

Department of Medicine

Vol 16, Issue 3 Summer 2017



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

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The Department of Medicine Newsletter
is published three times per year.

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Chairman's Message



Louis Rice, MD

The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University is relatively young by the standards of other Ivy League Medical Schools. The current medical school started in the 1960s, guided by the estimable founding Dean Stanley Aronson. Taking advantage of existing clinical faculty resources already in place, the school aligned with the major Providence-area hospitals, basing clinical Departments among different hospitals. Internal Medicine, for example, was first based at Roger Williams Hospital, but has since switched its primary location to Rhode Island Hospital. The Department of Psychiatry remains based at Butler Hospital on the East Side of Providence, Family Medicine at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women's and Infants Hospital.

These geographic separations and varied hospital affiliations, along with the fact that the managed care revolution of the 1990's did not seem to penetrate Rhode Island, has had some predictable consequences that we live with today. Among them are the fact that the employment arrangements and affiliations of the different Departments of the Medical School vary considerably. These diverse arrangements have in some instances made it difficult for faculty of

different Departments to feel related to each other and, perhaps more importantly, have made faculty feel at somewhat of a distance from the medical school. It is fair to say that over the years many Brown clinical faculty have felt closer ties to their hospital than to the medical school itself.

The past decade has seen major changes in both health care and University landscapes. The need to address the unsustainable increases in healthcare costs has led to the consolidation of medical practices, with the goal to coordinate care and facilitate investment in costly infrastructure like the electronic medical record.

Prominent research
universities like Brown
need top-flight medical
school investigators
to compete for
increasingly scarce
research dollars
and maintain their
worldwide reputation
for excellence.

As such, our current organizational structures are not optimally positioned to thrive in the evolving world of academic medicine.

To better position ourselves to succeed in this rapidly changing environment, six of the Foundations that constitute the full-time faculty of their respective academic departments (University Medicine Foundation, University Surgical Associates, University Neurology, University Emergency Medicine, University Urology

Continued on next page

and Brown Dermatology) have recently joined with the Warren Alpert Medical School to form a multi-specialty faculty practice group called Brown Physicians, Inc. (BPI). This agreement was the product of nearly a year and a half of negotiations and culminated in a signing ceremony at Brown on May 24, 2017. The final agreement was the result of significant efforts by many people, but there are two people in particular I would like to single out. The first is our Dean, Jack Elias. This faculty practice plan was the ambition of Dr. Elias from the day he arrived here at Brown nearly five years ago. Jack has a big academic vision for Brown and the practice plan was a major part of it. He demonstrated tremendous flexibility and vision, critical components instrumental in helping us reach a successful conclusion

to our efforts. He deserves our thanks and the lion's share of the credit for getting it done. The second individual is Dr. Angela Caliendo, our Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Elias appropriately recognized that Angie had the unique combination of intelligence, creativity, collaborative skill and drive to take this on. I frankly do not think we could have done it without her. I am also enormously grateful to my colleague Chairs, all of whom contributed in a variety of meaningful ways to the success of this endeavor.

Of course, now we must operationalize this organization and make it a force for advancing health care and scientific investigation in the state of Rhode Island. BPI will not fully mature for several years, during which time we will develop

procedures and practices designed to better coordinate the care we deliver, make our back-office functions more efficient and consolidate our financial operations and accounting. We are all eager to engage our hospital partners. Strong collaborations with our hospitals will enhance our ability to recruit quality faculty, which will in turn enhance the quality of care delivered and the reputations of the hospitals themselves. I personally dream of a time when all Brown full-time faculty will be part of BPI, and together engage with our medical school and hospital partners with the joint purpose of creating a center for the very best of health care, medical education and ground-breaking research.

The adventure begins!

Residents Recognized at National Meetings

Eric Chow, a PGY 4 resident in the Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program, was the recipient of the Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award at this year's ACP National Meeting.

The Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award was established by the Board of Regents as a national award in 2003. Dr. Johnson served as ACP Governor, Regent, Treasurer, Interim Executive Vice President, and Senior Vice President for Membership.

The award recognizes a Resident/Fellow Member of the College who has demonstrated qualities that exemplify the College's mission "to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine." Nominees may have outstanding achievements in any of a wide variety of areas, including leadership, medical practice, research, teaching, publications, advocacy, and/or volunteerism.

Internal Medicine residents received national recognition at the ACP conference as well –

Lolita S Nidadavolu, MD,PHD (PGY-2 resident in the Internal Medicine Residency program at Rhode Island Hospital) was among the winners of the American College of Physicians' nation-wide *Clinical Vignette Poster Contest* which took place at the *Internal Medicine* meeting this spring in San Diego. Her poster was titled "Recurrent Ascites Secondary to Extrinsic Inferior Vena Cava Compression in Polycystic Kidney Disease"

Other residents who were also among the finalists in this national contest were **Meghan Nahass, MD** (PGY 1), and her co-authors **Alisha Goodrum, MD (PGY 3)** and **Thomas Bledsoe (of the Division of Primary Care)** with their poster titled "A permanently retained guidewire and subsequent management with anticoagulation, 12 years later", and **Zoe Weiss, MD** (PGY 1), with her poster titled "Snap, Crackle, Pop: Pneumomediastinum In Two Heavy Marijuana Users"

Jose Ruiz, MD (PGY 1) was a finalist in the research category of the ACP Poster Contest, with his poster titled "TRIF regulates pathogenic Th17 cell generation that may cause severe inflammation in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)"

Fabio Lima, MD (PGY 1 Internal Medicine resident) was among the recipients of the "Best of the Best Abstract Awards" at this year's Society for Cardiovascular and Angiography Intervention (SCAI) conference for his poster titled "Outcomes of Endovascular versus Surgical Revascularization for Chronic Mesenteric Ischemia: Insights from the National Inpatient Sample Database". His co-authors included **Dhaval Kolte** (Cardiology Fellow), **Dawn Abbott**, **Peter Soukas**, **Omar Hyder**, **Shafiq Mamdani**, and **Herbert Aronow** of the Cardiovascular Institute, as well as investigators from Weill Cornell Medical College, and Saint Luke's Mid-Atlantic Heart institute. Dr Lima's poster was chosen from more than 350 submissions. **Dr Kolte** was also one of the winners of this award.

Research Spotlight: Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

The NHLBI has funded the **Brown Respiratory Research Training Program** with **Elizabeth Harrington, PhD** as contact PI and multi-PI's Richard Bennet, Mitchell Levy, and Sharon Rounds. The objective is to train physicians and scientists to become independent investigators through a rigorous program of didactic and career development training and mentored research experience in a collaborative, multidisciplinary setting. Two graduate students will be accepted per year into a 2-year research training program focused on Pathogenesis of Respiratory Diseases, with an emphasis on Infections and Immunity. In addition, two postdoctoral trainees with an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD degree will be accepted per year into a 2-year research training program focused on either the Pathogenesis of Respiratory Diseases or Health Services, Outcomes, and Epidemiology of Respiratory Diseases.

Dr. E. Jane Carter, in conjunction with the National TB Control Program in Kenya, has been awarded a \$996,000 TB REACH Wave 5 grant from the STOP TB Partnership at UNOPS, Geneva, Switzerland. This work will scale pilot work performed by Dr. Carter and collaborators at Moi University School of Medicine in Eldoret, Kenya. This project is expected to provide access to care for approximately one third of Kenya's population.

Katie Sharkey, MD, PhD and her team presented two abstracts at the SLEEP 2017 meeting held in Boston in June. "Does Sleep Quality During Pregnancy Influence Initiation and Continuation of Breastfeeding?" was first authored by Brown PLME student, Lily Gordon, AB 2017, MD anticipated 2022, and shows that pregnant women with poor sleep efficiency are less likely to initiate or continue breastfeeding. In collaboration with Emily Barker, PhD, from Case Western University, Sharkey's team also presented one of the first studies to measure GHB levels in breast milk to help clarify whether postpartum women with narcolepsy and cataplexy can breastfeed their infants safely after resuming the medication Xyrem. The subsequent GHB and breast milk paper is currently in press in *Sleep Medicine*.

The **Rhode Island Hospital Pulmonary Hypertension Center** will be one of seven centers to participate in a Phase II randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of anastrozole for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension. Recently funded by the NHLBI (PI: Kawut, University of Pennsylvania), **Corey Ventetuolo** will serve as a co-Chair for the study.

At the May, 2017 American Thoracic Society International Conference, **Sharon Rounds, MD**, was awarded with the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal recognizing lifelong major contributions to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung disease through leadership in research, education or clinical care. This award is given in honor of Edward Livingston Trudeau, a founder and the first president of the American Lung Association.

Research Spotlight - VA Medical Center

Under the guidance of the senior author, **Dr. Wen-Chih Wu** (Medical Service, Providence VAMC; Center for Cardiac Fitness, Lifespan CVI) along with other faculty members at Brown School of Public Health, Mary E. Lacy, a PhD student from the Dept of Epidemiology published a new study in *JAMA* (February 7, 2017) that provides evidence that hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) may systematically underestimate average glycemia in African Americans with sickle cell trait (SCT) and could be leading to under diagnosis and under-estimation of glycemic control

among them.

In addition to Lacy and Wu, the paper's other authors are Drs. Gregory Wellenius, Anne Sumner, Adolfo Correa, Mercedes Carnethon, Robert Liem, James Wilson, David Sacks, David Jacobs Jr., April Carson, Xi Luo, Annie Gjelsvik, Alexander Reiner, Rakhi Naik, Simin Liu, Solomon Musani, and Charles Eaton.

The National Institutes of Health (effort for Lacy and the study dataset) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (effort for Dr. Wu) funded the study.

Russell Named President of American Society of Nuclear Cardiology



Raymond Russell III, MD, PhD, has been named president of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) for 2017.

Russell is an associate professor of medicine at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and the director of the nuclear cardiology and cardio oncology programs for the Cardiovascular Institute of Lifespan. He has been a member of ASNC since 2000 and has been a fellow of the society since 2006. Russell succeeds Brian Abbott, MD, FASNC, MASNC, who served as ASNC's President in 2016. ASNC focuses on cardiovascular imaging and has more than 4,000 members throughout the world.

Beckwith Awards Presented to Department Faculty



Each year The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund supports the presentation of an annual Award for Outstanding Teaching. This award is to recognize superb teaching by faculty from the Department of Medicine. 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.

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.

This year's winners:

Stephanie Cardarella, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Clinical Educator

Kenneth C. Chen, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics
and Gynecology

Andrew Cohen, MD

Professor of Medicine

Patricia Cristofaro, MD

Assistant Professor Medicine,
Clinical Educator

Christine Duffy, MD

Associate Professor Medicine,
Clinical Educator

Arkadiy Finn, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Clinical Educator

John Miskovsky, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Herbert Rakatansky, MD

Clinical Professor Emeritus of Medicine

News from Memorial Hospital

Memorial residents had a strong showing at the 2017 American College of Physicians, Rhode Island Chapter Meeting held at Alpert Medical School of Brown University. **Juliet Yirerong** (PGY1) took First Prize for her poster, *A case of Sternoclavicular Joint Tuberculosis*. **Ahmad AlSalman** (PGY1) took Third Prize for his poster, *Abdominal pain and Syncope as the sole presenting symptoms of ascending thoracic aortic dissection*. Podium presentations were made by **Anais Ovalle** (PGY2) and **Somwail Rasla** (PGY3). **Saif Al-Adwan** (PGY1), **Fatima Hamid** (PGY3), **Faeq Kukhon** (PGY1), **Ahmed Mohamed** (PGY1), **Alexander Morales** (PGY2), **Mahmoud Mowafy** (PGY1), and **Reema Qureshi** (PGY1) exhibited posters.

84th Annual Kenney Research Day at Memorial Hospital

Internal Medicine residents' scholarly activity was featured prominently at the 84th Annual Kenney Research Day at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. Residents and faculty presented research and case reports at the long-standing half-day event. The poster competition yielded the following prizes for Internal Medicine residents:

3rd Place: **Humnah Khudayar** (PGY2)

2nd place: **Reema Quershi** (PGY1) and **Akiko Minami** (PGY3)

The following Internal Medicine residents also received awards for their Podium Presentations:

2nd place: **Osama Siddique** (PGY3)

1st place (tie): **Akiko Minami** (PGY3) and **Anais Ovalle** (PGY2)

News From Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital Welcomes the Class of 2020

Ali Alkhatat MD

Ali was born in Baghdad, Iraq and went to medical school at Al-Nahrain University College of Medicine in Baghdad. He worked as a primary care physician in Iraq and Jordan before coming to the United States with his family. In preparation for residency, Ali did observerships in Arizona, Massachusetts, and most recently at Nardone Medical Associates in Pawtucket where he was part of a quality improvement project on colon cancer screening. Ali's interests include soccer, reading, and traveling.

Aristides Armas Villalba MD

Aristides was born in San Cristobal, Tachira State in Venezuela and raised in Caracas. He graduated from Dr. Jose Maria Vargas Medical School, Universidad Central de Venezuela, in 2012. After graduation, he worked in the underserved community of Carayaca-Vargas where he ran the emergency department of the area's only hospital. After coming to the United States, Aristides did research and clinical work at Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the Texas Endocrinology Group. Aristides enjoys sports (mainly soccer, baseball, and cycling); spending time with friends and family; and, going to the movies.

Maen Assali MD

Maen was born in Nablus, Palestine. He went to medical school at Jordan University of Science and Technology. He did a year of research work in cardiology and Hematology/Oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota before joining our program. Maen spends his free time playing soccer and going to the gym. He has an interest in psychology and how people think. When asked to describe himself, Maen quotes Michaelangelo: *"If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all."*

Marya Haq MD

Marya was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She graduated from Army Medical College in Pakistan and earned her Masters in Health Administration at Dalhousie University in Canada. Marya is fluent in English, Arabic, Pashto, and Urdu. She enjoys reading, weightlifting, extreme sports, and software programming.

Dina Ibrahim MD

Dina was born in Cairo, Egypt and went to school at Cairo University of Medicine. She worked as a primary care physician before doing an Internal Medicine Residency at the National Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology in Egypt. Dina worked as a Research Fellow in the Echocardiography Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham before joining our program. In her free time, Dina writes novels, acts, and is learning to play the guitar.

Ambrish Jha MD

Ambrish was born in Balara, Nepal. He attended Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences in Nepal where he also did his Internship year and worked as a primary care physician. Ambrish is fluent in English, Hindi, and Nepali. He is interested in economics and finance, and enjoys reading and cooking.

Nasifa Nur MD

Nasifa was born and raised in Bangladesh. She went to Sir Salimullah Medical College in Mitford, Dhaka, Bangladesh. She was as a research intern at the Cardiothoracic Research Center at Rhode Island Hospital. Outside of medicine, art and sculpture are Nasifa's interests, and acrylic painting is a favorite hobby. In her free time, Nasifa likes to spend time with family and friends.

Rawan Oneiz MD

Rawan was born in Syria, went to medical school at Damascus University, and did two years of internal medicine residency in Syria before moving to the United States to do research and community service at Cambridge Health Alliance. Her interests include cooking, watching comedies, and walking.

Abraham Walusimbi MD

Abraham was born and raised in Uganda. He went to medical school at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Uganda. He completed medical internship at St. Francis Nsambya Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, and worked as a general practitioner at Nakasero Hospital and AAR Health Services in Kampala. Abraham is the founder and president of Abraham's Foundation, a charitable, not-for-profit community organization providing free medical and other services to orphans and the needy in the underserved areas of Uganda. Abraham is fluent in English and Luganda and his interests include traveling, exercise, and community service.

Fatima Zeba MD

Fatima was born in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India. She went to medical school at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal University. She's passionate about open-access medical education and volunteer work. Her interests and hobbies include reading, creative writing, typography, and table tennis.

Akiko Minamia, 2017 – 2018 Chief Resident

Akiko was born in Takamatsu, Japan. She graduated from Kyoto University Faculty of Medicine in Japan and completed her OB/GYN residency. She did research as Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York before coming to Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Alpert Medical School to do her Internal Medicine residency. Akiko is fluent in English and Japanese. Her interests outside of medicine including knitting, playing piano, Japanese tea ceremonies, and the Japanese fencing martial art of Kendo.

Rice Honored by Women's Resource Center



Louis Rice, MD, Chairman of the Department of Medicine, was among those honored recently by the Women's Resource Center at its annual "Men Who Make A Difference" Gala at Gurney's Newport Resort and Marina. The nonprofit organization is a domestic violence prevention agency serving Newport and Bristol Counties. This award celebrates men statewide who demonstrate a commitment to their community, who serve as an inspiration to others, and who make positive and lasting change. Dr. Rice was recognized for his outstanding leadership in the medical community, research on antimicrobial resistance, clinical and education work, and ongoing support of charitable causes. Congratulations to Dr. Rice for this award!

Academic Activities in the Division of Hospital Medicine at The Miriam Hospital

In October 2016, two members of the division, Dr. Beth Gentilesco and Dr. Kwame Dapaah-Afriyie were invited to join a group of about 40 hospitalists to work on beta-testing for the American Board of Internal Medicine MOC (Maintenance of Certification) exam for Focused practice in Hospital Medicine.

Dr. Brad Collins, Dr. Arkadiy Finn, and Dr. Kwame Dapaah-Afriyie, were selected as Abstracts Reviewers for the 2017 Society of Hospital Medicine meeting which was held in Las Vegas from 05/01 to 05/04.

Dr. Brad Collins, Dr. Arkadiy Finn, and Dr. Hadeel Zainah presented clinical abstracts at the 2017 Society of Hospital Medicine meeting which was held in Las Vegas from 05/01 to 05/04.

Dr. Arkadiy Finn was one of the recipients of the 2017 Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Dr. Christina Beyer and Dr. Kwame Dapaah-Afriyie were nominated as Rhode Island's 2017 Top Doctors in Hospital Medicine.

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