukoori, MD, was the 2011 recipient of this award.

“Senior Resident Lecture Series Awards”
Heiko Konig, MD, received “first place” and Hisham Hussan, MD, received “second place” of this award.
“The Diabetes Annual Award”

Eric S. Armbrecht, PhD, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, was presented this award from the St. Louis Diabetes Coalition.

Friedrich G. Schuening, MD, joined the Department of Internal Medicine as professor and Director of Hematology and Oncology on May 1, 2011. Dr. Schuening came to Saint Louis University from Vanderbilt University where he was Chief, Section of Hematology and Stem Cell Transplant.

Faculty Promotions Effective July 1, 2011

**Full Time**

Joseph Espiritu, MD, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine – Associate Professor

Susan Farr, PhD, Geriatric Medicine - Research Professor

Scott Fosko, MD, Dermatology - Professor (Secondary)

Sarah George, MD, Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology - Associate Professor

DeeAnna Glaser, MD, Dermatology - Professor (Secondary)

Ravi Nayak, MD, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine - Associate Professor

Barbara Ulmasov, PhD, Gastroenterology and Hepatology - Associate Research Professor

**Voluntary**

Morey Gardner, MD, Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology - Clinical Professor

**Look Who’s “Walking to Madrid”**

Team “IM 100”

Dr. Di Bisceglie, Kirk Fortune, Sue Stevens, Cathy Happa, Mike Mueller (Administration), Drs. Olsen and Bakanas (GIM), Rob Roth (Cardiology)

Team “I’M Walking”

Carie Tebbe, Steve Schmidt, Ann Smith, Kathy Hollingsworth (Administration), Diane Goebel (Nephrology), Mel Bussen (Endocrinology), Gloria Skelton (Cardiology), Deborah Allinson (GIM)

Team “16 Legs of Steel”

Jennifer Boning, Veronica Derosier, Naurine Royal-Barnes, Charlina Stanley, Michelle Honerkamp, Vickie Dyer, Jamie Kerrens, Carole Penn (Administration Coders)

Team “The Pandemics”

Carolyn Novotny, Dr. Hoft, Huan Ning, Dr. Frey, Azra Blazevic, Asmir Selimovic, Aldin Turan, (ID, Allergy and Immunology), Sandra Cornell (DRC Building Services)

Team “Gone Viral”

Tara Giebe, Michelle Mitchell, Yinyi Yu, Tammy Blevins, Kathy Lottenbach, Adnan Chowdhury, Dino Varmaz (ID, Allergy and Immunology), Dennis Carosello (Receiving)

Team “Anti-Body Builders”

Kiana Wilder, Dr. Duane, Kathleen Koehler, Linda Eggemeyer, Peggy Donovan, Dr. Graham, Kathy Geldmacher, Karla Mosby (ID, Allergy and Immunology)
Team “The Competition”
Dr. Ed Anderson, Sharon Moore, Tom Pacatte, Jan Tennant, Helen Branson, Nicole Purcelle, Maria Woodson, Phil Abbott (ID, Allergy and Immunology)

Team “Phatty Livers”
Lou Ann Biermann, Ray Shea, Mary Ann Barrale, Karen Hasik, Janet Neuhaus, Carol Stengel, Francesca Zanti, Linda Mahn (Gastroenterology and Hepatology)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the June 10, 2011 Semi-Annual Faculty Meeting, Dr. Di Bisceglie said he is in the process of establishing a “Chairman’s Blog” on the Department of Internal Medicine’s website at http://internalmed.slu.edu. Check the next issue of this newsletter for more information.

School of Medicine Election

Miguel A. Paniagua, MD, was elected to serve on the Faculty Affairs Committee. The term of office is 3 years.

DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY

Change Regarding Cardiology Consult Service

Effective July 1, 2011, the Division of Cardiology will offer a more user-friendly method to obtain cardiology consults. The Cardiology Consult Service has been expanded to include chest pain consultative service to the emergency room department to evaluate and direct care of low and intermediate risk chest pain patients. Obtaining a cardiology consult can now be accomplished by calling 790-5066 or speed dial 10511. All consults will be seen and staffed that day. The hospital operators will have this pager number as well.

Graduating Cardiology fellow, Bryan Piotrowski, MD, will stay on with the division as a faculty member for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Ali A. Mehdirdad, MD, and the EP team were featured in the June issue of “The Pulse”, an employee monthly publication of Saint Louis University Hospital. Dr. Mehdirdad will also be discussing advances in atrial fibrillation at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds on July 8, 2011.

Michael J. Lim, MD, will co-chair the St. Louis ST Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) forum sponsored by the American Heart Association on June 30 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. This forum will bring together St. Louis area STEMI care providers to evaluate and discuss a strategy plan to create an integrated STEMI system of care.

Michael J. Lim, MD, co-chaired a session “Structural Heart Primer” and presented “Fundamentals of MitraClip Therapy” at the 34th annual scientific sessions of Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, May 4-7, 2011, in Baltimore.

Paul J. Hauptman, MD, presented “Management of heart failure patients guided by implantable sensors. How to integrate monitoring into routine clinical work-flow.” at the annual meeting of the Heart Failure Congress sponsored by the European Society of Cardiology in Gothenburg, Sweden (May 21-24, 2011).

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

The division was well represented at this year’s Digestive Disease Week in Chicago, Illinois May 7-10, 2011. The faculty and fellows had
eight posters accepted for presentation and ten abstracts accepted for oral presentations.

Congratulations to our 2011 graduates. We are very pleased to announce that Omer Junaidi, MD, will be staying on as an assistant professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and at the John Cochran Veterans Administration Medical Center. Youssef Assioun, MD, will also join our faculty as an assistant professor working at the VA. Both Drs. Junaidi and Assioun will begin in the fall and Dr. Assioun will be working in the division as an advanced hepatology fellow in the interim. Radhika Kumari, MD, has accepted a faculty position at Loma Linda University in Los Angeles. Theodore Paradowski, MD, will be joining SLU GI alum, Ashish Chopra, MD, at the Springfield Clinic in Springfield, Illinois. Syed Tariq, MD, will also be joining a SLU alum, Marin Marcu, MD, at St. Charles Clinic Medical Group in Lake St. Louis, Missouri.

The 2011 graduating fellows honored the division with a new award at their recent graduation celebration and bestowed Mike Giacaman, MD, with the first annual “Frank R. Burton, MD, Excellence in Teaching Award” and asked each year that the fellows of the division continue this award, keeping Dr. Burton’s memory and love of teaching in our hearts and minds for years to come.

Welcome to our new incoming GI fellows. Hisham Hussain, MD, and Nabeel Koro, MD, just completed their Internal Medicine Residency here at Saint Louis University; Omer Khalid, MD, just completed his liver cancer fellowship here at Saint Louis University; and Katie Roark, MD, comes to us from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois.

Iliana Bouneva, MD, will be moving to Virginia Beach, Virginia so she and her husband, Gary Kaiser, can be closer to family. Glenn Gordon, MD, will continue to practice in his Mexico, Missouri office and will continue to be involved in teaching and research at Saint Louis University as an adjunct professor.

Gastroenterology June 4, 2011 Picnic


Save the date of September 10, 2011 to attend Banke Agarwal, MD’s, “10th Annual Symposium on Gastrointestinal Cancers: An update on advances in diagnosis and management”. This program is free for all Saint Louis University faculty, fellows, residents, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and registered nurses. You can register for this program on-line at
DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

David R. Thomas, MD, professor, was invited to deliver a State-of-the-Art lecture at the European Academy for Medicine of Aging, in Martigny, Switzerland, June 23, 2011, on Hormones Against Aging: What is the Evidence?

Robert Russell, MD, Geriatric Medicine subspecialty resident received the Service Excellence Award from Saint Louis University Hospital for the 2nd quarter of 2011. This award recognizes attending and resident physicians that have exemplified the finest qualities and job performance standards in providing care to patients.

DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Sharon Frey, MD, professor, is the clinical director of SLU’s Center for Vaccine Development and the local principal investigator of an avian flu vaccine research study. This research will impact pandemic flu strategy and is funded by the NIH and the U.S. Biomedical Advanced research Development Authority (BARDA). For further information, http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01317745?term=monovalent+influenza+A%2FH5N1+virus+vaccine+AND+%22louis+university%22&rank=1.

2011 Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) ERF Medical Scholars Program

Congratulations to graduate student Jennifer Blasé, who works in Dr. Hoft’s lab; her application for an IDSA Medical Scholarship was approved for funding. The IDSA stated they received an exceptionally high number of applications from students with outstanding research proposals, and the decision was difficult, but Jenny’s research stood out as particularly beneficial and promising.

Infectious Disease Training Program

On June 30 we said goodbye to our two second year Infectious Disease Subspecialty Residents, Marlon Torrento, MD, and Vivek Kandanati, MD, who have completed their ID training. Dr. Torrento will practice infectious diseases at Perry County Memorial Hospital, Parkland Health Center, and Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital; Dr. Kandanati has joined an infectious disease practice in New York.

Incoming Infectious Diseases Subspecialty Residents are: Ndubuisi Edeoga, MD, who is coming to us from St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago, IL, and Karthik Iyer, MD, who is coming from Mount Sinai School of Medicine at Elmhurst, NY.

Raymond Slavin, MD, (Invited Talks)

May 14, 2011, "New insights into fungal sensitization of the upper and lower airways" and "The tale of the allergists life", Kentucky Allergy Society, Louisville, KY.

June 2, 2011, "Resistant rhinosinusitis; what to do when usual measures fail", Grand Rounds Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk CT.

Sarah George, MD, presented an abstract at the Cold Springs Harbor Retrovirus Conference in May, 2011.

Anupma Dixit, PhD, gave a presentation, "Do mold remediation chemicals provide long-term protection against fungi?" at the 2011 National Healthy Homes Conference on June 22, 2011.

**INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

**Medicine Abroad Program (MAP) Awards Announced for the 2011-2012 – Two Med/Peds Residents Selected**

As reported in the Mar-Apr 2011 newsletter, the Pediatrics and Combined Medicine/Pediatrics recipients of this award will serve others during one-month medical mission trips.

According to Dr. Rice, the program is not only an excellent learning opportunity, but also an opportunity for residents to give back of themselves. Each of the residents will go on a one-month medical mission trip to a country of their choice. This year, residents will travel to Kenya, Congo, Malawi, Belize and Burkina Faso. The scholarship award will cover their salary while away, as well as travel and related expenses.

**What’s Next for Our 2011 Graduates**

**Internal Medicine**

José Baeza, MD, Chief Resident, SLU
Zummera Bhatti, MD, private practice, Oklahoma City
Timothy J. Brinker, MD, hospitalist practice, SSM Healthcare, St. Louis
Matthew A. Brinkmeier, MD, hospitalist practice, Jefferson Hospital, Festus, MO
Heather Cha, MD, cardiovascular diseases subspecialty, SLU
Elie J. Chala, MD, Chief Resident, SLU
Fuad El Rassi, MD, hematology/oncology subspecialty, Emory University, Atlanta
Matthew T. Garner, MD, hospitalist practice, Kauai, Hawaii
Mazen Hadid, MD, cardiovascular disease subspecialty, SLU
Hisham Hussan, MD, gastroenterology subspecialty, SLU
Joi C. Irving, MD, internal medicine practice, St. John’s Health Care, Washington, MO
Heiko Konig, MD, hematology/oncology subspecialty, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD
Manige Konig, MD, endocrinology subspecialty, University of Maryland, Baltimore
Nabeel S. Koro, MD, gastroenterology subspecialty, SLU
Naijla Maalouf, MD, pulmonary/critical care subspecialty, University of Kansas, KC
Amir E. Masoud, MD, Chief Resident, SLU...
Martin Musumbi, MD, critical care subspecialty, St. John’s Mercy, St. Louis
Ammar Nasir, MD, Chief Resident, SLU
Lama Nazzal, MD, nephrology subspecialty, New York, NY
Joshua Niebruegge, MD, hospitalist practice, Memorial Hospital, Belleville, IL
Eman Spaulding, MD, emergency medicine residency, SLU
Joseph Sunny, MD, hospitalist practice, Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Waseem Touma, MD, hospitalist practice, Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Hala Yamout, MD, nephrology subspecialty, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

Internal Medicine/Pediatrics

Alina Haq, MD, med/peds practice, Kaiser Health System, CA
Shashi Katukoori, MD, hospitalist practice, Kansas City, MO
Felix Mensah, MD, med/peds practice, Springfield, MO
Shyamsunder Singareddy, MD, hospitalist, Lancaster, SC

Resident of the Month Award

Each month a resident and two runners up will be commended for exemplary performance in residency as nominated by peers and/or faculty. This could include (and not limited to) going the 'extra mile' for a patient, good in-service score, helping a colleague, etc. Nominations to the chief residents are encouraged, and we also need faculty sponsors for $100 a month (one $50 and two $25 gift cards will be purchased monthly for winner and runners up respectively). Dr. McKelvy was the sponsor for May, Dr. Maxwell sponsored June and Dr. Di Bisceglie will sponsor July. Please contact the chief residents or Ms. Melissa Westwood to volunteer or with questions.

May 2011 “Resident of the Month”

Winner: Cory Wilczynski, MD. Outstanding work in resident clinic. She provides excellent clinical care and has established wonderful rapport with her patients personally answering their phone calls and addressing their issues between visits. She is very thorough in her documentation and in following-up on tests, etc.

Honorable Mention: Joshua Niebruegge, MD. He is hard working and intelligent; a great team player who is willing to adjust his schedule without complaints to help out other residents; and, Rugheed Ghadban, MD. He is extremely knowledgeable, helps out by staying late all the time, never leaves without making sure the work is done, and refuses to take the easy road when faced with the daily challenges of taking on new or complicated patients. …for his professionalism, dedication and patient care.

June 2011 “Resident of the Month”

Winner: Michael Anstas, MD. He is patient, knowledgeable, cooperative and a great team player.

Honorable Mention: Gayla Jackson, MD. She is so understanding and always steps up to help when difficult situations arise; and, Payton McGowen, MD. She accepts added responsibility and deals with adversity and challenges with a wonderful attitude and sunny disposition.

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

Guangyong Peng, MD, PhD, Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunobiology, $75,000 from the Melanoma Research Alliance for
“Novel strategies targeting Treg cell suppression for melanoma immunotherapy.”

Suzanne Mahon, DNSC, Hematology / Oncology, $36,837 from the Komen Foundation for “Educating Women About Hereditary Risk for Development of Breast Cancer.”

Reema Syed, MBBS, Rheumatology, $17,700 from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center / NIH for “Towards Measures of Lupus Nephritis Activity and Damage for Children.”

Katherine Temprano, MD, Rheumatology, $1,000 from the American College of Rheumatology for “ACR REF / Abbott Medical Student Clinical Preceptorship.”

DATES OF NOTE

September 10, 2011 – 10th Annual Symposium on Gastrointestinal Cancers: An update on advances in diagnosis and management.

October 27, 28, 29, 2011 – 2011 Medical Alumni Reunion. Department of Internal Medicine will be hosting.

November 12, 2011 – 9th Annual Denim and Diamonds Fundraiser for the Liver Center, Chase Park Plaza Hotel.

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Arch M. Ahern, MD, clinical professor, Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Ahern passed away on April 5, 2011. He had been a member of the faculty since 1954.

To Denise Janosik, MD, associate clinical professor, Division of Cardiology, and family, on the death of her husband, John T. Schmitt, June 10, 2011.

To Sue Brooks, administrative assistant, Division of Geriatric Medicine, and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Mary Brooks, who passed away June 22, 2011.

To the family of Janice G. Dowell, RN, nurse supervisor, General Internal Medicine. Jan passed away on June 24, 2011.

CLINICAL TICKER

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| FY 10 / FY 09 YTD MGMA AMB ENCs | 97.6%                           |

WEBSITE

Access the Department of Internal Medicine website at [http://internalmed.slu.edu](http://internalmed.slu.edu).

INFORMATION FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

If you have any news, 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, MD, FACP
Professor of Internal Medicine