

Family Medicine Matters

July is a time of celebration in Iowa City. Not only do we celebrate the Fourth of July and the birth of our nation, but it is an exciting time of transition in our residency when we celebrate the completion of another year, with graduates moving into practice and new first year residents who are beginning their professional training.

This year we have a wonderfully competent and diverse group of residents who will surely distinguish themselves. They are: Drs. Nesrin Abu Ata, Beth Cramer, Suz Freerksen, Nick Gatz, Bob Laberge, Kevin Wu, Clete Younger, and Lisa Zittergruen. We extend a hearty Iowa welcome to them and look forward to supporting their professional and personal growth over the coming years.

Our faculty continues to identify opportunities to introduce concepts of the patient centered medical home in our teaching, research and clinical care. This is not easy, especially in an environment of limited resources. Despite this, we continue to build effective teams, improve efficiencies in our clinical operations and grope through the process of implementing a new electronic medical record system called "EPIC."

Congratulations are in order to several of our faculty. Dr. John Ely recently was awarded the "best poster presentation" at the annual AHRQ 2009 National PBRN Conference held in Bethesda Maryland, and Dr. Marcy Rosenbaum was awarded the Harold A. Myers Distinguished Professorship.

Dr. Anne Sullivan has spent much of this year assisting the Cedar Rapids Medical Education Foundation as their interim residency program director. By all accounts, she has done a tremendous job, but sadly, she has been so successful that she has chosen to remain with the Cedar Rapids program as their new permanent residency program director. Congratulations to her and we wish her the very best. I would like to especially thank Dr. Gordon Baustian who worked with our Department in Anne's absence this year and brought innovative ideas and passion to teaching and patient care.

Faculty and staff in the Department of Family Medicine have all done an outstanding job in the last year working through natural and financial disasters. Thanks to them for all they do!



Paul James, MD
Professor and Head
Dept. of Family Medicine

Department of Family Medicine Mission Statement

Through excellence in teaching, research, and patient care, we will be leaders in the discovery, development and dissemination of new knowledge and innovative teaching models in family medicine in order to improve the health and well being of patients, families and communities we serve. Application of our scope of activities will be statewide, national and global.

Promotions

Jeanette Daly, RN, PhD was promoted to Associate Research Scientist.

Jill Endres, MD was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

Jason Wilbur, MD was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

Honors and Awards

John Ely, MD, MSPH— “BEST POSTER PRESENTATION” at AHRQ 2009 National Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) Research Conference in Bethesda, Maryland. The poster by **Drs. Ely, Levy, and Daly** was titled “ Primary Care Perceptions of Community-Acquired MRSA.”

Marcy Rosenbaum, PhD— HAROLD A. MYERS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP. This professorship is used to support a PhD faculty member who exhibits exemplary skill and passion for teaching of medical students and who is a leader in understanding and developing new methods of medical education. It is a three-year appointment.

Britt Marcussen, MD—CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MEDICAL EDUCATION CELEBRATION DAY FACULTY AWARD.

Wendy Shen, MD, PhD—2009-2012 TEACHING SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

Barcey Levy, MD, PhD—LIFETIME AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY to “Barcey Levy, American Cancer Society Research Scholar whose research will contribute to achieving our mutual goal of eliminating cancer as a major health problem.” The award accompanies Dr. Levy’s Research Scholar Grant entitled “Interventions to Improve Colon Cancer Screening in Poor Rural Iowa Counties,” a 4-year award from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012.

Family Medicine Interest Group at The University of Iowa—2009 PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD. Our FMIG has won this award, one of ten in the nation given by the American Academy of Family Physicians, for the seventh year in a row.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS!

The following new Residents have joined us and are busy with their July “Introduction to Family Medicine” activities:

- **Dr. Nesrin Abu Ata**—Family Medicine/ Psychiatry
- **Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Cramer**—Family Medicine
- **Dr. Suzanna (Suz) Freerksen**—Family Medicine/ Psychiatry
- **Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Gatz**—Family Medicine
- **Dr. Robert (Bob) Laberge**—Family Medicine
- **Dr. Kevin Wu**—Family Medicine
- **Dr. Clete Younger**—Family Medicine
- **Dr. Lisa Zittergruen**—Family Medicine

JASON WILBUR'S "STAY IN THE LOOP"

Medical Director's Log

I don't want to seem too proud, but I do want everyone to understand that my kids are insightful, observant, compassionate super-genuses. My 5-year-old recently informed me that one of his butterflies (we raised 5 from caterpillar to chrysalis to adult) looked like its wings were torn, and he was certain it was injured by the other butterflies. When I asked how he knew this, he said, "I was *investigating* it and knewed it was *excluded*." (His emphasis, not mine.) The solution was to release them all into the wild. I agreed, but did not tell him of the potential downsides, like being eaten by a bird.

I feel like all I write about in this column is what is changing in the Family Medicine Clinic, and I will have more of that here today. Things I thought I "knewed" change for better or worse. And like the pre-schooler who actually does stop to smell roses and carefully watch the little creatures of the earth, we need to stop, assess what is changing, and "investigate" how we will respond to achieve our goals. I know that our clinic is experiencing pain from the UIHC budget, and I know that it seems more like hacking at the trunk rather than pruning overgrown branches, but I think that there is potential to learn something from this process and to emerge stronger.

On to the changes for July...

We have new residents. Actually, we have a relative surge in residents—maybe a mini-baby-boom compared with the last 2 years. We are fortunate to have a solid first year class join us. The staffing model for the first-years will be different initially, as they will have one-to-one staffing for their first few clinics. Each first-year will be paired with a faculty physician and have a parallel schedule that allows time for staffing.

A number of faculty physicians will be participating in Medicare's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) for diabetes, starting July 1 and running to the end of the year. Only physicians with a sufficient number of diabetic patients will be participating in the PQRI project, but everyone in clinic needs to be aware of this program in order for it to succeed.

We continue to realize changes in our workflow that are imposed by Epic. I think I phrased that right. Epic changes the way we do things in clinic—no doubt about it. But I see that we are adapting and ultimately there will be positive change. Just know that your frustrations are shared.

I am concerned that our teams have slid some since Epic started. We stand to slide further unless we re-group. I encourage everyone to get to your team meetings and participate. Also, we need to use the teams for pilot projects and then enact the best practice, so that there are fewer differences between the teams. I have heard more concerns about disorientation, from providers and nursing, when moving from one pod to another. Due to our complicated schedule, we cannot always have the teams together. Although we try very hard to keep the Blue Team blue (we're putting GHB into their coffee), it cannot always be blue. Personnel changes in the coming year may improve or exacerbate this issue, but that remains to be seen. Nonetheless, we will need to select best-practices among the teams' practice variations and enact these across the clinic to reduce confusion and improve patient care.

Finally, I am interested in pursuing a new meeting structure for our clinic operations. I think that the COT is not the most effective structure for us. Starting this month, I will have weekly tactical meetings with key clinic staff. Future plans include developing strategy-oriented meetings, improving communication, and clearly identifying decision-making roles.

Family Medicine Graduation: Graduates and Awards

The Family Medicine Graduation Banquet was held June 20, 2009 at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Convention Center to honor the 2009 graduates:

- ◆ **Nathaniel Jones**, MD—Family Medicine
- ◆ **Michael Simison**, MD—Family Medicine/ Psychiatry
- ◆ **Brian Williams**, MD—Pella Rural Track
- ◆ **Will Saxena**, MD—Geriatrics Fellowship

Awards went to: **Benjamin Shepherd**, MD—2009 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine "Resident Teacher Award."

Sandra Rosenfeld-O'Tool, MD—2009 "Teacher of the Year," DFM faculty.

Margo Schilling, MD from Internal Medicine/Geriatrics—2009 "Teacher of the Year," UI faculty (not DFM.)

Rita Ledbetter, RN, CNM from Trinity Obstetrics rotation—2009 "Teacher of the Year," Volunteer faculty.

In addition **Drs. Stephen Pallone** and **Ben Shepherd** were recognized for their leadership as 2008-2009 Chief Residents.

Carol Moss, BS has joined the department as a Research Assistant III to support our Research efforts.

Joan Farstad, MA has joined the department as a Program Associate I to support our Education efforts.

Grand Opening for the Reuben B. Widmer Professional Development Center

A Grand Opening Tea Party was held on Wednesday, May 13th, 2009 to celebrate the completion of the Widmer Center for Professional Development, in the space formerly known as the Widmer Library. Although Dr. Widmer was unable to attend, he was represented by seven of his relatives. Dr. Paul James spoke at the event, and Dr. George Bergus wrote a handout about the new Center, part of which says: "Today the Department of Family Medicine is proudly opening the Widmer Professional Development Center. Our new Widmer Center will be the home for our fellows in medical education, geriatric medicine, and sports medicine. In undertaking this redesigning, we did so with the knowledge that our fellows will thrive in this space and will inject new excitement and energy into the department. This center is dedicated to Reuben B. Widmer and to his passion for teaching and medical training." Dr. James added that "Special thanks go to **Dedra Diehl**, **Walter Robalino**, and **George Bergus** who did an incredible job of leading the planning and completion of our new Center."

Research Activities

In the past twelve months, members of our department have submitted 15 grants, made 47 presentations (including poster presentations) and published 16 articles. Among the Research efforts of department members are the following:

The DFM submitted the following Challenge Grant Proposals in response to the special funds available through the National Recovery Act: **Barcey Levy**— "Comparative Effectiveness of FIT vs. Colonoscopy for Colon Cancer Screening."

Jeanette Daly— "Decision Support for Diabetes Management Behavioral Change."

John Ely— "AskHERMES CSI: Exploring and Developing Clinical Spoken Language Tools for Spoken Question Answering."

Steven Levy, **Barcey Levy**— "Predicting Caries Risk in Underserved Toddlers in Urban and Rural Settings."

The following presentations were made at the AHRQ PBRN Annual Research Conference in Bethesda, MD, June 24-26, 2009:

Research Presentations:

Barcey Levy — "Iowa Get Screened: Colon Cancer Screening Program."

Jeanette Daly, Barcey Levy, John Ely— "Management of Skin and Soft Tissue Infections by Iowa Research Network Physicians: an Ongoing Study."

Barry Carter, Paul James, George Bergus, Yinghui Xu and others— "A Randomized –Controlled Effectiveness Trial of Physician/Pharmacist Collaboration to Improve Blood Pressure Control."

Poster Presentations:

John Ely, Jeanette Daly, Barcey Levy— "Primary Care Perceptions of Community-Acquired MRSA." (Winner of Best Poster Presentation)

Barry Carter— "A Collaborative Model to Improve Blood Pressure Control and Minimize Racial Disparities."

IRENE Presentation for Workshop:

Jeanette Daly — "Getting to Know Your Network: Collecting PBRN Member Surveys."

Jeanette Daly participated in the Elder Maltreatment Surveillance Stakeholders Meeting-Phase 2 in Atlanta, Georgia June 18-19, 2009. This meeting was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The DFM Times

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