

department of Medicine Newsletter

August 2013 Volume 12 Issue 2

THE WARREN ALPERT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF BROWN UNIVERSITY



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

INSIDE

Chairman's Message	2
Honors and Awards Endocrinology	3
Poppas appointed chair of ACC	3
Cardiovascular Research received grant	4
Cardiology	4
New Outpatient Dialysis Center	5
Geriatrics New Faculty	5
Hematology/Oncology New Faculty	5
VA News	5
Research Awards	6
Internal Medicine Residents	7
12th Annual Beckwith Family Awards	7
Our Epic Journey	8
Memorial Hospital News	9
Research Grants Awarded	10
Appointments & Promotions	10
Meet the Chief Residents	11

Visit our website at
www.brownmedicine.org

The Department of Medicine Newsletter is published 3 times per year. To submit an article or provide information contact Alex Mayer at 444-5127, e-mail to amayer@Lifespan.org or contact Dan Bryant at 444-6893, e-mail to dbryant@Lifespan.org.

Brown Appoints New Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences

Brown University has appointed Dr. Jack Elias, a physician-scientist specializing in immunobiology and pulmonary medicine, as its seventh dean of medicine and biological sciences. Elias, who is currently chairman of the Department of Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine and physician-in-chief of Yale-New Haven Hospital, will begin his work at Brown Sept. 1, 2013.

Brown President Christina Paxson said Elias, whose recent honors include election to the Institute of Medicine and the presidency of the Association of American Physicians, brings great experience in teaching, research, patient care, and administration to the Division of Biology and Medicine at Brown. The division includes five campus-based biology departments and the Warren Alpert Medical School.

"I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Elias to Brown at an especially exciting time for the University," Paxson said. "Our medical school and research programs, for instance in brain science, are experiencing significant growth, and soon we will embark on a new strategic plan to continue this momentum. As an internationally recognized biomedical researcher, educator, administrator, and practitioner, Dr. Elias is a wonderful addition to our leadership team."

In a professional career spanning more than 30 years since earning his bachelor's degree and M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, Elias has cared for patients with a wide variety of lung ailments and injuries and has conducted research on conditions including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, pulmonary fibrosis, and the effects of smoking. He has served as chair of medicine and physician-in-chief at Yale-New Haven hospital since 2006.

With consistent support from the National Institutes of Health, Elias has trained scores of young researchers and published more than 200 original peer-reviewed research papers.



Dr. Jack Elias

He has also frequently earned funding from industry and private foundations and holds several patents with many more pending.

A new leader

Elias said he hopes to build on the high quality of scholarship and patient care in Brown's academic medical center.

"It is a real pleasure and honor to join the Brown biology and medical community," Elias said. "We live in an age where the biologic sciences are exploding with new knowledge, the building blocks of disease pathogenesis are being discovered, new therapeutics and approaches to disease are developing at an unparalleled pace, and health care is undergoing unprecedented alteration."

"I look forward to working with our medical and biology faculty and students as well as all other Brown faculty and our hospital and community partners to continue to strengthen the outstanding traditions of Brown in education, research, and clinical care."

Elias will succeed Dr. Edward J. Wing, who became dean in 2008 and will step down from the position July 1. During those five years, the Alpert Medical School expanded the class size to 120, opened the school's first dedicated

New Dean Appointed *continued*

home at 222 Richmond St., and completed new affiliation agreements with the Lifespan and Care New England health care systems.

Brown Provost Mark Schlissel will serve as interim dean until Sept. 1, when Elias arrives. Schlissel, himself a physician-scientist, led the nationwide search that culminated in hiring Elias. Schlissel praised Elias as a model researcher and clinician with great ambitions for the division.

“Dr. Elias understands Brown’s strengths and potential and will devote his considerable acumen and energy to help us achieve that future,” Schlissel said. “I and the other members of the committee were impressed by his passion for building upon the excellence of our programs in medicine and biology.”

Chairman’s Message: A Look at Technology



Louis Rice, MD

Like many in my generation, I often find myself overwhelmed and annoyed by modern technology. One or two hours out of the office and I return to twenty or thirty e-mails, each making a claim on my attention (returning after a vacation is a complete disaster). My personal e-mail is far worse, with the spam: important e-mail ratio approaching 50:1. News shows of every political leaning are on television, with crawlers on the bottom of the screen offering a different story than the one being reported. My children never seem to have their noses out of their smart phones, deriving some sort of comfort from the constant distraction. The information overload characteristic of our contemporary society increasingly encroaches on what used to be time for thinking, for reflection. I worry about this because the problems we as a society face are difficult, without easy answers. They will not be well solved without considerable reflection.

I also realize how much better life has become with technology. Everything is more convenient with the internet. Banking, paying bills, making restaurant reservations, buying plane or theatre tickets, watching movies at home, contacting loved ones (skype was science fiction when I was young) are

all immensely easier than they used to be. Stopping someone on the street and asking directions or fighting with an unwieldy map have become things of the past. So the question we all face is not simply whether technology is good or bad, but whether it is feasible to manage technology in a way that maximizes the benefits and minimizes the harms – the classic risk/benefit analysis with which physicians are well acquainted.

Our health care system has its own issues with technology. In the Lifespan Hospitals, we are now almost completely electronic. The benefits of the electronic system in terms of data retrieval are obvious (younger physicians likely cannot conceive of a circumstance where an old chart is not available), but this evolution has not been without its pain and suffering. Physicians, particularly more mature ones (like me) who do not type fast find that the care and feeding of the electronic record adds hours to the workday and invades home life. Requirements, whether for satisfying regulatory agencies, payers or quality mandates add annoying clicks and thus, precious minutes to the process of completing notes, as well as large volumes of data to final product, often making it difficult to discern a coherent message or story from a note. The emphasis on standardized data entry is important for our ability to measure and track what we are doing on a broad scale, but its impact on an individual patient’s care is difficult to measure and its negative impact on the physician’s experience is quite real. As in the broader world outside medicine, our increasing technologic bent threatens to rob us of the time, focus and opportunity for reflection.

As we continue to evolve into a completely electronic medical record, we as physicians must be sure that we maintain our ability to think carefully about our patients. As internists, the development of a differential diagnosis is the core of what we do. A careful

consideration of all the diagnostic possibilities and a thoughtful weighing of the available evidence are critical to the proper care of the individual patient and will be increasingly important as we strive to make our health care system more efficient, more affordable and less dangerous. Equally important, we must communicate our thoughts in the electronic chart so that others can understand our thinking and, it is hoped, learn from it. My ideal note of the future is one in which all of the routine data are hidden in the background (though easily retrievable) and only the narrative portions of the nurses’ and physicians notes visible when a note is opened.

Over the next two years, Lifespan hospitals will be installing the EPIC computerized medical record. When fully installed, EPIC promises to connect the vast majority of the four Lifespan hospitals and (ideally) a large group of ambulatory areas onto a single system. By all accounts, the system is sophisticated and intuitive and will allow us to do far more than we can now with increased ease and efficiency. The process of converting from our current mixture of systems to EPIC will undoubtedly have its inconveniences and glitches, but we will be in a much better place when the conversion is complete. I urge all in the Department of Medicine to be proactive and to participate fully and enthusiastically in our conversion to this new vehicle to help us care for our patients.

Honors and Awards for Endocrinology Faculty

Geetha Gopalakrishnan, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, was elected to serve as Treasurer- Secretary for the Association for Program Directors in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism. This is a one year term beginning July 2013.

Hilary Whitlatch, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has been awarded the 2013 Outstanding Physician of the Year from the RI Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for her selfless dedication to the care of America's Veterans. Dr. Whitlatch joins a select group of distinguished awardees from Providence. Dr. Whitlatch accepted her award at the annual DAV Convention in April 2013.

Eduardo Nillni, PhD A new discovery from Dr. Nillni's laboratory uncovered that the obese brain impedes the production of a hormone that curbs appetite and inspires calorie burning. The root cause appears to be an obstruction in the protein-processing mechanism of a strong hypothalamic

anorexigenic prohormone, POMC that produces the a-MSH hormone. This discovery was recently published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* followed by a press release and publicized in the web medical news. This study was the subject of an outstanding abstract award and nominated for the presidential award at the Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society held in San Francisco 2013.

In a second study, Nillni's laboratory discovered that the hypothalamic Sirt1 enzyme, an evolutionarily conserved NAD⁺-dependent deacetylase that regulates a myriad of cellular processes including cell differentiation, apoptosis, metabolism, and aging regulates the hypothalamic pituitary adrenal axis. This study conducted by graduate student, Anika Toorie, received the presidential award at the Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society held in San Francisco 2013.

Trascon Adult Endocrinology Pocketbook (Eds. Laufgraben MJ and Gopalakrishnan G) was recently published by Jones & Bartlett Learning. Several faculty members within the Division of Endocrinology including Vicky Cheng and Hari Bhatt authored chapters in the book.

Dr. Sarah E. Mayson joining the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism



Sarah E. Mayson, MD graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2003 from Bucknell University and Doctorate of Medicine in 2007 from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. She subsequently completed

her residency training in Internal Medicine and fellowship training in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of Pennsylvania in 2010 and 2012 respectively. She is currently an instructor in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and is anticipated to join the faculty at Alpert Medical School of Brown University in September of 2013. Her clinical and academic focus will be in the area of pituitary and thyroid disorders.

Dr. Mayson will be based at Rhode Island Hospital and the Hallett Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology. She can be reached at 444-8344.

Poppas Appointed Chair of American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Sessions



Athena Poppas, MD, director of the echocardiography laboratory at Rhode Island Hospital and director of cardiovascular imaging at the Cardiovascular Institute, has been appointed chair of

the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Annual Scientific Session, effective 2015. The chair is charged, during a two-year term, with overseeing the Annual Scientific Session, the educational flagship event of the ACC.

"This is the biggest of the big for cardiologists," said Samuel Dudley, MD, director of the Cardiovascular Institute of Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals. "This appointment is a well-deserved recognition of Dr. Poppas and her ongoing

research and clinical contributions to cardiology. She is a leader in every sense of the word, and I have no doubt she will be an effective and engaging chair for the college's flagship event."

For more than 60 years, the Annual Scientific Session has brought together the best minds in cardiology, the latest groundbreaking clinical research and unprecedented educational opportunities. Each year, the session attracts more than 1,700 faculty from academic medical centers around the country, who deliver more than 3,200 presentations in nearly 500 sessions. Both the chair and vice chair positions fall within a new governance policy for the leadership of the ACC Annual Scientific Session that was recently developed by a presidential task force.

"I personally can't think of anyone better than Dr. Poppas to fill this new and vitally

important role at the college," said ACC President John Gordon Harold, MD, MACC. "In order to continue to meet the needs of the entire cardiovascular community during a time of rapid and constant changes in health care delivery, digital technology and education, it's critical that the college have strong and consistent leadership to ensure the meeting is in line with the college's overall strategic planning."

In addition to her new role with the ACC, Poppas also serves as a member of the ACC board of trustees and chair of the ACC Sections Steering Committee. She is also an associate professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Her clinical and research expertise is in echocardiography, valvular heart disease and heart disease in women.

Cardiovascular Research Center Receives Grant



Dr. Gideon Koren and the staff of the CVRC are happy to share the recent funding by the NHLBI of a \$7 million System Biology Grant entitled: "A Multi Scale Approach to

Cardiac Arrhythmia: From the molecule to the Organ". This is a collaborative grant application of most CVRC investigators and scientists from Northeastern University and UCLA. It proposes to develop and validate an innovative multi-scale computational model that will integrate our observations in genetic rabbit models with high risk of SCD risk at the organ, cellular and

molecular level in order to generate a predictive model of how genetic and environmental factors such as sex hormones and sympathetic stimulation modulate SCD risk. Our approach is to conduct multi-scale computer modeling and experiments including investigation of changes of protein network induced by sex hormones and their consequences on calcium dynamics, membrane excitability and arrhythmogenesis in single cardiomyocytes, tissue engineered myocardium and the heart. This enhanced knowledge should lead to more effective strategies for prevention of SCD in a broad spectrum of genetic and acquired cardiac disorders with meaningful public health benefit.

New Leadership Roles and Accomplishments for Cardiology Faculty

Dr. J. Dawn Abbott has been appointed Co-chair of the Program Director's Committee, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Foundation (3 year term)

Karen Aspry, MD was elected to the Board of Directors, Northeast Lipid Association (Affiliate of the National Lipid Association) and elected Co-Chair, Practice Management Committee of the National Lipid Association

Drs. Tony Chu and **Afshin Ehsan** (Cardiac Surgery) performed the first collaborative, hybrid atrial fibrillation ablation in the region using the EX-MAZE procedure at Rhode Island Hospital in June 2013

Dr. Michael Kim has been elected to the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology effective 7/1.

Dr. Ulrike Mende has been appointed to Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal Life Science and had an article co-authored with Peng Zhang on the "Functional Role, Mechanisms of Regulation and Therapeutic Potential of Regulator of G Protein Signaling 2 in the Heart" was accepted for publication in Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine.

Dr. Peter Soukas served on the Scientific Affairs Committee of the C₃ (Complex Cardiovascular Therapeutics) Symposium in Orlando, FL and chaired the Covered Stents for SFA session and delivered a talk on "The role of covered stents in long segment SFA disease: Insights from the VIPER trial and a single operator experience". He also gave two talks at the New Cardiovascular Horizons Symposium in New Orleans: "The Supera Vasculomimetic Stent in SFA Disease" and "Stent Graft to Treat In-Stent Restenosis of Bare Metal Stents"

Congratulations to the Graduating Cardiology Fellows

George Charleton, MD – Preventive Card/Imaging Fellow, Brown University, Providence RI

Antonio Fernandez, MD – Academic Practice, Hartford Hospital, Hartford CT

Phil Formica, MD – Practice, Southcoast Health System, Fairhaven, CT

Aarti Campo, MD – Practice, Pinnacle Health CV Institute, Harrisburg, PA

Jiwon Kim, MD – Advanced Imaging Fellowship, Weill-Cornell Medical College, New York, NY

Taz Mansoor, MD – Practice, Pinnacle Health CV Institute, Harrisburg, PA

Second Annual Geriatric Leadership Conference for Residents and Nurses in Mystic, CT

Lynn McNicoll, MD

Nineteen residents, fellows, and nurses spent a sunshine-filled weekend on Mystic CT in May 2013 as part of the CRIT – Chief Resident Immersion Training in the Care of the Elderly program. Drs. Staci Fischer and Lynn McNicoll received a grant from the Hearst Foundation in 2011 to provide a weekend retreat to residents and fellows-in-training to learn about leadership skills, with a focus on care of elders. We invited nurse champions from Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital to provide the interdisciplinary experience. The faculty consisted of residency directors from medicine and surgery as well as other medicine and geriatrics.

The kick-off dinner on Friday featured an invited guest, one of the CRIT attendees from 2012, Alan Daniels who presented his year-long project to enhance geriatric education among orthopedic residents. This aligned well with the new and highly successful Geriatric Fracture Program started in August 2011.

The conference combines adult learner methods with small group discussions around the case of an 86-year-old woman who was admitted to the hospital and required surgery, suffering from many of the complications that older persons are prone to, such as delirium. The patient is discussed in three modules, which consist of small group discussions regarding the care/theme, then brief, targeted lectures on geriatrics care (such as delirium and pain management) and brief lectures on leadership issues (such as conflict resolution and giving feedback).

Part of the retreat is the development of a year-long project on a quality-related issue involving the care of older persons within each participant's related field. At the conference, participants had the opportunity to meet with faculty to brainstorm, refine, and finalize a project that they have been working on all year. In March, we will celebrate their progress.

Next year the conference is scheduled to be the weekend of **May 3-4, 2014, in Mystic, Connecticut** right across from Mystic Aquarium and not far from Mystic Pizza. Participants are encouraged to bring their families, since afternoons are free to enjoy with their loved ones.

Division of Nephrology Opens New Outpatient Dialysis Center

In October 2009, the Rhode Island Hospital opened a freestanding dialysis unit, near the hospital in Providence, with the goal of providing state of the art dialysis care to patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD), as well as serving as a clinical laboratory for research and as a training site for medical residents and nephrology fellows. The unit has experienced huge growth in the ensuing three and a half years, going from a census of 1 to 78 patients, and as a result, a satellite dialysis clinic, with the same goals of excellent clinical care, teaching, and research opened in East Providence in May 2013.

Both clinics use state of the art dialysis equipment, have the lowest staff to patient ratio in the state, and offer all available dialysis modalities to patients with ESRD: incenter hemodialysis, home hemodialysis, and home peritoneal dialysis. The clinics

have served as sites for clinical research in anemia treatment in ESRD, management of malnutrition in ESRD, and hepatitis immunity in ESRD patients.

The units are directed by faculty of the Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension in University Medicine. Dr. Douglas Shemin is the medical director of the clinics, Dr. John O'Bell is the associate medical director for the new East Providence unit, Dr. Susie Hu is the director of the peritoneal dialysis program, and Dr. George Bayliss is the director of the home hemodialysis program. Interested physicians, University Medicine staff, or patients are invited to call 444 4440 (Providence clinic) or 606 1002 (East Providence clinic) for a tour or further information about the clinics

News from the VA Medical Service

Elizabeth Harrington, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for BioMed Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at Brown, has been appointed a permanent member of the member of the AHA Founders Affiliate Research Committee, effective 7/1/2013 through 6/30/2015.

Albert Lo, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurology, was named Federal Employee of the Year, Professional Category, by the Federal Executive Council of RI.

Thomas O'Toole, MD, Professor of Medicine and Head of the Special Populations Clinic, was named Federal Employee of the Year and was honored by receipt of the Bud Gifford Leadership Award, awarded by the Federal Executive Council of RI.

Sharon Rounds, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Medical Service, has been appointed a permanent member of the Respiratory Integrative Biology and Translational Research (RIBT) study section.

Michael Siclari, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Wilfredo Curioso, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine and Chief of Emergency Medicine, were named alternate councilors for RI ACEP to the national ACEP council.

Martin Weinstock, MD, PhD, Professor of Dermatology and Chief of Dermatology at Providence VAMC, was honored as the Lila and Murray Gruber Memorial Cancer Research Awardee.

Primary Care Patient Aligned Care Team Awardees

A number of primary care providers at the Providence VA Medical Center were recognized by the Veterans Health Administration nationally for outstanding care delivered through the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT), the VA's patient centered medical home model. Measures in determining PACT Recognition included high levels of continuity, access (same day, scheduled, and via telephone),

post-discharge contact, and team oriented approaches to care.

Drs. John Bas, Emily LeVeon, and Lorna Russell and their teams were recognized at the Silver level. **Drs. Jeffrey Austerlitz, Joan Karl, and Parviz Shavandy** and their teams received recognition at the Gold level. In addition, Dr. Austerlitz's team was the only PACT in VA New England to sustain Gold status for two consecutive years.

Division of Geriatrics Welcomes New Faculty

Lidia Vognar, MD, Geriatrics fellow from Duke, will be joining the Division as Assistant Professor, and based at the Providence VA Medical Center. She is involved in research on Elder Abuse, and she will be key in our further development of the geriatrics clinical and educational program at the VA.

Lisa Boulton, MD, has been Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins, and will be joining our Division as medical director at Tockwotton on the Waterfront. Dr. Boulton will also lead the Humanism in Medicine Curriculum at Alpert Medical School.

Division of Hematology/Oncology Welcomes New Faculty

John Reagan, MD, and **Priscilla Merriam, MD** both completed Internal Medicine Residency training at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and stayed on to serve as Chief Residents in 2009-2010. John attended medical school at SUNY Upstate and Priscilla attended Jefferson Medical College.

Jodi Layton, MD completed her Internal Medicine Residency training at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA where she also served as Chief Resident from 2008-2009. She completed her fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Research Awards

Havovi Chichner, PhD, Research Associate in the Vascular Research Laboratory at the **Providence VA Medical Center**, has been awarded an American Heart Association Founders Affiliate Postdoctoral fellowship award entitled 'Mechanisms Regulating Pulmonary Endothelial Barrier Function Through VE-Cadherin Trafficking'. The mentor on this award is Elizabeth Harrington, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine. Award amount is \$89,000

Gaurav Choudhary, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, and **Qing Lu, DVM, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, have been awarded a Shared Equipment Evaluation Program award from the VA for \$490,030 to fund purchase of equipment for the Vascular Research Laboratory, including a Rodent Smoke Exposure Machine, an Electrical Cell-Substrate Impedance Sensing Device, and an tissue section fluorescence scanner.

Peter Friedmann, MD, MPH, of the Division of General Internal Medicine, Professor of Medicine and Health Services, Policy and Practice has been awarded a \$1.65 million Health Services and Research Development award (10/1/13-9/30/16) from the Department of Veterans Affairs to direct the Center of Innovation (COIN) on Long-Term Services and Supports for Vulnerable Veterans at the Providence VA Medical Center. The goal of the center is to stimulate and develop health services research to enhance access, quality and value of long-term services and supports that maximize veterans' resilience, social participation and quality of life.

Elizabeth Harrington, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Providence VAMC, is PI on a recently awarded renewal application of R25 HL088992, entitled "Short-Term Training Program to Increase Diversity in Health-Related Research", for 6/12-6/17 from the NHLBI at \$92,000 per year. This grant, which has been ongoing at Brown and affiliated hospitals since 1992, brings undergraduates from under-represented backgrounds to Brown for summer research experiences.

Dr. Rami Kantor, Division of Infectious Diseases was awarded a grant from the NIH in collaboration with investigators at Stanford University and YRG-Care in Chennai India to study the evolution of HIV drug resistance in southern India using novel assays. This research would provide knowledge on the

development, persistence and decay of drug resistance to common medications in HIV-1 subtype C, the most prevalent global HIV variant, which is the predominant subtype in India.

Dr. Kantor was also awarded a seed grant from Brown University in collaboration with Brown Investigators Dr. Anubhav Tripathi (School of Engineering), Dr. Sorin Istrail (Center for Computational Molecular Biology) and Dr. Joseph Hogan (Center for Statistical Sciences), to develop a novel microfluidic device to detect development of HIV drug resistance mutations. This device would be applicable for use particularly in resource limited settings, where the HIV pandemic is most prevalent and where cost-effective resistance detection methods are essential.

Dr. Steven Moss, Division of Gastroenterology, was the guest editor of the June 2013 issue of *Gastroenterology Clinics of North America*, devoted to the topic of gastric cancer. Among the chapters contributed by experts worldwide the chapter on the Surgical Treatment of Gastric Cancer was authored by Andrew Blakely (resident) and Thomas Miner (attending) from the Department of Surgery and Rhode Island Hospital and the chapter on the Pathology Of Gastric Cancer was authored by Drs. Yakirevich and Murray Resnick, 2 attendings in the Department of Pathology at Rhode Island Hospital.

Marguerite Neil, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, **Division of Infectious Diseases at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island** is the Principle Investigator on a Clostridium difficile toxoid vaccine trial sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur. Clostridium difficile is an important pathogen causing community and hospital acquired diarrhea. This study will assess the efficacy of a vaccine in preventing infection by Clostridium difficile.

Dr. Amy Nunn, Division of Infectious Diseases, was awarded a grant for \$75,000 from the MAC AIDS Fund to work with African American clergy on HIV testing, treatment and prevention projects in Jackson, Mississippi.

Steve Opal, MD, Professor of Medicine, **Division of Infectious Diseases at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island** is the Principal Investigator on the "Role of Inter-alpha in Anthrax Intoxication," grant which received \$799,975 in funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

Diseases (NIAID). This project is focused on the development of inter-alpha inhibitor proteins for protection of anthrax exposure from a bioterrorism attack.

Dr. Jody Rich, Division of Infectious Diseases, and the Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights (Center) recently received three small but significant grants. The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) awarded the Center a grant to develop informational materials for corrections officials and staff that reflect best practices for managing and treating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) prisoners. The Center will work closely with its partner on the grant, The Fenway Institute, and the NIC to create these materials, which will be used in correctional facilities around the country. Brad Brockmann, Executive Director of the Center, is the PI on the grant, Dr. Sean Cahill of the Fenway Institute is Co-I, and Dr. Rich is the principal consultant.

The Pembroke Center at Brown University awarded a Seed Grant to **Dr. Rich** and the Center to launch an initiative at Brown that will investigate non-financial barriers to effective engagement in healthcare faced by prisoners and other criminal justice involved individuals. Dr. Rich is Project Director. The Center is in the process of organizing a series of symposia that will bring together faculty from medicine, public health, and the social sciences to examine and address different of these barriers. This a unique opportunity to broaden cross-disciplinary collaborative efforts in the context of doing interdisciplinary research to address a pressing national issue as healthcare reform kicks into full gear, and millions of low income individuals with limited, if any, experience with regular healthcare become eligible for Medicaid.

Katherine M. Sharkey, MD, PhD, FAASM of the **Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine**, was elected to chair the Circadian Rhythms Section of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM). As section chair, Dr. Sharkey and her steering committee advise the AASM board on new Academy initiatives relevant to Circadian Rhythm Sleep-Wake Disorders, make recommendations regarding the content of the annual SLEEP meeting, and contribute circadian rhythm questions to the AASM maintenance of certification (MOC) modules.

Continued on page 10

Internal Medicine Residents Career Plans

Congratulations to our recent class of Internal Medicine Residency graduates! We are gratified to know that these residents will be practicing primary care, either in the outpatient setting or as Hospitalists, and we know that they will make our institution proud.

Adam Albano, MD

Fenway Community Health Center, Cambridge, MA

Daniel Chen, MD

Hospitalist, VA Hospital, Providence, RI

Tiffany Chen, MD

Hospitalist, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI

Lauren de Leon, MD

Coastal Medical, Greenville, RI

Michael Engels, MD

Hospitalist Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI

Joshua Fischer, MD

Coastal Medical, East Providence, RI

Michael Furman, MD

Hospitalist, South County Hospital, Wakefield, RI

Varinder Kambo, MD

Hospitalist, Lenox Hill, Manhattan, NY

Chiduzie Madubata, MD

Hospitalist, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI

Anne McKinley, MD

Beth Israel Deaconess Healthcare, Boston, MA

Karthik Ravindran, MD

Hospitalist, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI

Manisha Reddy, MD

Hospitalist, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI

Alicia Ringel, MD

Newton Wellesley Hospital, Newton, MA

Hubert Roberts, MD

Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates, West Roxbury, MA

Kristin Robinson, MD

Internal Medicine Group, Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY

John Updike, MD

Hospitalist, Boulder Community Hospital, Boulder, CO

Robert Velasco, MD

Women's Health Associates, Providence, RI

Christine Wang, MD

Hospitalist, Mount Auburn, Cambridge, MA

The Twelfth Annual Alpert Medical School, Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching



The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund has been established at Brown Medical School through generous gifts to endowment from the Beckwith Family Foundation.

The endowment Fund is used to support the education and research mission of the Department of Medicine, with an emphasis on the education and training of medical residents.

Each year the Fund supports the presentation of the Annual Brown Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching. This award is to recognize superb teaching by its faculty. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, program and course directors in the Brown Medical School Department of Medicine. Each winner is presented with a plaque and a cash prize.

George Bayliss, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Geetha Gopalakrishnan, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine, Teaching Scholar Track

Nicholas Grumbach, MD

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics*

Fadlallah Habr, MD

Associate Professor Medicine (Clinical)

Jeffrey Mazer, MD

Assistant Professor Medicine

Kittichai Promrat, MD

Associate Professor Medicine, Teaching Scholar Track

Eric Winer, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sabrina Witherby, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine (Clinical)

Our Epic Journey Begins: A New Electronic Medical Record

Eric Alper, MD

Despite our many successes with our electronic medical record systems to dates, our systems do not effectively communicate with one another. LifeLinks is approaching end-of-life, and some of our systems do not provide us with the capabilities that we desire. As a result, Lifespan has chosen to move forward with a new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. After an extensive evaluation process during which physicians were heavily represented, we signed our contract with Epic in January. Since then, we have already accomplished a number of *key milestones*:

- We identified and assembled a team of IS staff, clinical and operations individuals to compose the Epic team. We created a governance structure for that team. Dr. Eric Alper and Nancy Barrett co-direct the Epic project. Dr. William Corwin and Sue Whetstone RN are responsible for the Acute Care arm of the project. Chris Tucci RN and a physician to be named are responsible for the Ambulatory Care arm of the project. Judy Lischio is responsible for Patient Access and Revenue Cycle. Chris Bolduc is in charge of planning the technical part of the implementation. And Stephanie Thanos is leading the effort on Training.
- We have secured the time of a number of physician champions and subject matter experts so that they are able to consistently provide input to the project team. The champions/subject matter experts representing Medicine include: Staci Fischer M.D. (Phoenix Transplant and Graduate Medical Education), Mitchell Levy, M.D. (Critical Care), Matthew Quesenberry M.D. (Hematology/Oncology), Samantha Kibbe, NP (Hospital Medicine), Peg Miller M.D. (Women's Medicine/Primary Care), Antonia Ross M.D. (UMF, Primary Care), Mark Paulos, M.D. (Men's Health, Primary Care), Eric Radler, M.D. (Hospital Medicine). A number of additional subject matter experts have been identified to represent as many areas of the organization as possible.
- We have come up with a Vision, Goals, and Guiding Principles which are helping to drive decisions that are made about how the system will be built. See below for additional details.
- We have defined our scope. We have a very ambitious project, in that we wish to introduce Epic into the Medical Units, Emergency Departments, Critical Care areas, Operating Rooms, Radiology,

Pharmacy, Ambulatory Primary Care, Oncology, Transplant, Ophthalmology and other specialty practices. We will implement the "MyChart" patient portal. The only major systems that are "staying behind" are the laboratory "Soft Lab" system and Radiology's PACS system. We plan to introduce device integration, some new hardware, and a number of additional advances prior to and after our go-live.

- The Epic team held "Discovery Visits," where they visited many of our clinical and business areas to better understand Lifespan and how to implement their system most effectively.
- We conducted our first of three sets of Validation Sessions—approximately 150 sessions over 3 days in July-- where Epic demonstrated how the system works in a number of areas to assure that the system will meet our needs. In areas where our clinicians expressed concerns that the system will not meet our needs, a process of analysis and reengineering will begin shortly. We need to determine whether we need to adapt the Epic system to fit our process or whether we need to revise our processes to make them more efficient to work well within Epic. Our second set of Validation Sessions occurs from July 30-August 1, and the final group from August 20-22.

After the Validation Sessions are complete, we will conduct a series of reengineering sessions to better define our approach to less clear items.

Beginning in September, we will enter the Build phase of the project. For the next 10 months, our teams will be building all of the screens and content that we will use. Following that, we will enter a phase where we will do detailed testing of our system, then training, then go-live. Our go-live date is April 1, 2015.

Training: Given that we know that users who receive training are more efficient and more capable of using the system once we go live, Lifespan has decided that training will be required for all staff and all physicians who will use Epic. We will require at least 8 hours of training. The Medical Executive Committees all approved a resolution strongly endorsing this requirement. Physicians can practice in a "sandbox" environment before go live. There will be plenty of "superuser" support around go live.

Finally, here are our high level *vision and guiding principles* for the Epic project. These are not focused around how to effectively install Epic's software, but how to transform Lifespan to a health care system that functions at the highest level:

Our vision is that:

- Lifespan is transformed into a patient centered health care system.
- The process of care is optimized, and health professionals are freed by technology to focus on the patients and to meet their needs.
- Seamless care across the continuum positions us to improve the health of the population, meet the needs of our community partners, and thrive in an economic model based on value rather than volume.

Our Guiding Principles are:

We will make decisions based on what is in the best interests of the patient, his/her family, and the population we serve.

We will create processes that further Lifespan's vision to act as a single health care system. We will standardize workflows across the enterprise to ensure singular standards of care. Enterprise-wide objectives will be prioritized ahead of individual unit or department objectives.

We will drive operational change to produce workflows that are more efficient and effective.

- We will utilize the integrated solutions provided by Epic to build the foundation of our platform. National/industry standards and regulations will drive decision-making. Customization or alternative vendor solutions will be a rare exception that must be justified for clinical, accreditation, or business need and approved by the Epic Project Steering Committee.

If you have any further questions about the Epic project, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Eric Alper, Medical Director of IS, at ecalper@lifespan.org.

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island Congratulates Graduating Residents

2013 Residents going to work in Primary Care

Abdel Anabtawi, MD

Hospitalist,
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Abdul Bhutta, MD

Hospitalist position,
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT

Yazan Migdady, MD

Hospitalist,
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2013 Fellowship Results

Michael Agustin, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care,
St. Elizabeth's Hospital/Tufts University
School of Medicine, Boston, MA

Manoj Bhattarai, MD

Nephrology,
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center,
Pittsburgh, PA

Abdullah Chahin, MD

Infectious Disease,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard
Medical School, Boston, MA

Denisa Hagau, MD

Cardiology,
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center/Tufts Medical
School, Boston, MA

Andrea Kassai, MD

Endocrinology/Research,
National Institute of Health (NIH),
Bethesda, MD

Mohamed Mourad, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care,
University of Kansas, Kansas City, MO

Teresa Slomka, MD

Preventive Cardiology,
VA Medical Center, Providence, RI

Faculty News from Memorial Hospital

Sajid Saraf, MD, Instructor of Medicine, Hospitalist, had been appointed as the Site Director for the Core Clerkship in Internal Medicine.

Steven Opal, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease, an international expert in sepsis, recently gave Grand Rounds at Winthrop University Hospital on "The Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines for Treating Infecting Pathogens."

Taro Minami, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Clinical), Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, is a Critical Care Ultrasound Faculty Member of ACCP and a reviewer for the certification program. He teaches ultrasound at the ACCP yearly conference.

Memorial Hospital Welcomes New Intern Class

Umama Gorski, MD – Allama Iqbal Medical College, Pakistan

Ameya Hodarkar, MD – Rajiv Gandhi Medical College, India

Jae Lee, MD – Hanyang University, South Korea

Fady Marmoush, MD – University of Cairo, Egypt

Anum Saeed, MD – Ziauddin Medical College, Pakistan

Mervat Saleh, MD – Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan

Rachana Sedhal, MD – Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Muhammad Shafi, MD – DOW Medical College, Pakistan

Omair Tahir, MD – Army Medical College, Pakistan

Arman Uzunyan, MD – Yerevan State Medical University Mkhitar, Armenia

Nicole Yang, MD – Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore

Chief Resident for Internal Medicine at Memorial Hospital



Carolina Fonseca Valencia, MD is the Chief Resident for Internal Medicine at Memorial Hospital of RI/Alpert Medical School. Born in Colombia, South America Carolina attended medical school at the Universidad de Antioquia. In medical school Carolina was involved in basic science research in immunology. She gained experience with the US healthcare system during a three month externship at several Boston-area hospitals affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

After completing her internship and medical school training at Universidad de Antioquia, Carolina worked in an underserved area of Colombia as a rural physician for 6 months. There she cared for patients in primary care settings and in emergency departments. In 2007 Carolina came to the US to pursue training in Internal Medicine.

While preparing for her USMLE step exams in the United States, Carolina worked as a volunteer in several community clinics in underserved population areas of North Carolina. This experience confirmed her decision to enter an Internal Medicine Residency Program with the goal of becoming a primary care practitioner. She joined the IM residency program at Memorial Hospital of RI/Alpert Medical School in 2010, graduating in 2013. Following the Chief Residency year, Carolina plans on continuing a career in primary care medicine in an academic institution where she can continue to teach medical students and residents.

Outside the hospital she enjoys spending time with her family and exploring the New England area.

Research Awards *continued*

Dr. Lynn Taylor, Division of Infectious Diseases, served as Advisor, at the Second Meeting of the Guideline Development Group to develop World Health Organization Standard Guidelines for Screening, Care and Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection. Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 June 2013.

Dr Taylor also received a 3-Year, \$300,000 Rhode Island Innovation Fellowship, Entitled- **“Rhode Island Defeats Hep C.”** Rhode Island Innovation Fellows will receive up to \$300,000 over three years to develop, test, and implement innovative ideas that have the potential to dramatically improve any area of life in Rhode Island.

Peng Zhang, from the Cardiovascular Research Center, received a Scientist Development Grant award from the National Center of the American Heart Association (1/2013 - 12/2016), and a Seed Fund Award from the NIH COBRE Center for Cancer Signaling Networks (6/2013 - 3/2014)

The John A. Hartford Foundation has awarded renewal for 3 years of a Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and training at Alpert Medical School to the **Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine** (7/13, \$282,000) to support career development for academic geriatricians.

The Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine and the Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research of the School of Public Health were awarded a Next Steps II grant by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (\$1 million over 4 years). The grant will support geriatrics education for orthopedics and general surgery residents via co-management programs, for residents in emergency medicine, neurology and neurosurgery, and for hospitalists at RIH and TMH.

The Division of Hematology/Oncology received notice of funding for an NIH Common Fund Grant, which is in collaboration with Dr Giovanni Camussi and colleagues at The University of Turin, Torino, Italy. This grant focuses on restoration of damaged kidney and marrow tissue with mesenchymal stem cell derived vesicles.

Research Grants Awarded to the Center for AIDS Research

The Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) has received three highly competitive Administrative Supplements from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the following categories: HIV treatment cascade, sexual violence and International Career development.

Nick Zaller, PhD (Assistant Professor of Medicine-Research) received a \$100,000 supplement for his work on the “HIV Care Cascade in Community Corrections: Implications for HIV Treatment Outcomes among Criminal Justice Involved Populations”. Dr. Zaller and his collaborators at the Friends Institute in Baltimore and George Washington University will conduct an exploratory study among HIV+ persons in community corrections (probation/parole) to determine: 1) engagement in community HIV care; 2) access to ART; 3) adherence to ART; and 3) whether or not these individuals have suppressed HIV viral load. This proposed project will essentially create an HIV “cascade of care” for a large population of persons involved in the criminal justice system.

Erica Hardy, MD (Assistant Professor of Medicine) received a \$100,000 supplement for her work on “Characteristics of the Female Genital Tract Environment after Sexual Violence and HIV Risk”. Her study aims to characterize the female genital tract after sexual assault and over time, in order to determine whether there are characteristics of the female reproductive tract microenvironment which can mitigate or augment HIV transmission. Information from this pilot study will help to understand the relationship between sexual violence and biomedical risk of HIV transmission at the mucosal level and may provide insight into possible novel therapeutic approaches to HIV prevention.

Elkanah Omenge Orango (Lecturer from Moi University, Kenya) received a \$50,000 International Career Development award for his work on “Association of cryotherapy with HIV-1 RNA genital shedding”. The primary purpose of this supplement is to support research career development of junior faculty at institutions in low and middle-income country institutions who have on-going research collaborations with CFAR investigators. Dr. Orango has worked with Susan Cu-Uvin for the past three years and has received mentorship through CFAR as well as the Brown/Tufts Fogarty International Scholars program.

Appointments & Promotions

Appointments 3/1/13 - to date

Rhode Island Hospital

Cardiology

Samuel Dudley, MD
Professor, Research Scholar

Ian Greener, PhD
Instructor (Research)

Euy-Myoung Jeong, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Michael Kim, MD
Professor (Clinical)

Hong Liu, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Man Liu, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

An Xie, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Anyu Zhou, PhD
Assistant Professor (Research)

Gastroenterology

Songhua Zhang, PhD
Instructor (Research)

General Internal Medicine

Eric Alper, MD
Professor (Clinical)

Navaneel Biswas, MD
Clinical Instructor

Angela Caliendo, MD
Professor, Research Scholar

Preetika Muthukrishnan, MD
Clinical Instructor

Yujin Nah, MD
Clinical Instructor

Continued on back

Meet the Internal Medicine Chief Residents



Tim Amass was born in Denver Colorado, and then attended Colgate University and graduated with a BA in biology. He spent the next five years in Vermont, California and Colorado teaching

junior high and high school science, and founding a tutoring company to help with standardized test preparation as well as working as a Wilderness EMT. He then moved to DC to attend the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences medical school where he was class president for all 4 years, and participated in a variety of volunteer and “humanistic” endeavors, most notably being on the steering committee to develop a free, student run, primary care clinic in Northeast DC. He was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society at the end of his third year

Since arriving at Brown for Internal Medicine Residency, he has worked on several educational initiatives to improve the way physicians and all care givers communicate around end of life issues.

After residency, Tim plans to complete a pulmonary/critical care fellowship with an emphasis on critical care and end of life care. Outside of the hospital, he enjoys a variety of outdoor and athletic pursuits, as well as traveling as often and as far as possible.



Stephanie Catanese grew up in the land of sunshine near Miami, FL. She spent most of her youth either coaching or doing gymnastics, which allowed her and her family to travel

around the US for national competitions. She temporarily settled in Gainesville for college where she became a Florida Gator and majored in nutrition and zoology. Her love of science and communication led her to become a researcher in the psychology department studying self-empowerment as a tool to battle childhood obesity. Her passion for the medical field grew and took her to Philadelphia where she attended Temple University for medical school. It was here that she honed her passion for primary care and finally began to appreciate the splendor of things like winter and fall. From here she matched into Brown's General Internal Medicine tract where she further

became enthralled in the world of academic medicine. In her spare time she loves to be outside, biking, hiking, and playing on several volleyball teams throughout the year. She has grown fond of New England over the years and is excited to spend some more time in little Rhody.



Steven Kassakian grew up in Westfield, NJ. After a brief stint at the University of Pittsburgh and a short hiatus as a college dropout Steve headed west to attend college at the

University of Washington. Steve studied Oceanography and Chemistry ultimately receiving a B.S. in both fields. During his undergraduate time he had the opportunity to join a biological expedition to Siberia and participated in several oceanographic research cruises. Additionally, he took time off from college to sail an 80 year old Norwegian wooden sailboat from California to Hawaii. Following graduation Steve stayed on in the Oceanography department and was employed as a research scientist focusing mostly on chemical analysis of deep ocean sediments.

Steve attended medical school via the Brown-Dartmouth program. During medical school he participated in research on hospital acquired infections. During residency Steve continued his research in infectious disease but found his interests drew him into medical informatics. Following chief year he plans to pursue a research fellowship in medical informatics.

When not at the hospital Steve can often be found on, above or below the waters throughout Rhode Island pursuing his love of all things aquatic which includes foremost kiteboarding, followed by swimming, quahogging, and splashing with his 1.5 year old son, Zareh.



Drew Nagle is a native of Massachusetts who spent his first 16 years surrounded by the old mills of Lowell. While he was in high school, his family moved to Orlando, FL, where he discovered

a love for the practice and art of medicine while volunteering at the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute. From there, he joined the ranks of the Gator Nation by pursuing his undergraduate degree at the University of

Florida, in Gainesville, earning degrees in Biochemistry and Psychology. He spent time honing his skills as an educator by serving as a teaching assistant for multiple classes and labs and also worked in the Clinical-Cognitive Neuroscience Lab under the direction of Dr. William Perlstein at the McKnight Brain Institute researching Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

He continued on as a member of the University of Florida College of Medicine's 50th class, working extensively in the student run free clinic, participating in the class administration, and, during his 3rd year, being selected to join the Chapman Society, a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honors Society. Feeling a slight nostalgia for changing seasons and people who don't look at him like he has three heads when he asks where the “bubbler” is, he returned to New England to pursue his internal medicine residency training.

Outside of the hospital, he is an amateur photographer, is an avid bibliophile, and enjoys exploring Rhode Island via bicycle. As a former SeaWorld employee, he is a theme park enthusiast, and after backpacking throughout Europe for 33 days during med school, he loves traveling and is always trying to figure out his next destination. Professionally, he plans on pursuing a career in academic general medicine and has interests in humanism in medicine, critical and end of life care, and men's health.



Corinne Rhodes attended Georgetown University where she swam for the Hoyas, fell in love with college basketball, and was introduced to research through the Howard Hughes

program. Corie matriculated to University of Pittsburgh for med school where she developed an interest in global health as an ambassador for a non-profit that provided \$10,000 in yearly grants to Kenyan programs supporting HIV care and through clinical work in Malawi. At Brown Corie has been part of the BRIGHT track, pursued several research projects, and plans to start Harvard's GIM fellowship next July. Currently, however, she is excited to extend her stay in Providence and looks forward to a year of teaching and learning.

Appointments & Promotions *continued*

Hematology/Oncology

Patrycja Dubielecka-Szczerba, PhD

Assistant Professor (Research)

John Reagan, MD

Assistant Professor

Infectious Diseases

Allan Tunkel, MD

Professor, Teaching Scholar

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

Rabih El-Bizri, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Providence VA

General Internal Medicine

Dan Chen, MD

Instructor (Clinical)

Geriatrics

Lidia Vognar, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Promotions 7/1/13

Memorial Hospital

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine

Jigme Sethi, MD

Associate Professor, Teaching Scholar

Rhode Island Hospital

Cardiology

Peter Tilkemeier, MD

Professor, Teaching Scholar

Endocrinology

Haiyan Xu, PhD

Associate Professor (Research)

General Internal Medicine

Sybil Cineas, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Geriatrics

Robert Crausman, MD

Clinical Professor

Obstetric Medicine

Ghada Bourjeily, MD

Associate Professor, Teaching Scholar

Providence VA

General Internal Medicine

Paul Pirraglia, MD

Associate Professor, Teaching Scholar