

# Department of Medicine News

Issue XXIII



June 2010

College of Medicine



A number of good things are happening with the DOM that I would like to share with you. Firstly, Rod Adam was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to work in Kenya for 1 year. We have attached a brief article describing what Rod will be doing during his time in Kenya. Dr. Bruce Kaplan has been awarded the **Kathy and Harry Jentsch Endowed Chair in Kidney Research**. Dr. Kaplan is especially deserving of this award given his research in kidney transplant and pharmacology which receives national and international attention. We hope over time to have more endowed chairs in the DOM to support the research of our outstanding faculty.

Good things have happened in our GME area as well. As you know the program at UMC/VA/TMC received a 5 year renewal. The program at UPHH has also received a 5 year renewal which is a real accomplishment for a new program. The UPHH program also was approved for an increase in the size of the program. Bill Johnson, Merilyn Goldschmid and Harold Szerlip deserve congratulations on a job well done. Both programs also filled without need of the scramble and at the UMC/VA/TMC program 12 of the new residents are from the U of A. Our ability to attract more US graduates is a testimony to the entire faculty and their commitment to educating our house staff.

The combining of UMC and UPH into one organization continues and hopefully will be ready for the approval of ABOR by their June meeting. This has been a very difficult task. We must remember that once agreed to the real work is only beginning. It will take 2-3 years for this organization to take shape and all of us need to be patient as the process goes forward. With the coming changes in healthcare, the forming of one corporation places us in an ideal position going forward. One immediate benefit is in the EMR. Both UPH and UMC are getting the same new version of Allscripts and that should allow for easier access and improve patient care. Training on the new version will be rolling out in the next few months and please take a positive attitude towards this new version. I have been told it is a big improvement and has the potential for clinical research using this data base.

We have received money from the Dean and the University to remodel the DOM offices on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. The laboratories previously occupied by nephrology and the side of the hallway opposite my office will be gutted and totally remodeled. This will allow nephrology, general medicine, infectious disease, in-patient medicine, pulmonary, GME, and the departmental offices to be in the same area. During construction the hallway on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor will be closed up to where GI resides. We are currently finding space for all of the displaced personnel, me included, as we need to replace the walls on both sides of the hallway.

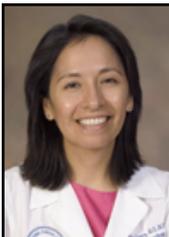
We have hired a new administrator for the DOM, Richard Nuttall, who will be joining us the end of June. Richard is currently the CFO for the DOM at the University of New Mexico. He is an experienced administrator and I look forward to his arrival and his help with the DOM. Lastly, I have been appointed as the permanent Head of the DOM. This appointment provides support for the hiring of new physicians as well as the funding for the renovations described above. I look forward to working with all of you in making the DOM better, both academically and as a great place to work.



## Fulbright Fellowship for Dr. Rod Adam

Rod Adam, MD has been awarded a

Fulbright fellowship for the purpose of teaching infectious diseases and conducting research in the area of infectious diseases. There is currently only one Kenyan physician trained in the specialty of infectious diseases, and no in-country training exists beyond the level of general internal medicine. Infectious diseases other than HIV, TB, and malaria have been largely neglected. Most diagnoses are syndromic rather than etiologic, leading to even greater levels of antibiotic resistance than in the US. Dr. Adam will be working with the faculty and students at the University of Nairobi to teach infectious diseases. The ultimate goal will be to advance the current level of understanding of infectious diseases among trainees at the University of Nairobi. The ultimate goal will be to develop infectious disease training within Kenya so that locally trained physicians will be available to have a voice in public policy and to pass their knowledge along to other Kenyan physicians.



## Dr. Ana Maria Lopez Honored as 2010 Woman of the Year

Ana Maria López, MD, MPH, FACP, Associate Dean for Outreach and Multicultural Affairs and Professor of Medicine and Pathology at the UA College of Medicine, has been chosen 2010 Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Professional Action Committee (HPAC). Dr. López also is Medical Director for the Arizona Telemedicine Program and a member of the Arizona Cancer Center and the BIO5 Institute.

In announcing the award, HPAC noted Dr. López' many accomplishments, including numerous awards for academic and research pursuits, while highlighting her care for patients, her "heart of gold." As Associate Dean for Outreach and Multicultural Affairs, she advocates for the development of best practices to recruit and retain students of diverse backgrounds to the health professions. Dr. López has published her work in medical journals and has authored multiple book chapters. She has been selected as one of the "Best Doctors in America" since 2002. In 2005, she was nominated by U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva for the designation of Local Legend. She subsequently was selected by the American Medical Women's Association and National Library of Medicine to honor her commitment, originality, innovation and creativity in the field of medicine

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# Education



## Dear Department of Medicine Faculty,

For this edition of the DOM newsletter, Dr. Boyer asked that I outline the ways in which interested faculty can become more involved in the medical student education during years 1 and 2. Before I do so, on behalf of the College of Medicine I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for the DOM's education effort in all levels of continuing medical education, graduate medical education and undergraduate medical education. As a DOM faculty member, I am proud to be associated with some of the college's best teachers. Additionally, many DOM faculty are already involved in the activities described below – thank you!

As many of you know, the first two years are organized into quasi-organ-system based blocks in which disciplines are integrated: anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, histology, pharmacology, etc. The Year 1 blocks are: Prologue; Foundations; Nervous System; Musculoskeletal System; Cardiovascular, Pulmonary & Renal Systems; Digestion, Metabolism & Hormones 1. The Year 2 blocks are: Digestion, Metabolism & Hormones 2; Immunity & Infection; Life Cycle; Advanced Topics. Woven throughout the blocks are curricular threads: Humanism, Health and Society, Gender-specific Medicine, Evidence-based Decision Making, Aging and Interprofessional Education. The opportunities for teaching with each block include: Active lectures, Cased-based Instruction (CBI), and Team Learning (TL). Active Lectures are traditional large group lectures, usually PowerPoint based, in which the audience is engaged in some fashion such as an audience participation system. Case-based Instruction sessions are small group activities in which basic science concepts are taught in a learner-centered fashion using a clinical scenario. CBI facilitators may be basic science faculty or clinicians. Facilitators commit to CBI by block (5-12 weeks) and have the same group of students for the entire block. There is usually one CBI case per week, split into two 2-hour sessions. Faculty development is mandatory and case notes are provided. Team Learning sessions are small group sessions focused on students learning more ambiguous concepts in teams. These are more difficult to facilitate and I would not recommend these as an entry-level activity for faculty who do not have previous TL experience. The COM does fund teaching in years 1 and 2 with state dollars; the amount of funds given to the department varies with each activity.

The Societies Program is our flagship clinical teaching and mentoring program. In this program, selected clinical faculty mentor a group of six students for all four years of the curriculum. Most of the scheduled activities occur during year 1 and 2 and include teaching the medical history and physical exam, written and oral communication skills, integrating basic and clinical science concepts, teaching modern concepts of medical professionalism and mentoring. A variety of venues are used including extensive use of bedside teaching using real patients as well as standardized patients in our teaching clinic. This Societies Program provides an intensive and satisfying teaching opportunity for those dedicating their career to medical education. The program requires 0.25-0.3 FTE (2-3 half days per week) and is fully funded by the COM. The program is competitive but openings do occur. When an opening is available, an announcement is sent out over the AHSC faculty listserv inviting applications. The entire curriculum including lecture slides, notes and other materials is available on-line and accessible to any faculty member with a UA Net ID.

The link is: <http://arizonamed.medicine.arizona.edu/index.cfm>

In the public section of this page you will find basic information about the curriculum including the Societies Program. You will also be able to find who the block directors are. Log in with your Net ID and password and you will have full access to the curriculum. I invite all faculty to look over the curriculum. If you would like to become more involved feel free to contact the block director of the portion of the curriculum that you are interested in or me.

Kevin F. Moynahan, MD FACP  
Deputy Dean for Education  
Director, Societies Program  
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine  
University of Arizona College of Medicine

## Department of Medicine Residency Match Day 2010

It is our pleasure to announce the 2010-2011 interns for the Department of Medicine Residency Training Program.

- |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Mohammad Abu Zaid     | Mu'Tah University                   |
| • Ahmad Ahmad Salameh   | University of Jordan                |
| • Leen Al-Sayyed        | University of Jordan                |
| • Alexander Alvarez     | University of Texas/Dallas          |
| • Kristin Anderson      | University of Iowa                  |
| • Majid Asawaer         | University of Jordan                |
| • John Benavidez        | University of New Mexico            |
| • Jaskanwal Bisla       | University of Arizona               |
| • Christopher Chen      | Buffalo State University            |
| • Jacob Feldman         | University of Arizona               |
| • Emily Hattrup         | University of Arizona               |
| • Nicholas Holtan       | University of Arizona               |
| • Nasibo Kadir          | University of Nevada                |
| • John Kelada           | Pennsylvania State University       |
| • Catherine Le Cesne    | University of Arizona               |
| • Naser Mahmoud         | University of Jordan                |
| • Paul Manson           | University of Arizona               |
| • Dalia Mikhael         | University of Arizona               |
| • Sangetha Murugpandian | Stanley Medical College             |
| • Laya Nasrollah        | University of Arizona               |
| • Jeremy Nielsen        | University of Arizona               |
| • William Ross          | University of Arizona               |
| • Kirk Sanders          | Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara |
| • Kyle Sinclair         | University of Arizona               |
| • Jennifer Song         | Texas Tech University               |
| • Nicholas Stea         | University of Arizona               |
| • Magdalena Szkudlinska | University of Maryland              |
| • Ovette Villavicencio  | University of Arizona               |
| • Preethi William       | Vinayaka Mission's Medical College  |
| • Nisreen Yaghmour      | Mu'Tah University                   |

As a group we screened 3,651 applications, invited 487 for interviews and interviewed 277 applicants. Thank you once again for your time and contributions.

## UPHK Announces Residency Program Interns

The Internal Medicine Residency Program at UA/UPHK is pleased to announce our new interns for the 2010-2011 academic year.

- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Lisa Burkhartsmeyer     | Georgetown University                 |
| • Rostam Khoubyari        | Tehran University of Medical Sciences |
| • Ali Raoof               | Sindh Medical College                 |
| • Farhad Saheb Jam        | Iran University of Medical Sciences   |
| • Panagiotis Zervogiannis | Ross University                       |

We would like to express our appreciation for your support during the interview season. We look forward to a successful year ahead.

# Section News



## Welcome New Faculty

Dr Knepler attended medical school and internal medicine residency at Ohio State University. He went on to complete his pulmonary, critical care, and sleep training at Indiana University. While at Indiana University, Dr Knepler received specialized training in interventional bronchoscopy and moved to the University of Cincinnati in 2004 to start an interventional pulmonology program. Jim arrived in Tucson December 2009 and brings his skills to the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System. Dr Knepler continues to have a clinical and research interest in interventional bronchoscopy and lung cancer. Jim precepts courses locally and nationally in his subspecialty area of interventional pulmonology.

## Diabetes Education Classes Begin

Expanding our service to patients, the Section of Endocrinology has begun offering the American Diabetes Association approved "Diabetes Self-Management Educational Program" in conjunction with Carondelet Health Network and their Diabetes Care Center team of educators. Individual assessments and group classes will be held in the Herbert K. Abrams Building on Country Club Road (at Ajo), next to the UPHH outpatient clinics. Participation in this program is by physician referral only based on meeting specific medical criteria, and all physicians are asked to refer their diabetic patients as appropriate. The program is covered by most insurances. A referral form is available in the UPHH Adult Health Services clinic. Just write in "UPH" as the location for service until a new form can be printed. For more information: 626-6376



## Dr. Kaplan Named The Kathy & Harry Jentsch Endowed Chair

Bruce Kaplan M.D. is Professor of Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He is also the Medical Director of the Abdominal Transplantation Program and the Section Chief of Nephrology. Dr. Kaplan is being awarded the Kathy & Harry Jentsch Endowed Chair in Research. Before coming to the University of Arizona, Dr. Kaplan was awarded the highest achievement at the University of Florida and given the rare honor of Eminent Scholar in kidney research for his work on pharmacology and immunology as it relates to kidney failure. He was also awarded the Harvard University Visiting Lectureship in 2005.

Dr. Kaplan's research interests include kidney transplantation and kidney pharmacology and he is internationally recognized in immunosuppressive pharmacology and outcomes in transplantation. Dr. Kaplan has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, 30 book chapters and is author of a new textbook on Immunopharmacology.



When Harry Jentsch died in May of 2003 he had spent 20 years building an endowment in memory of his late wife Kathy. Kathy and Harry were married less than 50 days when she died at the age of 33 of a rare kidney disease.

Kathy & Harry Jentsch

In addition to giving his entire estate, Harry approached family, colleagues, friends, and business leaders across the state to contribute to The Kathy and Harry Jentsch Fund in Kidney Research. Harry's diligent saving and dedicated solicitation paid off in an endowment exceeding \$1 million in support of kidney research at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

## ENDOCRINOLOGY:

- Welcome to **Yulia Abidova, RN, CCRC**, who has joined the section as our research nurse/coordinator to develop and implement a clinical research program in diabetes and other endocrine diseases.
- **Craig Stump, MD, PhD**, will serve at the UA principal investigator on a five-year NIH R01 subaward in conjunction with ASU principal investigator Dr. Randy Nelson on a research project, "Population-Based Proteomic Investigation of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus." Co-investigator, **Hussein Yassine, MD**, will assist with this clinical study using proteomics and metabolomics to investigate potential biomarkers in human samples which would identify diabetes and prediabetes. Dean Billheimer, PhD of the BIO5 will provide statistical support.
- **Betsy B. Dokken, PhD, NP**, has received a pilot project award of \$40,000 from the University of Arizona Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center (SWEHSC) for a research project, "The mechanisms of environmentally-induced obesity and related microvascular dysfunction." Co-investigator is Dr. Heddwen Brooks, Dept of Physiology.
- **Craig Stump, MD, PhD** will serve as a co-investigator on a new two-year NIH grant awarded to principal investigator, Dr. Deborah Vincent of the College of Nursing, in a collaborative research project to study the "Feasibility of a Diabetes Prevention Intervention in Mexican-Americans."
- **Betsy B. Dokken, PhD, NP**, has been notified by the journal, Resuscitation, of the acceptance for publication of an article, "Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) attenuates post-resuscitation myocardial microcirculatory dysfunction." Authors: Betsy B Dokken, Hilwig, RW, Teachey, MK, Panchal AP, Hubner K, Allen D, and Kern, KB. Congratulations also to **Mary Teachey (Maher)**, Dokken lab manager, for her contributions to this publication.

## PULMONARY/GERIATRICS:

- **Linda Snyder, MD** Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program Director, and Medical Director of the UMC Medical Intensive Care Unit, has been granted a "joint" appointment in the Section of Geriatrics & Gerontology. Dr. Snyder has recently participated as an Associate Reynolds Scholar in Aging and has been actively involved in the Palliative Care Program in the College of Medicine, which is housed in the Section of Geriatrics & Gerontology. **Mindy Fain, MD** Section Chief and Program Director of Geriatrics & Gerontology says that Dr. Snyder will be very involved in the education and research components of the recently submitted formal request for a Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Fain noted that Dr. Snyder is a leader in ICU Palliative Medicine, and expects that Dr. Snyder will lead those efforts locally and nationally.

## RHEUMATOLOGY:

- Primary Investigator **Berchman Vaz, MD** is being sponsored by BMS for a BMS Fellowship Scholarship.

# Faculty Announcements



## Dr. Eric Gall Rejoins Arizona Arthritis Center as Interim Director

Please welcome back Eric P. Gall, MD, MACP, MACR, who recently agreed to serve as interim director of the Arizona Arthritis Center. He also is professor of clinical medicine in rheumatology. Dr. Gall has deep roots at the College of Medicine, where he co-founded the Arizona Arthritis Center, one of our nine Centers of Excellence, and served on the faculty from 1973-1994. In 1978, the UA College of Medicine was among the first 11 institutions to receive a National Institutes of Health Multipurpose Arthritis Center (MAC) grant, laying the foundation for the Arizona Arthritis Center. This funding was authorized by Congress under the National Arthritis Act. In 1985, the Arizona Board of

Regents approved the concept for the Arizona Arthritis Center and Dr. Gall and Robert Volz, MD, were named founding directors. Among his many other roles at the College, Dr. Gall served as chief of the Section of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology.

Dr. Gall recently retired as chair of the Medicine Department of the Chicago Medical School, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, where he served from 1994-2009.

He is active in a number of professional societies and has served as president of the Arthritis Health Professional Association, and vice chairman and member of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Professional Education Committee of the National Arthritis Foundation. Dr. Gall is a Master and Laureate of the American College of Physicians and a Master and Founding Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology, where he was a member of the Board of Directors. He was named to the Outstanding Physicians of America.

Dr. Gall is interested in studies of new treatments and the pathogenesis of arthritis, metabolic bone disease and hemophilic arthritis. He also serves as an expert consultant on hyper mobility disorders, such as Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. He is a national expert on innovative teaching methods and is active on many committees addressing teaching methods and curricula at the medical school level and within the specialty of rheumatology.

## Corrections:

We are sorry to have missed a couple of our "Best Doctors" in the list we included in our last DOM Newsletter.

Congratulations to:

**Mindy Fain, MD**  
Geriatrics Section Chief, and  
Co-Director of the AZ Center  
on Aging

**Margaret M Miller, MD**  
recognized as a "Best Doctor"  
for Rheumatology.



## SWOG and The Hope Foundation Announce Coltman Fellowship Awardees

**Ann Arbor, MI, 5/10/2010-** The Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) and The Hope Foundation are honored to announce the 2010 Charles A. Coltman Jr., Fellowship awardees: Joanne Jeter, MS, MD and Daniel Persky, MD. Both future fellows hold appointments at the University of Arizona.



Joanne Jeter, MD

Each year, The Hope Foundation funds a number of fellowships to provide physicians with advanced clinical training in oncology and clinical research. The Charles A. Coltman Jr., Fellowship is a competitive program that funds outstanding young investigators from current SWOG member institutions. The program places strong emphasis on mentorship by noted Group leaders, and helps fellows develop expertise in clinical trials methodology, protocol activation, and management. Two Fellows are selected annually by an independent panel and are awarded \$100,000 intended primarily for salary support for two years.

Dr. Jeter is an assistant professor of clinical medicine at the Arizona Cancer Center (AZCC) at the University of Arizona and has been greatly invested in the SWOG Melanoma and Prevention Committees since her appointment to AZCC. With the strong support of her mentors, she designed her proposed project, "Phase II trial of vitamin D supplementation in individuals with intermediate-thickness melanoma without nodal involvement."

"The purpose of this study is to describe the extent of vitamin D deficiency in the melanoma population," proposes Jeter, "and to assess the effects of supplementation in this setting, while answering [specific] questions for individuals with node-negative melanomas with intermediate Breslow thickness."

Also an assistant professor of clinical medicine at the AZCC, Dr. Persky's conducts research to increase survival rates for patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), the most common non-Hodgkins lymphoma. "Despite an improvement in survival with the addition of rituximab to the chemotherapy regimen CHOP, about 50% of patients still relapse and most die from their disease," writes Persky. His hypothesis is that "the combination of vorinostat with standard treatment with R-CHOP will enhance MHC class II expression and improve patient outcome in DLBCL, possibly through improving TIL response and immunosurveillance."

Attainment of a Coltman Fellowship signifies extraordinary commitment and capability in clinical trial design. SWOG and The Hope Foundation recognize that professional education programs are an essential part of establishing best practice throughout all fields of adult cancer treatment.

Established in 1993, The Hope Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of SWOG, one of the largest and most prolific of the National Cancer Institute-supported cancer clinical trials cooperative groups. Though both organizations are based in Ann Arbor, Mich., SWOG supports a national network of over 7,500 physician-researchers, CRAs, and nurse oncologists, and is recognized for its intensive physician training initiatives. To aid SWOG in its commitment to comprehensive member education, The Hope Foundation has invested over \$8 million in support of SWOG education and research programs since 2000. For more information on available fellowship opportunities and application procedures, please visit [www.thehopefoundation.org/](http://www.thehopefoundation.org/).



Daniel Persky, MD

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

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