Section of Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

There has been a merger of the disparate elements that went into University of Arizona patient care. The official name is now University of Arizona Medical Center – University Campus (formerly, UMC) and the University of Arizona – South Campus (formerly, UPH Hospital) The over arching organization is University of Arizona Health Network.

The Section of Infectious Diseases has relocated to a beautiful new office suite on the 6th floor of Main Campus, opposite the Department of Medicine offices. We were fond of Comstock Building and the privacy it provided but, the current digs are better for patient care and make us an integral part of Medicine.

Fellow News

Graduates of 2005

Kalpana Natrajan is still in private practice in San Diego. Lisa Valdivia continues with her private infectious disease practice at Tucson Medical Center.

Graduates of 2006

John Mourani. John remains in an ID group of four in San Dimas, CA.

Graduates of 2007

Brian Chasin is practicing at Northwest in Tucson. Andy Giblin is working on her MPH at U of A.

Graduates of 2008

Cliff Martin is in private practice at Tucson Medical Center. He directs the Fellow program at Tucson Medical Center Shannon Thorn continues with his private infectious disease practice in Tucson at St. Mary’s and Northwest Hospitals.

Graduate of 2009

Fares Masanult continues with his private practice group in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He made a surprise visit to Tucson in April 2012 and it was good to see him.

Graduates of 2010

Larissa Szeyko is providing care in a Wound Clinic in Tucson. Viki Ianas is in private practice in Phoenix.

Graduate of 2011

Geoffrey Smith is in a private practice group in Tucson.

Graduates of 2012

James Yanes is now practicing with a group in Phoenix with an emphasis on the immunocompromised host. Amber Noon has joined the group at Tucson Medical Center with previous graduates, Lisa Valdivia and Cliff Martin and former faculty, Rick Mandel.

Current Fellows. Joel Terriquez (6/12) will be moving to Flagstaff, AZ where he will perform ID consultation for the hospital as well as weekly consults to Cottonwood Medical Center. He is completing a project on chemical deterrents to the feeding of kissing bugs with Justin Schmidt and Steve Klotz. Miriam Grigor

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(12/12) is performing a large clinical project involving patients with nocardiosis. Ram Seddabatulla (6/13) is interested in MAC and its occurrence in immunocompromised hosts. Tatyana Shekhel (12/13) is only several months into her fellowship and has not yet chosen a research topic.

Incoming Fellow Jack Ajmeri will begin 7/12, joining us from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System where he served as a hospitalist.

Conferences

5th Annual Desert Museum Walk and Dinner. In late July 2011 we had our fifth annual Museum Walk followed by an excellent dinner at the Ironwood Restaurant. Approximately 30 people attended. Topics included physiological adaptation to running by coyotes, hallucinogenic toads in Arizona, raccoon roundworms and meningitis, circling disease in fish and other arcane but fascinating topics involving zoonoses. Scorpions were in abundance on the walk back to the parking lot. A gentle rainfall provided the speakers a slight challenge.


3rd Research Retreat to Portal, Arizona, March 9-11, 2012. About 15 attendees participated in the retreat and stayed at Cave Creek Ranch. The weather was spectacular. The first evening 2-3 inches of snow fell. We heard presentations ranging from how to stop kissing bugs from biting, microbial amyloid, high risk behavior in musicians, delusional parasitosis and what infectious diseases pathologists fear. Saturday evening everyone had dinner at Eskild’s and Susan’s home.

Arizona Infectious Diseases Society annual meeting in Sedona. Two Fellows presented at the meeting that was held in Oak Creek Village. Three Fellows attended the meeting and enjoyed the break from rounding.

Faculty and Staff

Newcomers: Tirdad Zangeneh joined the faculty in August 2011 and is providing a new service with consultations to Transplant patients—there are 23 transplant physicians now working at the university. Tirdad trained at the University of Miami. Chinh Nguyen joined the faculty in 2011 from the University of Maryland. He and Neil Ampel are located at the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System. We are anticipating the arrival of Anca Georgescu who will join the faculty from Roosevelt-St. Lukes program in NYC where she is currently a fellow.

Rod Adam has retired and is an Emeritus faculty. He lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is building an Infectious Disease program at Aga Khan University in Nairobi.

Neil Ampel is now providing a quarterly “Cocci Seminar” for the Fellows with the departure of Rod Adam. He continues with his mentoring of trainees.

Sean Elliott was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics and continues to serve with Dr. Klotz as co-Block Director for the College of Medicine Prologue Block. Sean is now the Residency Director for Pediatrics as well.

Susan Hoover is interested in management of coccidioidomycosis in patients receiving tumor necrosis factor inhibitors and other immunocompromised hosts.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine
Steve Klotz continues to work on Candida and has several projects dealing with kissing bugs and Chagas disease.

David Nix and Katie Matthias have been instrumental in forming an Antibiotic Stewardship program for the Main Campus.

Ziad Shehab continues with his rigorous schedule of teaching and attending.

Vinod Trivedi has been especially busy this last year as Director of the Refugee Clinic. He has made a fine video for trainees regarding this endeavor: http://ilm.medicine.arizona.edu/InfectiousDisease/refugees/slides/main.cfm

John Galgiani is busy with the Valley Fever Center of Excellence.

Richard Sobonya. Rich provides an entertaining and great learning experience each month at the ID/Pathology conference.

Calvin Kunin gave a lecture on Urinary Tract Infections this year to the Fellows. Maybe you have noticed some of his photographs of birds in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Bob Kalinske attends Friday morning ID conferences and gave core curriculum talks to Fellows on Ethics in Infectious Diseases and Influenza.

Tim Kuberski has published his novel “The Trembling Flu” (available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon). It is a fictional story based on some real life ID events. He is faculty with the University of Arizona and has a clinic with a Fellow in training at Maricopa County Hospital in Phoenix.

Patricia McCracken continues as Nurse Coordinator for the Petersen Clinics (HIV patients) whose numbers continue to increase.

Martha Aragon is the Administration Assistant for the section of Infectious Diseases and sends her love to all of the former Fellows.

Carol Schneiderman, Pharm. D continues to provide pharmacy related support for the Petersen Clinic patients.

Shannon Smith is the chief Administrator for the Ryan White Clinics and has approval to hire a case manager and new data person to replace Martha Aragon.

Andrew McKinn is a data manager for the Ryan-White Program.

Robert Gadsden is a case manager for the Ryan-White Program.

Michael Sandoval is case manager/coordinator for the Ryan-White Program.

Natasha Korosteleva is the Administrator for the Refugee Clinics and has her hands full getting the refugees to clinic for blood samples and vaccinations. She recently had a baby girl.

Fellow Publications/Abstracts


Time for the Portal Conference at Cave Creek Ranch—is this for real? (photo courtesy of Tim Kubeski).