RECOGNITION

U.S. News Best Hospitals in St. Louis, MO

The Department of Internal Medicine would like to congratulate the Division of Nephrology and the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine for being recognized as Saint Louis University Hospital’s two “High-Performing Specialties”. To be nationally ranked, a hospital must excel across a range of tough cases within a given specialty. This year, only 148 of the 4,793 hospitals evaluated met such criteria and performed well enough to rank in even one specialty. Find out more at http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/saint-louis-mo.

St. Louis Magazine “Best Doctors 2012”

The “Best Doctors” issue featured two SLUCare physicians from the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Fredrich Schuening is quoted on page 124 in the story “A Timely Transplant,” describing Saint Louis University Hospital’s outpatient bone-marrow transplant center that will open in October. Dr. Brent Tetri’s nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) study is outlined in a sidebar on page 101.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Staff Advisory Committee (SAC)

The SAC was formed as a sub-committee of the Human Resources Board in 1992. The purpose of the SAC is to provide a means of communication with the administration, faculty, and students, and support them with the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the staff; and to create and nurture a spirit of unity among all employees at the University.

Sue Stevens, Director, Department of Internal Medicine, was nominated and elected to serve as the Chair of SAC.

Lin Cowick, Administrative Assistant, Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, was nominated and elected to serve as the Recording Secretary for SAC.

Their term is from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Annual Caring Physician Awards

The annual Caring Physician Awards will be presented at an Inter-Faith Service for all physicians, Friday, October 19 – 12:00 noon, SLU Hospital Chapel – 3rd floor, Desloge Tower. The award recipients are chosen from among these nominees. All physicians are invited to attend.

Saint Louis University Hospital

2012 Caring Physician Award Nominees

Bruce Bacon, MD*    Jennifer LaBundy, MD*
Bahar Bastani, MD*   Marilyn Maxwell, MD*
Fazia Bhatti, MD**   William Mitchell, MD
Gabriella Espinoza, MD   Erica Robinson, MD**
Eli Feen, MD       Aliaksander Shakhau, MD
Mark Fesler, MD*     Rupinder Sodhi, MD**
Joseph Flaherty, MD*  Sarah Starnes, MD
Seyed Gaskari, MD**  Vijay Vallurupalli, MD
Walter Gribben, MD**  MiaVo, MD**
Peter Horton, MD     Ron Walker, MD
Venkatkiran Kanchustambham, MD**

*Department of Internal Medicine  
**Department of Internal Medicine - Residents
DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOGY

The Alpha-1 Foundation

The Alpha-1 Foundation magazine “The Big Liver Study” features two SLUCare physicians, Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, MD, Chairman and Professor of the Department of Internal Medicine and Jeffrey H. Teckman, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics. They are showcased in the story “Understanding liver disease in adult Alphas”. Jeffrey Teckman, M.D. has received a $1.4 million grant from the Alpha-1 Foundation to study Alpha-1 liver diseases in adults and Adrian Di Bisceglie, M.D., Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine will also participate in the study.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

The Biliary System

This new book co-authored by, David Q-H Wang, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, and Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri, M.D., Professor and Division Director, in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, together with Professor Piero Portincasa from Italy, summarizes progress in understanding the molecular mechanism of cholesterol and bile acid metabolism and the physical-chemistry of biliary lipids, with emphasis on biliary lipid metabolism that is regulated by nuclear receptors in the hepatobiliary system.

DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

John E. Morley, MB, B Ch, Director of Geriatric Medicine, Editor-in-Chief of JAMDA (the Journal of the American Medical Director’s Association) reports that the Journal’s Impact Factor has increased again from 4.492 for 2010 citations to 4.645 for 2011 citations, placing it 4th in rank among the geriatric journals, up from 6th last year, and 1st in rank of the clinical geriatric journals. “In addition, the fact that the impact factor for a geriatric journal is so high is showing that at last there is recognition of the importance of care for older people” said Dr. Morley. ‘JAMDA focuses on issues of long term care.'
Julie K. Gammack, MD, David R. Thomas, MD, CMD, and Milta O. Little, MD, CMD are Associate Editors. Valerie Tanner is the Managing Editor. JAMDA’s website is www.jamda.com.

Milta O. Little, DO., CMD, Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, received her Certified Medical Director in Long Term Care (CMD) July, 2012. The certification is awarded by the American Medical Director’s Association and their Board of Directors.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

2012 SLUCOR Research Career Development Awards have been awarded to Mark Fesler, MD and Nanda Methuka, MD.

There are two primary components to this award. The first is formal research training which will culminate in an MS in Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation Sciences. The second component is mentored research in your area of research interests.

DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Sarah George, MD, Associate Professor, was an invited speaker at the National Meeting of the Human Immune Consortium Project Consortium, July 9-10, 2012. Her presentation was on the “Identification of early innate, B cell, and CD4+ T follicular helper cell responses after dengue vaccination which predict a high titer cross-neutralizing antibody response”.

Dr. Ranjit Ray, Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, and Dr. Ratna Ray, Department of Pathology, were given the Naomi Judd award by the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center at the 10th Annual Denim and Diamonds gala on September 22, 2012.

The Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center has donated more than $2.4 million to the SLU Liver Center since 2002.

DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Terry Moore, MD, Director of Rheumatology, has been selected to receive the award of Master of the American College of Rheumatology this November, 2012 at the American College of Rheumatology National Meeting. Recognition as a Master of the American College of Rheumatology is one of the highest honors the college bestows. The designation of Master is conferred on ACR members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of rheumatology through scholarly achievement and/or service to their patients, students, and profession.
INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Faiza Bhatti, MD has been selected to receive a 2012 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Emerging Liver Scholar Award.

American College of Physicians (ACP)

The ACP Missouri Chapter including SLU IM resident Ruchi Bhati, MD participated in ACP Leadership Day in Washington in June, 2012 and met with members of Congress to discuss Medicare, GME Funding, and liability reform.

ACP Poster Contest

On September 14, 2012, 24 IM residents submitted 30 abstracts to the ACP poster contest in Ozarks, MO.

Cory Wilczynski, MD, PGY3, took 2nd place for her poster, “Hypercalcemia Associated with Rhabdomyolysis Frequently Goes Unrecognized in the Hospital: A Saint Louis University Hospital Case Series”.

Jad Raffoul, MD, PGY 2, took 3rd place for his poster, “Guillain-Barre Syndrome and Mantle Cell Lymphoma: The Odd Couple”.

July 2012 – “Resident of the Month”

Winner: Jorge Ramirez, MD; Did an awesome job on the Gold team and was able to manage the team alone when his intern was absent”.

Honorable Mention: Sindhura Gogineni, MD; “For her professionalism while being pulled for jeopardy to cover VA floors”.

Honorably Mentioned: Paul Tuttle, MD; “For professionalism while being pulled for jeopardy to cover VA floors”.

August 2012 – “Resident of the Month”

Winner: B. Campbell, DO; “For his great attitude and his willingness to step up to the plate when needed”.

Honorable Mention: J. Raffoul, MD; “For his professionalism and great patient care”.

Honorable Mention: R. Devendrappa, MD; “For always going above and beyond the call of service and her great attitude”.

September 2012 – “Resident of the Month”

Winner: H. Parikh, MD; “For his willingness to help cover another resident who was out sick”.

Honorable Mention: A. Al Zougbi, MD; “For being a great team player and good attendance on Cardiology”.

Honorable Mention: W. Gribben, MD; “For dedication and great attitude”.

Just as a reminder – we are looking for faculty sponsors for October, November and December for $100 a month (one $50 and two $25 gift cards will be purchased monthly for winner and runners up respectively). Please contact Ms. Melissa Westwood at westwood@slu.edu or 314-577-8762 to volunteer or with questions.

Residency Recruitment - The recruitment season will run from November 5, 2012 through January 23, 2013. The program has received 2,250 applicants and 118 applicants
have been scheduled to interview. We will conduct approximately 300 interviews this season. So far, 18 faculty have signed up to conduct interviews. If you have not yet completed the 2012-2013 IM Residency Interview google doc to sign up, please do so as soon as possible.

To help kick-off the recruitment season, “Iron Chef Paniagua” is hosting the 2nd annual Chili Cook-Off on October 26, 2012 at noon 8th Floor Fitch conference room. If you would like to submit an entry, please email Ms. Melissa Westwood at westwood@slu.edu with your recipe by October 19, 2012. Crystal Parchman took home the award for best recipe last year.

IM/Medicine & Pediatrics Interns Annual Fall Retreat – Held the annual intern retreat on October 6-7, 2012 at the Lay Center in Louisiana, MO.

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

**Robert Belshe, MD**, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Allergy, $3,638 from Washington University / NIH for “MRCE for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases – Administrative Core.”

**Robert Belshe, MD**, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Allergy, $21,593 from Washington University/ NIH for “MRCE for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases – Career Development.”

**Bernard Chaitman, MD**, Cardiology, $22,176 from Clinical Research Management / NIH for “DMID 11-0007 Core Electrocardiographic (ECG) Laboratory Work – Task Order 003.”


**Bernard Chaitman, MD**, Cardiology, $19,975 from Fed Hutchison Cancer Research/ NIH for “HVTN Protocol 205 Cohort 2, HVTN 086, HVTN 094.”

**Bernard Chaitman, MD**, Cardiology, $71,110 from Duke University / NIH for “The ISCHEMA Trial –SDCC.”

**Dulce Cruz-Oliver, MD**, Geriatric Medicine, $77,691 from HRSA for “Geriatric Academic Career Award.”

**Lenise Cummings-Vaughn, MD**, Geriatric Medicine, $77,691 from HRSA for “Geriatric Academic Career Award.”

**Daniel Hoft, MD**, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Allergy, $25,000 from CWRU / NIH for “Tuberculosis Research Unit.”

**Milda Little, MD**, Geriatric Medicine, $77,691 from HRSA for “Geriatric Academic Career Award.”

**Jianguo Liu, MD**, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Allergy, $25,000 from the President’s Resarch Fund for “IFN-3 promoter polymorphisms and hepatitis C virus clearance.”

**Jianguo Liu, MD**, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Allergy, $172,799 from NCI for “Molecular mechanisms of host-derived CCL5 mediated mammary tumor growth.”
**Terry Moore, MD**, Rheumatology, $25,000 from American College of Rheumatology for “ACR REF/Amgen/Pfizer Rheumatology Fellowship Training Award.”

John Morley, MB., BCh, Geriatric Medicine, $418,492 from HRSA for “Geriatric Education Centers.”

**Ravi Nayak, MD**, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, $27,850 from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for “Cystic Fibrosis Center – Adult Program.”

**John Richart, MD**, Hematology and Oncology, $17,341 from The Children’s Mercy Hospital / CDC for “Public Health Surveillance for the Prevention of Complications of Bleeding and Clotting Disorders.”

**Brent Tetri, MD**, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, $530,694 from NIDDK for “The Saint Louis University Component of the NASH Clinic Research Network.”

**Ranjit Ray, PhD**, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Allergy, $25,000 from the President’s Research Fund for “Induction of the Epithelial-Mesenchymal Cell Transition Program into Primary Human Hepatocytes by Hepatitis C Virus.”

**CONGRATULATIONS**

4th Annual Billiken 5k Cancer Run and Walk

The Internal Medicine Team participated in the 4th Annual Saint Louis University Cancer Center/Billiken 5k Run and Walk on September 8. **Erin Bakanas, MD**, General Internal Medicine, **Miguel Paniagua, MD**, IM Residency Program, both placed in their age group and **Usman Khalid, MD**, 1st Year IM Resident won second place in his age group.

To **Christine Hachem, MD**, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and her husband, Ramsey, on the birth of their son. William Grant Hachem, arrived August 6, 2012 and weighed 8 lbs 2 oz.

To **Jason Taylor, MD** and **Layla Hajjafar, MD**, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, on the birth of their son. Gavin Kamran Taylor arrived October 9, 2012 and weighed 7 lbs. 12 ounces.

To **Kathy (Bilbrey) Schaab**, in the Department of Internal Medicine who was married to Brian Schaab on April 14, 2012.

To **Sharon Irby-Moore, RN**, Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator, Center for Vaccine Development, Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy & Immunology, whose son, Thomas J. Moore III was married to Ashley June Smith on July 21, 2012.

To **Crystal (Stepter) Parchman**, Internal Medicine Residency Program who was married to Rodney Parchman on July 14, 2012.

To **Charlotte (Robinson) Leslie**, Internal Medicine Residency Program who was married to Kelvin M. Leslie on October 6, 2012.
Jackie D. Lanius, longtime employee in the Department of Internal Medicine retired after 23 years of service on August 31, 2012.

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.

The latest topic (8/28/12) was Recruitment of New Faculty.

WEBSITE

Access the Department of Internal Medicine website at 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 contact Kathy Hollingsworth at khollin1@slu.edu.

Editor
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