

The DFM Times

October, 2009

Family Medicine Matters

In 2008, our department identified the patient centered medical home as our priority in medical education, research and in our patient care delivery. This emphasis on the medical home was well founded as we increasingly have seen it play an important part in discussions on health care reform. It is also gratifying to see that the medical home is part of UIHC strategic planning.

One focus of departmental activity has been on providing educational experiences for graduating residents in family medicine through fellowship training. Dr. Kate Thoma is in her second year of fellowship in medical education. She is studying for her Master's in Medical Education and will finish up in June of next year. A second clinical fellow is new to our department and is studying geriatric medicine. She is Dr. Malati Pamulapati and she comes to us from private practice in Minnesota. It is rejuvenating to have these young professionals in our midst. On a different side of fellowship training, we welcome our newest faculty member, Dr. Kyle Smoot, who comes to us from Kentucky. Dr. Smoot will be developing a primary care sports medicine program at the University of Iowa. We are glad to have each of these family physicians join us.

This month Dr. George Bergus will be recognized with one of the highest honors bestowed by the University when he receives the University of Iowa's President & Provost Award for Teaching Excellence. The Department of Family Medicine is pleased to bask in the glow of Dr. Bergus' significant accomplishment and happy to call him one of our own. Dr. Jason Wilbur and Dr. Jill Endres were honored in the department on September 9, 2009 for their promotion to Clinical Associate Professor. It was recently announced that Dr. Marcy Rosenbaum has received the Dr. Harold A. Myers Professorship which will support her educational efforts for the next three years. Please congratulate these worthy colleagues.

Last month brought sadness and loss to our department with the death of our valued departmental member and friend, Judy Moran-Meincke. Judy was our account specialist and I would direct your attention to the section in our newsletter celebrating her life.



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.

Honors, Awards, and Milestones

George Bergus, MD—2009 President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence

Dedra Diehl, MLS—25 years in the Department of Family Medicine

Amy Miranda—Professional Development Award: The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Marcy Rosenbaum, PhD—Dr. Harold A. Myers Distinguished Professorship

Residency Graduates' News

Colette Hostetler (1999) writes: “Have been at Unity Health Systems in Muscatine since 1999. I still do OB in my practice, working with a varied clientele including many Spanish-speaking patients.”

Penny Jeffery (1998) reports: “I am Medical Director of a Community Health Center (East Texas Community Health Services, Inc.), still working part-time, now outpatient only. We use entirely electronic medical records (Sevocity.) Allison (born during residency there) is now 12; Eric is 9. Arlen teaches Organic Chemistry at Stephen F. Austin University. I'm always looking to hire, so please give me a call if you're tired of those cold winters!”

Nancy B. McElwain (1979), who lives in Boulder, CO, writes: “Still practicing—happier since giving up night call! I am still very interested and stimulated by medical topics but find the increasing technology difficult to use in a helpful manner!”

Trisha Powers (2001) reports: “Currently working for Alegent Health in the Express Care Clinics. Live in Omaha with husband Jeff and children Reegyn (11), Ryanna (8) and Reece (3).”

Remembering Judy—by Sharon Booker



Family Medicine and Family Care Center faculty and staff were saddened to learn of the death of our Account Specialist, Judy Moran-Meincke, on September 11. Although Judy had been treated for cancer for a long time, she continued to work until September 1, and the suddenness of her passing caught us all by surprise. She was 48 years old.

Judy joined the Department of Family Medicine in September, 1998 as a Secretary 2, and was promoted to Account Specialist for both the Department of Family Medicine and the Family Care Center in December 2001. Judy never met a day without a smile; she was very exacting in her job responsibilities, and also had a great sense of fun and playfulness. She loved large get-togethers with family and friends, camping and collecting baskets.

On Thursday, October 8, faculty and staff gathered to remember Judy from their personal experiences.

Judy is survived by her husband, Dave, her mother, Karen Moran, her stepson Chris, his wife, Ashley, and her sister, Joyce, and her brother, Jim, and her many friends and colleagues.

Jason Wilbur's "STAY IN THE LOOP"

Medical Director's Log

Change is always on my mind, if not appreciable in my surroundings or my actions. In fact, I mostly see and do the same thing day after day, as if I'm a hamster on a wheel. What I see is frustration that everyone has with things *not* changing—or at least not improving—and what I feel is a push to work harder and do more with less. It could be that there's simply no rest for the wicked, and we carry a ton of bad karma. It could be that my vision is myopic, and I can't see beyond the immediate needs of the day. After all, it is hard to build a house with the frame always bursting into flames.

But change is on my mind. I hope that we will yet see better things for health care delivery—a science and an art truly in its infancy. Right now, we feel as if we work for Sisyphus Health System (Figure), but what will we think in a year or two or five? In the not-so-distant future, many others will acknowledge what we know—that our work in primary care is fundamentally good. The work we do will become recognized for its importance and investment in this foundation of health care delivery will follow.

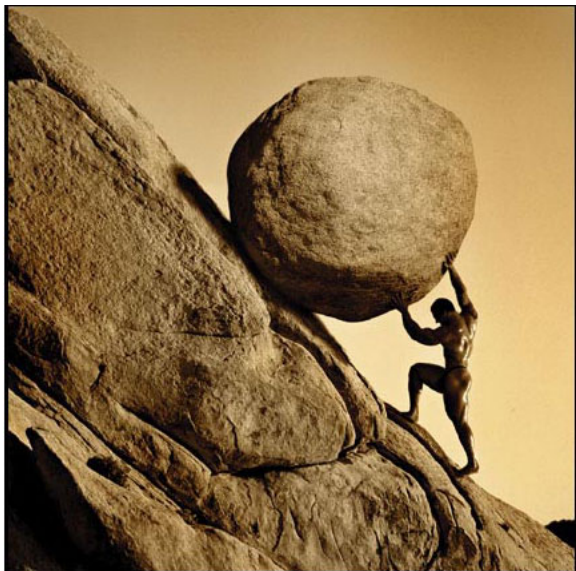


Figure: Sisyphus was condemned to push a rock over a mountain, but whenever he was close to the top, the rock would roll back down, forcing him to start over. (Note: That's a silhouette of the author.)

Back to the burning wood frame I mentioned. That's the "patient centered medical home", or PCMH for short. The more I read about this concept, the more sense it makes. After all, it is not really a new idea. Here is the basic premise (prepare to be underwhelmed): provide patients with convenient, accessible, comprehensive, relationship-based care. Isn't this what you as a patient would want? Isn't this what we would seek to provide anyway? But why is it so hard to do?

Building a PCMH takes a team of health care providers. If Sisyphus had a buddy, maybe he could push the rock over the hill. Of course, if you know about Sisyphus, you would not want to help him. He was a real jerk. But that's not the point. The point is the team. We cannot work in isolation to bring about change, but each individual must bring their passion to the mission. So, our first step is to pull ourselves into closer working relationships with each other. That's it—easy, eh? My parting plea is for communication, patience, and a little help from my friends. It seems like a small thing, but really it's the only thing.

New Department Members

Malati Pamulapati, MD has joined the department as a Geriatric Fellow.

Kyle Smoot, MD has joined the department as a Clinical Assistant Professor.

Research Update: Elder Mistreatment Team

The University of Iowa Department of Family Medicine Elder Mistreatment/Elder Abuse Team recently unveiled an electronic publication that includes an annotated bibliography of elder abuse research publications, state elder abuse statistics, a description of state investigative agency structures, screening instruments, and a critique of elder abuse screening instruments.

Co-investigator **Jeanette Daly**, RN, PhD, explains that for the Annotated Bibliography project, a comprehensive review of the literature was performed using 16 healthcare and criminal justice databases. Searches were conducted for English-language articles published through 2008 reporting on completed research on abuse of people aged 55 and older from any country. Studies were rated accordingly:

A=Evidence from well-designed meta-analysis.

B=Evidence from well-designed controlled trials; both randomized and nonrandomized, with results that consistently support a specific action (e.g., assessment, intervention or treatment).

C=Evidence from observational studies (e.g., correlational, descriptive studies) or controlled trials with inconsistent results.

D=Evidence from expert opinion or multiple case reports.

Dr. Daly reports that no studies were identified that met the “A” criterion; 14 studies were graded “B;” and most of the entries were rated “C.”

Although the research collected included only references published through 2008, Dr. Daly hopes to add new publications to the database in the future. The University of Iowa Elder Mistreatment Team has posted the database, along with other resources, online at: <http://www.uihealthcare.com/depts/med/familymedicine/research/eldermistreatment/index.html>

The project was funded through the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. The Principal Investigator is **Gerald Jogerst**, MD.

Over the past several years, the following current and former department members have worked on the Annotated Bibliography section of this project: Literature Index Searches: **Dedra Diehl**; Article Retrieval: **Jeanette Daly**, **Dedra Diehl**, and MANY student workers; Copying of Articles: **Judy Bontrager**, **Patty Gereau**, **Amy Miranda**, and Jenny Powell; Annotating and Grading of Research Articles: **Jeanette Daly**, **Gerald Jogerst**, **Mary Merchant**, and Ann Brodt; Database Development: Jose Jimenez.

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