

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS

ISSUE XX



MAY/JUNE 2009

College of Medicine



I thought in this month's letter that I would share with you some information about the finances of the DOM. It is mostly good news but there are clearly some challenges ahead for the department. Firstly, you all have been working hard. Despite the arrival of the EMR our out-patient visits at 2 OPC and 6 OPC are up 7%, visits at Wilmot up 1% and Cancer Center up 17%. UPHH visits are down 7% which reflects the loss of faculty. As of May our total net revenue is \$25M an increase of 19% compared to last year. We will end the year with a break even bottom line.

The DOM fiscal year 2010 budget is break even with the inclusion of RevMax funds. An added benefit of \$650k will be realized through the relocation of the Wilmot clinical practice to Alvernon in the fall as a UPHH provider based clinic. If we convert 2 and 6 OPC into provider based clinics there will be an additional \$2M savings. A continued threat is the decline of state dollars which will mean less money to support teaching within the DOM. We will try to compensate for this as best we can but some reduction in support is inevitable.

The news from UPHH is quite positive and the final budget with the county is expected to be signed within a few weeks. The practice's loss has been reduced to \$1.7M for FY 2010 from a high of \$16.7M in FY 2007. In addition, the county will begin to pay back the practice for capital investments. It is important to know that our practice plan is intertwined with UPHH, which provides over \$11M in annual contract income. Future growth plans on UPHH campus include a new psychiatric facility and clinic space at the Abrams building adjacent to the physician offices.

I feel that the DOM is starting to turn a corner financially and that we will see continued improvement in the future. The addition of new patient beds at UMC is going to be a challenge, but also an opportunity to further develop subspecialty services. We are striving to enter into discussions with UMC about how the DOM can partner with the hospital in making this a true university/quaternary referral hospital. As we move forward I keep you abreast of any progress that we achieve.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for your efforts over this past year. The DOM has grown both in physician numbers and in revenue and I hope that trend will continue. You have worked hard to allow us to move in a positive direction and I thank you for all of the support you have given to the DOM.

Thomas Boyer, MD
Interim Chairman of Medicine

Memorial Service for Dr. Rubin Bressler, June 26

A celebration of the life of **Rubin Bressler, MD**, distinguished professor emeritus with the Department of Medicine at The University of Arizona College of Medicine, will be held **Friday, June 26, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**, at University Medical Center, **DuVal Auditorium**, 1501 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson. Dessert and coffee will be served in the DuVal lobby from **4:30 to 5 p.m.** Dr. Bressler passed away May 3 in Tucson. He was 80.

During his 38-year career at the UA College of Medicine, Dr. Bressler was devoted to helping establish the College as a top-notch research and educational program. He served as head of both basic science and clinical departments at the College and helped establish several of the College's Centers of Excellence, including the Sarver Heart Center. He was mentor and teacher to hundreds of medical students, provided care to thousands of patients and published groundbreaking research. His long and distinguished career truly embodied the College's mission of education, research and patient care.

Congratulations 2009 Graduates



Fellows

Cardiology

Jamison Jones, MD
Kioumars Mostafizi, MD
Dena Wilson, MD
Craig Peters, DO
Navin Kedia, DO
Interventional Cardiology
Sam (Ossama) Rahman, MD
Sairav Shah, MD
Gastroenterology
John A. Kasher, MD
Vikram Boolchand, MD
Geriatrics
Steven Jeffrey Rough, MD
Amna S. Yaqoob, MD
Hem/Onc
Thomas Klinckhammer, MD

Nephrology

Pooja Budhiraja, MD
Susan Fattohy, MD
Guneet Mumick, MD
Interventional Nephrology
Rizwan Moinuddin, DO
Feliciano Serrano, MD

Fellows Cont'd

Pulmonary

Samiran (Sam) Patel, MD
Dena L'Heureux, MD
Rheumatology
Augusto C. Posadas, MD

Residents

Ravichandra Reddy Boyella, MD
Ursa A. Brown-Glaberman, MD
Brian J. Burns, MD
Amber M. Noon, MD
Pavani Chalasani, MBBS
Michelle L. Cordoba Kisseee
Pawel Doloto, MD
Hiba A.M. Hamdan, MBBS
Yenhui Huang, MBBS
Sanja Kaluza, MD, MPH
Susan Lawrence Knowles, MD
Kevin Matthew Krcmarik, MD
Timothy S. Kristedja, MD
Minggen T. Kuo, MD
Maria Del Carmen Luraschi
Monjagatta, MD
Joshua Malo, MD

Residents Cont'd

Cory Michael Lee Nitzel, MD
Hannah Erin Raasch, MD
Vinnie K. Ram, MD
Saira Zafar Sheikh, MBBS
James Jude Yanes, MD
Myat Y. Mon, MBBS
Jo Ellen Feugate, MD
Tracy E. Hagerty, MD
Janelle Marie Meyer, MD
Anna Tatiana Woodruff, MD
Yaimet Bucknor, MD
Ronnie William, MD

Prelim Year

William R. Bireley II, MD
Borna Bonakdarpour, MD
Stephen G. Howell, MD
Daniel P. Lavery, MD
Tanya Peihong Lin, MD
Jennifer Marie Parod, MD
Anish T. Peter, MD
Joao Pedro Alexandre Reinhard, MD
Shane D.T. Smith, MD

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SECTION NEWS

CARDIOLOGY

- **Lori Mackstaller, MD** has been named to the "Bertram H. and Hazel Brach Brodie and the J. Edwin Brach Foundation Endowed Lectureship for Heart Disease in Women." Dr. Mackstaller says, "This lectureship gives me the opportunity to go out to the community and educate women about their cardiovascular health. It allows me to develop more in-depth programs that focus on certain issues related specifically to women and their families. Take obesity in children, for example: If we can do a better job at getting the word out about this preventable disease, we can diminish, if not prevent it entirely!"

ENDOCRINOLOGY

- Competitive funding has been awarded by the Arizona Center on Aging-Biology in Aging Pilot Grants (BAR-PG) to an interdisciplinary team including endocrinologist **Craig Stump, MD** who will work as a co-investigator alongside Drs. Tsu-Shuen Tsao and William Montfort from Chemistry/Biochemistry to research the "Biology of Aging Adipose Tissue."
- Congratulations to **Hussein Yassine MD**, endocrinology fellow, who won the award for Best Abstracts at the April, 2009 VA VISN research forum in Phoenix. He presented work showing that fat ingestion can increase platelet activation. He also showed that Methylglyoxal, a reactive by-product of glucose and oxidative stress, correlates with the presence of diabetic kidney disease.
- **Craig Stump, MD** Section Chief Endocrinology, Diabetes & Hypertension and Interim Director of the Diabetes Research Program, has received one of four awards given nationwide from The Endocrine Society Bridge Grant Program to support his research investigating the effects of angiotensin II in muscle mitochondrial function as related to insulin resistance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Congratulations to **Benjamin Levy, MD** for being selected as the outstanding new researcher in Track C for the 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference. Dr. Levy will present at the conference which occurs in Atlanta in August.

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

- The Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine brought to a close its 6th Annual Nutrition & Health Conference in Chicago with great success. Public Forum speakers were **Andrew Weil, MD** (Center Founder), Dr. David Katz of Yale, and chef and restaurateur Rick Bayless. Next year's conference will be May 9 – 12 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- The Center for Integrative Medicine received a \$240,000 gift from the Ted and Roberta Mann Foundation to begin an integrative mental health (IMH) initiative, which will be kicked-off with an IMH Conference in Phoenix March.

MEDICINE EDUCATION

- Congratulations to **William Johnson, MD** and the Department of Medicine Residency Program at UMC which received a full 5 years accreditation from the ACGME.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR PROMOTION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009

Julia Indik, MD – Promotion to Associate Professor of Medicine
Beth Malasky, MD – Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
Sairam Pathasarathy, MD – Promotion to Associate Professor of Medicine
Tieraona Low Dog, MD – Promotion to Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
Ana Maria Lopez, MD – Promotion to Professor of Medicine, with Tenure

GRANTS & AWARDS

- Primary Investigator **Sujata Sarkar, MD** is being sponsored by the NIH for a project titled, *Regulation of autoimmunity by IL-4DC through suppression of IL-17*
- Primary Investigator **Sujata Sarkar, MD** is being sponsored by the Arthritis National Research Foundation for a project titled, *Characterization of pathogenic Th17 responses in collagen induced arthritis*
- Primary Investigator **Mindy Fain, MD** is being sponsored by UC Irvine for a project titled, *Communication: The art of Geriatric Medicine*
- Primary Investigator **Bhaskar Banerjee, MD** is being sponsored by Epigenomics for a PreSEPT Study titled, *Prospective Evaluation of Sept9 Performance for Colorectal Cancer Screening*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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