

# Department of Medicine News

Issue XXI



August/September/October 2009

## College of Medicine



In this month's note I would like to focus on possibilities for the future. The survey of the faculty about UPH is complete and to no one's surprise there is a lot of dissatisfaction with the relationship between UPH and the faculty. A recurring theme is the lack of a good working relationship between UPH and UMC. A previous survey done 10 years ago yielded a similar question, i.e. why don't UMC and UPH work together and make a better clinical enterprise? There is now some hope that what all of the faculty want may take place.

Two weeks ago the boards of UMC and UPH met to see if making one corporation out of two was an idea that both boards could support. Presentations were made by Greg Pivrotto, Dean Goldschmid and the Chartis group about advantages and issues associated with the potential merger. At the end of the retreat it was decided that there was enough support for the merger to move forward with additional meetings between representatives of the two boards. It is hoped that some of the issues can be addressed and that a road map can be created within the next 90 days to allow the process to move forward. Needless to say there is a lot to overcome before such a merger can take place. However, it appears both parties recognize that such a merger is necessary for both UPH and UMC to succeed and grow in the future. Dean Goldschmid is going to hold a town hall meeting later this week and I encourage all of you to attend as he will discuss the results of the survey and possible merger in greater detail.

The Chartis Group was hired by UPH and UMC to review the financial relationship between the two corporations and to identify areas within UPH and the departments where cost savings were possible. They have begun their review of the DOM and I am quite hopeful that they will find areas where we can improve efficiencies and reduce expense. We also have converted the Wilmont and Alvernon clinics to provider based. This will translate into a significant cost savings for the DOM and will help us to achieve a positive bottom line. We hope to change 2 and 6 OP clinics to provider based as well but that involves UMC and the time frame for such a conversion is unclear. I will keep you informed as we move forward.

I am very poor at predicting the future and I am uncertain whether or not UMC and UPH can do the right thing and join together into one enterprise. I am convinced it is the right thing to do as the current approach is inefficient and limits our ability to develop a truly tertiary hospital system and to support the academic mission of both UPH and UMC. What the future holds if we fail is very unclear but if we succeed the future is truly bright. I ask you all to support this merger any chance you get and especially if you have discussions with members of the respective boards.

Thomas Boyer, MD  
Interim Chairman of Medicine



**Dr. Szerlip  
named  
Vice- Chair  
of Medicine,  
UPHH**

Welcome **Harold M. Szerlip, MD** who is the new Vice-Chairman of Medicine at UPHH. Dr. Szerlip obtained his MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania School Of Medicine. He travelled west to UCSF where he did his medical residency and then returned to Penn for renal fellowship. He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Nephrology and Critical Care Medicine. He is also recognized as a Specialist in Clinical Hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians and American Society of Nephrology. He serves on the editorial boards of the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, Clinical Nephrology and Chest. Dr. Szerlip has been recognized as a "Best Doc" in the Castle Connolly guide. He serves on numerous National Committees and has been an active participant in several multi-centered trials. His interests are chronic kidney disease, evaluation and treatment of complex hypertension, disorders of sodium and potassium and acute renal failure.

### Welcome Our New Fellowship Coordinators

The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce the addition of our three new Fellowship Coordinators: Lucy Contreras, Susan Kaleita and Lupita Martinez. This is the first phase of the initiative to centralize the academic activities through the Medicine GME Office. The new coordinators will work under the guidance of the Chairman and Section's Fellowship/Residency Directors to support and enhance the education mission within the Department.



#### Lucy Contreras

Lucy has been with the Department of Medicine Section of Gastroenterology for over 20 years. Lucy will be leading the fellowship programs in the following sections; Gastroenterology, Pulmonary & Infectious Disease.



#### Susan Kaleita

Susan previously held the position of Executive Assistant and Circulation Manager at Western Regional Science Association. Susan will be leading the fellowship programs in the following sections; Geriatrics, Nephrology & Rheumatology.



#### Lupita Martinez

Lupita previously held the position as lead research associate within the Center for the Study of Higher Education. Lupita will be leading the fellowship programs in the following sections; Cardiology, Dermatology (Residency Program TBD), Endocrinology & Medical Oncology.

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# Faculty Announcements



## Michael A. Bookman, MD, joins Arizona Cancer Center as Hematology/Oncology section chief.

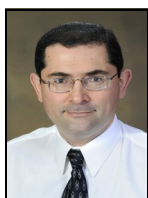
Michael A. Bookman, MD, has joined the Arizona Cancer Center as chief of the Hematology/Oncology section. He has been appointed professor of Medicine at the University of Arizona and will head the Department of Medicine's Hematology/Oncology section. In this role, Dr. Bookman will lead the 28 clinical and research faculty within the section and will join the leadership team of the Arizona Cancer Center.

Dr. Bookman most recently was vice president for ambulatory care and clinical research at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, where he has served since 1988. He is a renowned expert in gynecological medical oncology and will continue his clinical and research practices at the Arizona Cancer Center. Dr. Bookman received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and he earned bachelor and master's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## Faculty Honored by the College of Medicine

Several faculty members from the Department of Medicine will be honored at this year's College of Medicine Annual Faculty Teaching Awards Ceremony, Thursday November 19th, 2009. **Christine E. Oberg, MD** will receive the "Educator of the Year Award" Years III & IV. **Steven Goldman, MD** will receive the "Dean's List for Excellence in Teaching Award" - Year IV. **Sasanka Jayasuriya, MD** will receive the "Dean's List for Excellence in Teaching Award" by a Houseofficer. **Kevein M Krcmarik, MD** will receive the "Dean's List for Excellence in Teaching Award" by a Houseofficer. Congratulations to all of these doctors for their outstanding achievements.

Keep an eye out for these new Employees and give them a warm welcome to our department!



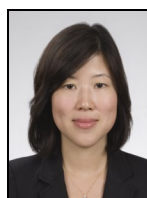
Aiden Abidov, MD



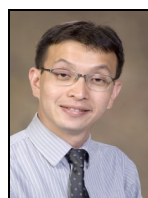
Helen Fleishman, NP



Dipak KC, MD



Nancy Kim, MD



Kwan Lee, MD



Machaiah Madhri- ra, MD



Anil Potharaju, MD



Jenny Pothan, MD



Amy Sussman, MD



Molly Szerlip, MD



Ronnie William, MD

**Aiden Abidov, MD**—Cardiology— Dr. Abidov recently joined the UMC faculty as an Associate Professor of Medicine and Radiology at the University Of Arizona College Of Medicine. Recently, Dr. Abidov received the C. Leonard Pfeiffer Endowed Chair in Cardiology and was named as Chief of Cardiology at the UPH Kino campus.

**Helen Fleishman, FNP**— General Medicine—Helen Fleischman received her Master of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Arizona in 2000. Prior to this she completed two undergraduate degrees at Wichita State University in Kansas. She is currently a Family Nurse Practitioner, and a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

**Dipak KC, MD**—Inpatient Medicine— Dr. K.C. graduated from the College of Medical Sciences in Nepal with Bachelor Degrees in Medicine and Surgery. He did his residency at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. His specialty is in Internal Medicine.

**Nancy Kim, MD**—Dermatology—Dr. Kim went to the University of Arizona College of Medicine, graduated Alpha Omega Alpha, and then did her internship at the University of Arizona in Internal Medicine. She did her residency at the University of Miami in dermatology and her interests include skin cancer and procedural dermatology.

**Kwan Lee, MD**—Cardiology— Dr. Lee is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases and Echocardiography. He serves as a peer-reviewer for the American Journal of Cardiology. Dr. Lee has pursued several areas of research, including work in echocardiography evaluating the effect of echocardiographic contrast on speckle tracking and the utilization of speckle tracking to study left atrial function.

**Machaiah Madhri- ra, MD**—Nephrology—Dr. Madhri- ra received his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) from the Mysore School of Medicine, University of Mysore in India and his Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of South Carolina. His current interest areas include acute kidney injury, hypertension and electrolyte and acid base disorders.

**Anil Potharaju, MD**—Inpatient Medicine—Dr. Potharaju graduated from Kasturba Medical College in Manipal India. He did his residency at St Francis Hospital in Evanston, IL from 2006-2009. During his residency he was awarded for Academic Excellency in 2007-08. His hobbies include Chess (state level player and college champion) as well as swimming, traveling, and reading books.

**Jenny Pothan, DO**—General Medicine—Dr. Pothan received her DO degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2006 and completed her Medical Residency at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York. She is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association.

**Amy Sussman, MD**—Nephrology— Dr. Sussman received her Medical Degree from the University of Arizona and completed her Internship, Residency and Fellowship at the University of Washington. Her current interest areas include glomerulonephritis, recurrent glomerulonephritis in renal transplant, and pregnancy and renal disease.

**Molly Szerlip, MD**—Cardiology—Dr. Szerlip received her interventional training at William Beaumont Hospital, in Michigan. She completed her Cardiology Fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia and received her medical degree at Tulane University School of Medicine. Areas of interest are cardiovascular disease management, coronary and peripheral diagnostic intervention and heart closure devices.

**Ronnie William, MD**—General Medicine—Dr. William received his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Thrissur Medical College in Thrissur, India. He then began his Internal Medicine Residency at Michael Reese hospital in Chicago Illinois. He completed his Residency at University Physician's Hospital in Tucson, AZ.

# Section News

## ARIZONA CANCER CENTER

- Congratulations to the Arizona Cancer Center which received a five-year \$20.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to renew support for its cancer research programs through 2014.

## CARDIOLOGY

- Congratulations to **Eric Brody, MD** for his promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.
- Congratulations to **Hoang Thai, MD** for his promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

## ENDOCRINOLOGY

- Congratulations to **Betsy Dokken, PhD, NP** on her selection by the American Heart Association, Resuscitation Science Symposium (ReSS 2009) to receive a Young Investigator Award for her abstract, *Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Attenuates Post-resuscitation Myocardial Microcirculatory Dysfunction in a Swine Model of Prolonged Ventricular Fibrillation*.
- Congratulations to **Hussein Yassine, MD** who received the prestigious "Presidential Poster Award" from The Endocrine Society for his research abstract, "Aspirin Resistance after Glucose or Fat ingestion". The award was announced at the Endocrine Society meeting in Washington DC.
- Congratulations to **Hussein Yassine, MD**, Endocrinology Fellow, who has achieved the designation of "Diplomat, American Board of Clinical Lipidology" by successfully passing the September 2009 certifying examination.

## GASTROENTEROLOGY

- **Bianca Afonso, MD** 1<sup>st</sup> year GI Fellow presented a poster at the ACG conference October 22-26. **Andrew Weinberg, MD**— 3<sup>rd</sup> year GI Fellow and **Anis Hanna, MD**— 2<sup>nd</sup> year GI Fellow will be presenting a poster together.

## GERIATRICS

- Congratulations to **Mindy Fain, MD** for her promotion to Professor of Clinical Medicine.
- The Arizona Center on Aging will benefit from the Chauncy F. and Leah E. Hudson Foundation Endowment Program. Payment from the Hudson Endowment totaling \$44,000 will launch the new *GeriMetrics Program* Pilot Program. This program is targeted to enhance the function and well-being of older Americans through practical bioengineering solutions for aging problems.

## HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

- Welcome **Michael Bookman, MD** as the new Hematology/Oncology Section Chief.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- Congratulations to **Stephen Klotz, MD** who has accepted the position as Section Chief of infectious Disease. Dr. Klotz has been serving as Interim Section Chief since September 2008, and we are pleased that he has accepted the position on a permanent basis.
- 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 presented at the conference which occurred in Atlanta in August.
- Congratulations to our graduated fellow **Fares Masannat, MD** who joined a private Infectious Disease practice in South Dakota.
- Welcome to our new fellow **Amber Noon, MD** a graduate of the UA Internal Medicine Residency program.

## 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 **Amit Agarwal, MD** and **Dominick Sudano, MD** who have been selected as the VA Chief Residents for 2010 and 2011.
- Congratulations to **Justin Roesch, MD** who published an article as lead author in the American Journal of Medicine (of which our very own **Joseph Alpert, MD** is the Editor-in-Chief). The title is 'Bugs and Blood Cells.'
- Congratulations to **Vijay Doraiswamy, MD (R3)**, **Vivek Nagaraja, MD (R2)** and **Nuduka-obi Ossai, MD (R1)** from the UA/UPHK Internal Medicine residency program for winning the Doctor's Dilemma™ medical jeopardy competition at the ACP regional conference in Tucson. The team will travel to the ACP annual meeting in Toronto, Canada next April to represent the University.

## PULMONARY

- Congratulations to **Yuval Raz, MD** for his promotion to Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine.

# Grants & Awards

- Primary Investigator **Bhaskar Banerjee, MD** is being sponsored by Digestive & Liver Disease Specialists for the *Digestive and Liver Disease Specialists Educational Fellowship Grant*.
- Congratulations to **Erik Berg**, Program Coordinator for the Ryan White Program who received a grant to study HIV along the border and on reservations. Faculty sponsors for the project are **Stephen Klotz, MD** and **Carol Galper, PhD**.
- Primary Investigator **John Cunningham, MD** will continue to be sponsored by TGEN for a project titled *Tumor Glycomics Laboratory for Pancreatic Carcinoma*.
- Primary Investigator **Mindy Fain, MD** is being sponsored by U AL for a project titled, *Comprehensive Programs to Strengthen Physicians' Training in Geriatrics*.
- Primary Investigator **Mindy Fain, MD** is being sponsored by UNTHSC for a project titled, *Geriatrics Education and Training in Texas*.
- Primary Investigator **Janet Funk, MD** is being sponsored by NCCAM for a project titled, *Anti-Arthritic Effects of Ginger Dietary Supplements*.
- Primary Investigator **Janet Funk, MD** will continue to be sponsored by NCCAM for a project titled, *Efficacy of Tumeric Extract in Prevention of Post-Menopausal Osteoporosis*.
- Co-Investigator **Janet Funk, MD** with principal investigator, **Heddwen Brooks, MD** are being sponsored by the UA ADVANCE Leadership Workgroup for their project titled, *Risk Reduction of Diabetic Kidney Disease in Menopause using Dietary Botanicals*.
- Primary Investigator **Carol Howe, MD** will continue to be sponsored by MSSM for a project titled, *PogoE Knowledge Map Integration and Tap-G Operation*.
- Primary Investigator **Stephen Klotz, MD** will continue to be sponsored by HRSA for *The Ryan White Early Intervention Services Grant*.
- Primary Investigator **Joy Logan, MD** will continue to be sponsored by AKDHC for the *Interventional Nephrology Fellowship Grant*.
- Congratulations to **Eliza Panczyk, MD** who is a recipient of the Charles W. Hall, Jr. Memorial Award. The award is given to recognize outstanding houseofficers on the coronary care unit rotation.
- Congratulations to **Layth Saleh, MD** who is a recipient of the Charles W. Hall, Jr. Memorial Award. The award is given to recognize outstanding houseofficers on the coronary care unit rotation.
- Primary Investigator **Sujata Sarkar, MD** is being sponsored by NIAMSD for a project titled, *Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development*.
- Primary Investigator **Sujata Sarkar, MD** is being sponsored by NIAMSD for the *Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award*.
- Primary Investigator **Sujata Sarkar, MD** is being sponsored by ANRF for a project titled, *Characterization of Pathogenic TH17 Responses in Collagen Induced Arthritis*.
- Primary Investigator **Carol Schneiderman, MD** will continue to be sponsored by AZ DHS for a project titled *Pharmacist-Based Treatment Adherence*.
- Primary Investigator **Linda Snyder, MD** is being sponsored by Hospitalists of Arizona for a project titled, *Fellowship Program for Pulmonary and Critical Care*.
- Primary Investigator **Craig Stump, MD** is being sponsored by the Endocrine Society for a project titled *The Society's Bridge Grant: Angiotensin II Effects in Muscle Mitochondrial Function*.
- Primary Investigator **Stephen Thompson, MD** will continue to be sponsored by BREFSA for the *Joint Personnel Appointment for Jessica Deloera*.
- Primary Investigator **Laura Wright, MD** is being sponsored by NCCAM for a project titled, *Ginger Extracts in the Prevention of Metabolic Bone Disease*.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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