

# DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS

ISSUE IV



FRIDAY, JULY 6TH, 2007

## 67TH AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The Department of Medicine and the Diabetes Research Program were well-represented at the 67<sup>th</sup> American Diabetes Association (ADA) Scientific Session in Chicago on June 22-26.

**Betsy Dokken, PhD**, diabetes nurse practitioner in the Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension and Post-Doctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Paul McDonagh was selected from a highly competitive field to present her research findings at the *Cardiovascular Function and its Link with Diabetes* oral session. Dr. Dokken's project, "Postconditioning with GLP-1 in vivo Decreases Myocardial Infarct Size in Rats," addressed the problem of cardiovascular complications in patients with diabetes whose heart attacks are often more severe than those of patients without diabetes. The results of her experiments suggested that therapeutic agents patterned after the naturally occurring

hormone GLP-1 (Glucagon-like Peptide-1) may be beneficial in protecting myocardial tissue after ischemic events or reperfusion procedures. Dr. Dokken credits the ADA Scientific Sessions, which she first attended as a diabetes educator in 1988, with motivating her to pursue a research career as a means to address the patient-care issues faced in clinical practice.

**Daniel Link**, research specialist in the laboratory of **Dr. Craig Stump**, Chief of the Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension, presented their recent findings at the ADA poster session. In collaboration with investigators from Winston-Salem NC and Columbia, MO, the project, "Effect of Spironolactone on Skeletal Muscle Insulin Resistance and Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Generation in TGR (mRen2) 27 Rats," investigated the effects of blocking mineralocorticoid receptors on insulin sensitivity. Results indicated that blocking these

receptors decreased ROS and increased insulin mediated glucose transport into skeletal muscles, which may provide benefits to patients with insulin resistant conditions such as type 2 diabetes and the cardiometabolic syndrome.

Also attending from the Diabetes Research Program were **Dr. Erik Henriksen**, Professor of Physiology, and PhD student **Kate Lindborg**. Dr. Henriksen presented a poster entitled "Increased Glucose Transport in Type 2 Diabetic Rat Muscle Following Selective GSK-3 Inhibition Is Associated with Decreased Phosphorylation of JNK and IRS-1 ser307." Their research indicated that inhibition of the enzyme GSK-3 enhanced IRS-1 dependent insulin signaling, which may provide a therapeutic target for improving cellular responses to insulin.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **July 4th-Holiday**
- **July 23rd-25th-UMC Blood Drive**
- **August 11th-Class of 2011 White Coat Ceremony, 7pm, Centennial Hall. Speaker: Arnold P. Gold, MD**

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## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

The Department of Medicine is brining on seven new faculty members in July. Keep an eye out for these new employees and give them a warm welcome to our department.

### Hospitalists

Firas Marayati, MD-Our former resident.

Shared Nangia, MD-Comes to us from Hurley Medical Center, Michigan State University

Tejo Vemulapalli, MD-Comes to us from Synergy Medical Education Alliance, Saginaw, MI

Carlos Acevedo, MD-Our former resident.

Faiz Anwer, MD-Coming from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center McKeesport

### Hematology/Oncology

San-Hoon Ahn, MD– Our former resident and fellow. He will specialize in gastrointestinal cancers and new drug development under the mentorship of Thomas Dragovich MD, PhD and Daruka Mahadevan MD, PhD.

Elizabeth Marchand-Started June 25th as Administrative Assistant to Dr. Ana Maria Lopez.

### Rheumatology

Kyaw Swe, MD

### Dr. Goldschmid's Office

Ginger Dorey-Starts July 10th as Administrative Assistant for Dr. Goldschmid and will help assist Phyllis Olson.


### 6OPC

Judith Grant-Will join us as the new Clinical Operations Manager on July 16th.

## UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. James Choi completed his Hem-Onc Fellowship. He will be going into private practice in Scottsdale with Dr. Jeff Isaacs. Hem-Onc's two new Fellows are Drs. Veronique Poulin and Emad Elquza.

Dr. Garland has been promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Tom Brown and Carrie Ma are new parents of a baby girl!! Congrats!! 

Dr. Anmarie Moore, Dr. Miguel Arenas and Dr. Donald Wakelin have completed their GI Fellowship. Dr. Moore will be going to Clearview, FL. Dr. Arenas will be joining a community practice here in Tucson and Dr. Wakelin will be going to Mount Vernon, WA. GI's new Fellows include Dr. Keng-Yu (Willy) Chuang, Andrew Weinberg and Seth Miller.

Brooke Hourscht has been promoted to Operations Manager for Ancillary Services & DoM Clinical Reporting Coordinator.

### **WANT TO SUBMIT INFO FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

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FAILED. I'VE JUST  
FOUND 10,000  
WAYS THAT  
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-THOMAS A.  
EDISON  
1847-1931

