ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rachel Farr Fitch, Ph.D., July 27, 1933 - July 26, 2013, predeceased by her loving husband of 54 years, Coy Dean Fitch, M.D., has passed. Dr. Coy Fitch was chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine from 1988 to 2000.

Dr. Fitch’s most lasting impacts were in the areas of health care reform and public health advocacy. She began her career as a clinical nurse but soon redefined her purpose to encompass public health reform through her efforts to reduce infant mortality as a health consultant for the City of Saint Louis. As the Chair of the Missouri Consumer Health Care WATCH from 1996-2002, Dr. Fitch protected the interests of over a million Missourians. Her extensive service as a Director of the Missouri League of Women Voters (1986-2013) resulted in significant changes in the health care system to improve access for the poor and vulnerable populations. She was the recipient of many awards including the inaugural League of Women Voters Rachel Far Fitch, Ph.D. Award for Excellence as well as the Nurse of the Year by the Missouri Nurses Association, Third District and the Fleur-de-lis Award for volunteer community service by Saint Louis University School of Medicine Women’s Club. Dr. Fitch was 79 years old.

HONORS/AWARDS

Congratulations to the physicians in the Department of Internal Medicine of Saint Louis University School of Medicine. This year, Saint Louis University had more than 170 SLUCare physicians from a variety of over 40 different specialties have been recognized by Saint Louis Magazine as best doctors of 2013. The list is based on the annual "Best Doctors in America" database, which considers more than one million peer evaluations to create a directory of approximately 30,000 doctors.

The selected SLUCare physicians from internal medicine are:

Cardiology
Bernard R. Chaitman, M.D.
Paul J. Hauptman, M.D.
Andrew J.P. Klein, M.D.
Abhay Laddu, M.D.
Michael J. Lim, M.D.
Ali A. Mehdirad, M.D.
Robert H. Neumayr, M.D.
Joshua Stolker, M.D.
Megumi Taniuchi, M.D.

Endocrinology
Stewart G. Albert, M.D.
George T. Griffing, M.D.
Alan B. Silverberg, M.D.

Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Banke Agarwal, M.D.
Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.
Alex S. Befeler, M.D.
Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.
Jennifer L. LaBundy, M.D.
M. Louay Omran, M.D.
Charlene Prather, M.D.
Brent A. Tetri, M.D.

General Internal Medicine
Erin L. Bakanas, M.D.
Fred Buckhold, III, M.D.
Paul Hauptman, M.D. is PI for a new clinical trial that will further assess the efficacy of gene therapy in patients with advanced heart failure (CUPID 2b). Saint Louis University is the only medical center in region and 1 of 33 in nation participating in this study.

Paul Hauptman, M.D. was named co-chair of the Cardiac Disease Palliation Working Group of the American College of Cardiology.

Dawn Hui, M.D., CTS surgeon, has joined the faculty of the C4 starting on August 12, 2013. Dr. Hui completed medical school and general surgical residency at University of Texas – Southwestern Medical Center and her cardiothoracic surgery residency at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Michael Lim, M.D. presented “Cardiogenic shock and mechanical circulatory support” and “Diabetes: pathophysiology, revascularization options (PCI vs. CABG, DES vs. BMS) at
the ACCF/SCAI Interventional Cardiology Board Course. It was held on August 16-18, 2013 in Amelia Island, Florida.

The 2013 Cardiology Incoming Fellows:

Robbie Mangalasseril, M.D.
Andrija Vidic, M.D.
Timothy Gong, M.D.
Karthik Venkatesh, M.D.
Robert Armbruster, M.D. (interventional cardiology)

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology is proud to announce the opening of the SLUCare Center for Pancreatic and Biliary Diseases.

Dr. Samer Alkaade has been named the Director of the center and will lead a multidisciplinary team that includes Dr. Alkaade and the other pancreatic advanced endoscopists, Drs. Louay Omran, and Jason R. Taylor; pancreatobiliary surgeons Drs. Mark Dy-Liacco, Peter Horton, Eddy Hsueh, Betsy Tuttle-Newhall, and Jula Veerapong; interventional radiologists Drs. Rotimi Johnson and Kirubahara Vaheesan; medical oncologist Dr. Nishant Poddar and the body imaging (CT, MRI/MRCP, US) group of Drs. Isin Akduman, Jeff Brown and Robert Garrett. The team will manage patients with complex pancreatic and biliary diseases. SLUCare’s Center for Pancreatic and Biliary Diseases will specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of all aspects of pancreatic and biliary diseases including pancreatic cancer, pancreatic cystic lesions, chronic pancreatitis and acute pancreatitis. For more information about the program or to make an appointment, please call (314) 977-4440 or (866) 977-4440.

The SLU Liver Center received a $75,000 donation in July from the Friends of the SLU Liver Center from proceeds raised at their annual "Shoot for a Cure" fundraising event held on May 11, 2013 at Strathalbyn Farms Club. Additionally, the SLU Liver Center received a $5,000 donation from the Young Friends organization from proceeds raised at "That 80's Prom" event held on April 27, 2013 at Plush nightclub. The generosity that the Friends organization has shown to our Liver Center over the past 10 years has been incredible. To date, they have donated more than $2.7 million to the Liver Center. A large amount of these funds has been used to support research seed grant funding to Liver Center members.
Janet Neuhaus, Fellowship Coordinator for the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, recently joined the Saint Louis University Women’s Commission on the Member Development Committee. Janet wants to let the women in the Department of Internal Medicine know that the Women’s Commission is open to all SLU women, faculty, staff and students. This is its 41st year as a commissioned committee and they want to make sure all women of SLU take advantage of this community of women fellowship. Please add http://www.slu.edu/x39754.xml to your favorites and check it often for upcoming events and news releases regarding the Women of SLU’s many accomplishments. If you have news you would like to add send it to Janet Neuhaus, FDT 9th Floor South or by email at neuhausj@slu.edu and the committee will be happy to review it for inclusion on their site. Please feel free to call her at 314-577-8764 for more information regarding the Saint Louis University Women’s Commission.

DIVISION OF GERIATRICS

In July 2013, Joseph Flaherty, M.D. returned again as visiting professor to the Geriatrics Department at West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. He has been collaborating there since 2006. He gave several lectures and updated ongoing research projects. New projects this year include plato study quality measures in nursing homes, translate and study the SOCIAL scale* and consulting on a large-scale project to bring young-elderly from around southeast Asia to Dujiangyan (known as a city of longevity) for education and research about aging successfully. West China Hospital is one of the largest and most well-known hospitals in China, with over 4,000 inpatient beds and over 2 million outpatient visits per year. The Geriatrics Department, which is directed by Dr. Birong Dong, has 30 faculty and approximately 350 inpatient beds. During the trip, Dr. Flaherty was also an invited lecturer to Hong Kong University Geriatrics Department, directed by Dr. L.W. Chu. He discussed delirium and helped develop implementation and research plans for a Delirium Room at one of the hospitals associated with Hong Kong University.

FAINT AND FALLS CLINIC

The Faint and Falls Clinic held at Des Peres Senior Care Services on Thursday afternoons is open. With Geriatrics, Endocrinology and Cardiology all seeing the patients with these types of symptoms there is a high success rate at finding treatable diagnoses.

HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER (HRC)

After close to 20 years of providing free clinical care at the Saint Augustine Parish in Hamilton Heights, the HRC has moved to a new location. It has relocated to 1408 North Kingshighway Boulevard, #213, on the
2nd floor of the Victor Roberts Building. There are six newly furnished patient rooms along with many other amenities. Please sign up to work on a Saturday from 9 am to Noon to enhance our student’s education and provide a much needed and appreciated service to the community. Please contact Talia Coney at tconey@slu.edu for more information.

John Morley, M.B., B.Ch. was given the 2013 Presidential Award at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Meeting held in Seoul, Korea June 23-27, 2013. Dr. Morley also participated and presented in five sessions during the course of the five day meeting.

David Thomas, M.D. retired from Saint Louis University, Division of Geriatric Medicine on June 30, 2013. The division is very grateful for his 16 years of dedicated service to our patients as well as being an important part of developing our Geriatrics program. He is doing some part time work for the PACE program in Saint Louis before setting into a life of leisure with his wife, Jan, and enjoying their four granddaughters.

The 3rd Annual Geriatric Boot Camp will be held on October 12, 2013 from 8 am. to Noon at Saint Louis University, Learning Resource Center. This camp is for second and third year residents who are interested in learning more about Geriatric Medicine. For more information, please contact Dr. Julie Gammack or Sue Brooks in Geriatric Medicine at 977-8462.

The International Research Conference -- Nursing Homes will be held at Saint Louis University, Tegeler Hall, on November 22-23, 2013. For detailed information and registration instructions, please visit http://www.nursing-home-research.com/index.php

DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY

Kevin Martin, M.B., B.Ch. is one of 50 people in the world who has been invited to attend the KDOQI conference on phosphate metabolism. It will be held in Madrid, Spain from October 25 - 27, 2013.

INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Miguel Paniagua, M.D. was an invited speaker for the Saint Louis University School of Medicine Class of 2017 White Coat Ceremony. It was held on August 4, 2013 at Saint Francis Xavier College Church.

The first annual Internal Medicine Residency Program Poster Presentation will be held on September 6, 2013 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Doisy Research Building, Multipurpose Room 9th floor. Faculty and residents are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Charlotte Leslie or Melissa Westwood.
This presentation is in preparation for the annual ACP Conference.

The SLUSOM NBME (National Board of Medical Examiners) In-service Exam for internal medicine residents was held on Monday, August 5, 2013.

Congratulations to the highest scorers:

James Ampadu, M.D.
Kurt Munzerm, M.D.
Alex Li, M.D.
Conor McCartney, M.D.
Martin Schoen, M.D.
George Toth, M.D.

July 2013 - “Residents of the Month”. Sponsor: Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.

Gold Medal: Erica Robinson-Mitchell, M.D. "Dr. Robinson-Mitchell never balks at extra work. She has been called to cover overflow admissions on several occasions. Her attitude and performance are to be emulated and congratulated."

Bronze Medal: (tie) Jad Raffoul, M.D. "Jad volunteered in assisting with admissions overflow. He didn't need to be asked and wasn't on jeopardy, but stepped up and helped out when there was a need." and Marjan Tehrani, M.D. "She has graciously accepted being pulled to one service or another while on ambulatory this month."

Silver Medal: Anne Walentik, M.D. "Dr. Walentik always smiled and accepted patients without complaint even as her team was capped almost the entire block."

The ACP In-training exam (PGY 2 & 3 residents) will be held on October 9 and 18, 2013.

The annual Internal Medicine and Medicine & Pediatrics Intern Retreat will be held on October 26-27, 2013 at the Saint Louis University Lay Center.

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

Alex Befeler, M.D., Gastroenterology and Hepatology, $60,000 from University of Texas / NIH for “Early Detection and Prognosis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma – Hepatocellular carcinoma Early Detection Strategy study (HEDS).”

Robert Belshe, M.D., Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, $100,000 from NIH for “Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit Option 11G-13-0033.”

Robert Belshe, M.D., Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, $50,000 from NIH for “Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit Option 13A-13-0033.”

Bernard Chaitman, M.D., Cardiology, $66,695 from Clinical Research Management for “CRM Master Agreement and Task Order #1 for Services under Contract No HHSN27200800026C.”

John Edwards, M.D., Ph.D., Nephrology, $358,790 from NIH for “The Role of CLIC4 in Angiogenesis.”

Jianguo Liu, M.D., Ph.D., Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, $292,575 from NIH for “The role of tristetraprolin in control of breast cancer progression.”
Ranjit Ray, Ph.D., Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, $303,424 from NIH for “Mechanisms of Liver Disease Progression by Hepatitis C Virus.”

Marcia Sokol-Anderson, M.D., Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, $96,474 from City of St. Louis for “Ryan White HIV Case Management.”

CONGRATULATIONS

To Crystal Showers, administrative secretary in the division of Geriatric Medicine, who married the love of her life, Joshua Maynard on June 22, 2013. The beautiful ceremony was held at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Soulard followed by a reception at Royal Orleans Banquet Hall.

CHAIRMAN’S BLOG

For faculty, staff and residents of Internal Medicine, their Google Apps Sites include the “IM Chairman’s Site”. Clicking on the “IM Chairman’s Site” opens to the Chairman’s Blog. The posts are visible on the site. To the left there is a navigation panel with links to each of the posts and a link to the Anonymous Feedback. Clicking on the Anonymous Feedback opens a window which has a test field for entering feedback with a submit button below the field. Further down the page is the feedback received so far.

WEBSITE

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

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 contact Gina Williams at gwilliams@slu.edu.

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