



Faculty Spotlight: Integrating Academic and Clinical Medicine



J. Dawn Abbott, MD, FACC

Dr. J. Dawn Abbott joined the Division of Cardiology at Rhode Island Hospital in 2004 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. Prior to coming to Brown, she completed her post graduate medical education at the Yale University School of Medicine, including fellowships in cardiovascular medicine and interventional cardiology, with advanced training in peripheral endovascular procedures. In addition to developing her clinical interests, she pursued two additional years of mentored

basic science research studying the role of chemokines on stem cell recruitment to the heart. She came to Brown with the goal of building a career that encompassed research, teaching and the practice of clinical cardiology. Still early in her career, she attributes her progress in these arenas to the support of her colleagues and guidance of her mentors, particularly Dr. David O. Williams, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology.

"While success in research may come in many forms, it has one main requirement; passion about the questions you are trying to answer", comments Dr. Abbott. In the first year of her appointment, Dr. Abbott was the recipient of a career development grant from the American College of Cardiology Foundation to study angiographic characteristics and other prognostic variables in patients with acute coronary syndromes undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention in the ongoing National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Dynamic Registry. She and her colleagues were the first to describe the high rate of adverse outcomes observed in patients receiving an intervention to a coronary artery supplying collateral circulation. She has also published manuscripts on the effects of both gender and myocardial infarction type on adverse outcomes in percutaneous coronary

intervention. In order to further explore the mechanism of recurrent ischemic events observed in these studies, she designed a trial to examine whether existing methods of platelet function assessment can identify patients who may not respond to the administration of antiplatelet therapies. She was fortunate to receive funding from the Rhode Island Foundation for this project and study enrollment is near completion. The results will hopefully provide clinically useful data on the utility of point-of-care devices and define potential thresholds for adequate platelet inhibition in patients with coronary artery disease on dual antiplatelet therapy.

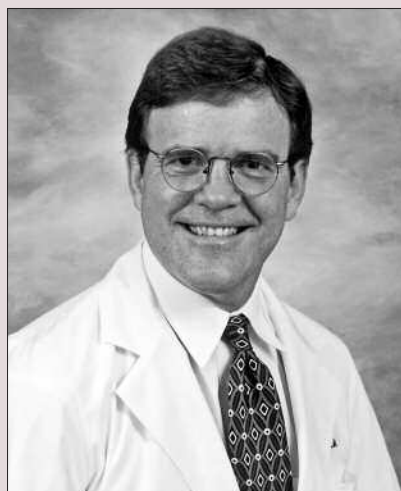
Dr. Abbott also cares for patients with peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in her practice and she is pursuing funding to conduct an observational registry of lower extremity peripheral interventions. "This is a natural extension of the aims of the Dynamic Registry in patients undergoing coronary intervention, but applied to PAD".

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Chairman's Message

Edward J. Wing, MD



The house staff training programs in the Department of Medicine maintain their reputation for excellence. As we enter another recruiting season, I want to acknowledge the outstanding job the program directors and the fellowship directors have done. Dom Tammaro, Fred Schiffman, Kelly McGarry, and Jennifer Jeremiah at Lifespan, and Eleanor Summerhill at Memorial have done exceptional jobs. They have worked tirelessly to develop outstanding curricula, to ensure the quality of the teaching faculty, and to support the trainees in all aspects of their education. The programs attract students from every section of the country and from outstanding schools. All of

the programs have increased their popularity as shown by the number and quality of applicants. I have been taking morning report at the VA hospital and Memorial Hospital as well as the Rhode Island and the Miriam. Report at each institution has its own flavor and style and each is excellent. We are all indebted to the Chief Residents at Lifespan, Eric Gartman, Julie Maher, Leah Marano, Matt Quesenberry, and Sarah Tsiaras and the Chief Resident at Memorial, Purva Agarwal for their outstanding leadership.

I would also like to thank the support and teaching skills of our volunteer faculty who provide invaluable educational experiences for our residents. Our fellowship directors, James Arrighi, Peter Tilkemeier, David Williams, Paul Gordon and Al Buxton for Cardiology, Mitchell Levy for Critical Care, Nick Ward for Pulmonary and Critical Care/RIH, Robert Smith and Geetha Gopalakrishnan for Endocrinology, Steve Moss for Gastroenterology, Aman Nanda for Geriatrics, Anthony Mega for Hematology/Oncology, Karen Tashima for Infectious Disease, J. Gary Abuelo for Nephrology who have similarly done great jobs. They struggle with ACGME rules and requirements and maintaining the appropriate balance between service and education. The quality of our 75 fellows is terrific. They come from the very best programs to take advantage of Brown's superb clinical and research opportunities. Upon graduation, many join the faculty or enter practices in the Rhode Island area. We are truly fortunate to have such outstanding Divisions in the Department of Medicine, and outstanding residency and fellowship directors.

Together, we will be able to continue to attract top residents and fellows and provide the very best training in Internal Medicine.

This study will serve as a complement to completed and ongoing randomized trials of PAD by providing additional information to practitioners on the effectiveness of peripheral interventions performed in routine clinical practice.

In addition to her research, Dr. Abbott actively participates in such other academic activities as peer review and teaching. She has served on a grant study section for the Northeast Affiliate of the American Heart Association. She currently serves on the editorial boards of the American Journal of Cardiology and the Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Cardiovascular Interventions, and also is an ad hoc reviewer for five other medical journals. Her teaching and mentorship roles span the spectrum of medical and post-graduate medical education at Brown. She is a faculty preceptor in the On Doctoring course and the Cardiac Pathophysiology problem based learning, both involving 2nd year medical students. In her role as a clinician and educator, she attends in the Coronary Care Unit for 4 weeks each year where she interacts closely with the medical housestaff and cardiology fellows. She also mentors several medical residents interested in cardiovascular clinical research.

Dr. Abbott looks forward to expanding her horizons at Brown, and to fostering ongoing collaborations in cardiovascular disease investigation.



The Department of Medicine Newsletter is published quarterly. To submit an article or provide information contact Denise Lavelly-O'Hara at 444-5127, e-mail to dlavelly-ohara@Lifespan.org or contact Dan Bryant at 444-6893, e-mail to dbryant@Lifespan.org

Research Awards

Devasis Chatterjee, PhD, from the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has received a one-year 'Concept Award' funded through the Department of Defense for his project 'Inhibition of STAT3 Signaling by RKIP in Breast Cancer.' With the \$75,000 in direct cost funding, the award will be used to test the hypothesis that the induction of Raf kinase inhibitory protein (RKIP) inhibits STAT3 (a self-signaling transcription factor) post-translational modifications and activation. As RKIP is proven to be a clinically relevant metastasis suppressor gene of human breast cancer, validating whether RKIP is a novel inhibitor of STAT3 signaling could lead to the basis for molecular targeted therapeutic strategy for breast cancer.

Suzanne de la Monte, MD, in the Division of Gastroenterology and Department of Pathology has received a subcontract from Women and Infants on the National Institutes of Health grant 'Placenta Development in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome' received by Dr. Fusun Gundogan. The approximately \$45,000 per year in direct funding for five years on Dr. Delamonte's subcontract will be used to investigate how chronic ethanol consumption during pregnancy adversely affects development of both fetus and the placenta.

Edward Filardo, PhD, from the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has received a 3-year R01 from the National Institutes of Health for a project titled 'Study of GPR30: a Novel Estrogen Receptor Linked to Breast Cancer.' With approximately \$200,000 per year in funding, the project will assess the role of GPR30, a seven transmembrane-spanning receptor linked to specific estrogen binding and rapid estrogen action, as a structurally distinct form of membrane estrogen receptor whose biochemical actions appear to be distinct from the known estrogen receptors. This

will help better understand the biological role of GPR30 in breast cancer.

Peter Friedmann, MD, from the Division of General Internal Medicine, has received \$139,000 in funds from the National Institutes of Health for his project 'Stabilize Addiction/Affect, Begin Inmates Interferon for HCV of Liver.' Co-occurrence of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, drug dependence, and psychiatric disorders is a great challenge to the incarcerated population. Although in-prison treatments are safe and effective for inmates serving long sentences, most inmates are incarcerated for less than one-year. This grant will develop an integrated model of behavioral health and HCV treatment that bridges the transition from prison to community by enrolling a group of inmates and piloting a reentry program to facilitate stabilization and treatment upon release from prison.

Douglas Hixson, PhD, in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has received a 5-year R01 award from the National Institutes of Health for the project 'Genesis of Liver Carcinomas with Oval Cell Traits.' Averaging about \$240,000 per year in direct funding, this grant hypothesizes that CMP-FLEC (cholangiocyte marker positive, bipotent, fetal liver epithelial cells), will possess a capacity for hepatocyte differentiation similar to oval cells and will retain this capacity following spontaneous transformation in vivo and progression to HCC in vivo. These studies will provide new insights into the role of bipotent progenitors in liver cancer.

Kenneth Mayer, MD, in the Division of Infectious Diseases has received three supplemental funded projects from the Fogarty International Center and National Institutes of Health.

Supplement #1: \$96,102 in funds for the project 'Cancer Training and Resource

Development in Western Kenya, Moi University. The funds will be used to implement contemporary standards of oncology care and to establish a database that will support planned clinical trials of Kaposi's Sarcoma in HIV/AIDS patients in western Kenya.

Supplement #2: \$96,340 in funds for the project 'Cervical Cancer Screening for HIV-seropositive Women, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya. These funds will test the accuracy of visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) versus pap smear as a screening tool to detect cervical neoplasia.cancer among HIV-positive women in Eldoret, Kenya as well as assess prevalence of cervical neoplasia/cancer among this population.

Supplement #3: \$100,000 in funds for the project 'Brown-Tufts Program for Enhanced HIV Prevention Training of ICMR Researchers.' Funds will support 2 six-month and 3 three-month fellows, to be selected by the Indian Council for Medical Research in India, for advanced HIV prevention research training in order to enhance the ability to conduct HIV associated clinical trials to curtail the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India.

Jack Wands, MD, Division Director for Gastroenterology, has received a five-year R01 funded by the National Institutes of Health for his project 'Biomarker for Hepatocellular Carcinoma.' Averaging \$175,000 in direct cost funding, the grant will be used to validate a new marker (HAAH) that may be useful in the diagnosis of Human hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The specific aims are to 1) validate HAAH as a biomarker for HCC and 2) further characterize human scFv fragments and IgG anti-AAH anti-bodies. These studies may lead to a new method for early detection of HCC in the liver, thereby improving diagnosis and treatment options.

Special Mentions

Katja Odening, PhD, in the Cardiology Division, received third place in the Junior Investigator Poster Conference at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Safety Pharmacology Society meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. The title of her poster was 'Transgenic LQT¹ and LQT² Rabbits Provide a New Model for Safety Screening for IKr or IKs Blocking Propensity of Drugs.'

Research News

Wen-Chih ("Hank") Wu, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and staff cardiologist at the Providence VA Medical Center, has been awarded a Merit Review Research Grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs on the subject of: "Group Intervention for DM Guideline Implementation" for \$900,000 total direct costs for 4 years, 2008-2012. This grant will study delivery of care initiatives for cardiac risk reduction in patients with diabetes mellitus. Dr. Wu has conducted research work in the areas of cardiovascular epidemiology and outcomes, and is currently also the recipient of the VA Merit Review Award to conduct a cohort study in the evaluation of "Perioperative Blood Transfusions and Cardiovascular Outcomes in the Elderly".

A Day in the Life of Oscar the Cat

David M. Dosa, M.D., M.P.H.

Oscar the Cat awakens from his nap, opening a single eye to survey his kingdom. From atop the desk in the doctor's charting area, the cat peers down the two wings of the nursing home's advanced dementia unit. All quiet on the western and eastern fronts. Slowly, he rises and extravagantly stretches his 2-year-old frame, first backward and then forward. He sits up and considers his next move.

In the distance, a resident approaches. It is Mrs. P., who has been living on the dementia unit's third floor for 3 years now. She has long forgotten her family, even though they visit her almost daily. Moderately disheveled after eating her lunch, half of which she now wears on her shirt, Mrs. P. is taking one of her many aimless strolls to nowhere. She glides toward Oscar, pushing her walker and muttering to herself with complete disregard for her surroundings. Perturbed, Oscar watches her carefully and, as she walks by, lets out a gentle hiss, a rattlesnake-like warning that says "leave me alone." She passes him without a glance and continues down the hallway. Oscar is relieved. It is not yet Mrs. P.'s time, and he wants nothing to do with her.

Oscar jumps down off the desk, relieved to be once more alone and in control of his domain. He takes a few moments to drink from his water bowl and grab a quick bite. Satisfied, he enjoys another stretch and sets out on his rounds. Oscar decides to head down the west wing first, along the way sidestepping Mr. S., who is slumped over on a couch in the hallway. With lips slightly pursed, he snores peacefully—perhaps blissfully unaware of where he is now living. Oscar continues down the hallway until he reaches its end and Room 310. The door is closed, so Oscar sits and waits. He has important business here.

Twenty-five minutes later, the door finally opens, and out walks a nurse's aide carrying dirty linens. "Hello, Oscar," she says. "Are you going inside?" Oscar lets her pass, then makes his way into the room, where there are two people. Lying in a corner bed and facing the wall, Mrs. T. is asleep in a fetal position. Her body is thin and wasted from the breast cancer that has been eating away at her organs. She is mildly jaundiced and has not spoken in several days. Sitting next to her is her daughter, who glances up from her novel to warmly greet the visitor. "Hello, Oscar. How are you today?"

Oscar takes no notice of the woman and leaps up onto the bed. He surveys Mrs. T. She is clearly in the terminal phase of illness, and her breathing is labored. Oscar's examination is interrupted by a nurse, who walks in to ask the daughter whether Mrs. T. is uncomfortable and needs more morphine. The daughter shakes her head, and the nurse retreats. Oscar returns to his work. He sniffs the air, gives Mrs. T. one final look, then jumps off the bed and quickly leaves the room. Not today.



Division Updates

Geriatrics

The Division of Geriatrics has been selected as a John A. Hartford Foundation Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Training, pending final approval by the Foundation Board (12/07). This project funds advanced training for academic careers in aging. The Division is now the 15th program in the country with both Hartford Center of Excellence and Reynolds Foundation geriatric medicine grant awards.

Hospitalist Medicine -Rhode Island Hospital

The RIH Hospitalist Program continues to see sustained growth through demand from the private sector. Additionally to achieve compliance mandated by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education unassigned patients are being accepted by the service. As a result of this, three new physicians will be added to the current nine and it is anticipated that incorporation of resident teaching and education will occur over the upcoming academic year.

The Community Physician Alliance Service under operation by this Division continues to grow providing support to community physicians whose patients are on the non-teaching service. In January of 2007 weekend day coverage was instituted to provide cross coverage services. The program currently offers cross coverage services during the day and support for admissions overnight.

Infectious Disease

Kenneth H. Mayer, M.D, Professor of Medicine and Community Health at Brown University/Miriam Hospital Health received the 2007 HIVMA Society Citation at the 2007 IDSA HIVMA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California in October 2007.

The Society Citation is a discretionary award given in recognition of exemplary contribution to HIVMA, or a lifetime of outstanding achievement in a given area —either in research, clinical investigation, or clinical practice. Occasionally, this Citation acknowledges milestone infectious diseases events or activities.

Rheumatology

Dr. Ted Lally and the Rheumatology faculty welcomed their first fellow, Jill McLory, MD, to the program on July 1, 2007. The Brown University Rheumatology Fellowship Program at Rhode Island Hospital received full ACGME accreditation in January 2007.

Kidney Disease and Hypertension

In March 2007, Brown University received a significant, \$1.25 million contribution to support research in kidney disease at our institutions. The gift was made by the Foundation for Health, which was established at the time of the sale of the Rhode Island Renal Institutes, a non-profit organization that operated three outpatient dialysis units in our state, to a for profit dialysis provider. Since its inception, the Foundation for Health has actively supported efforts to improve outcomes for kidney patients in our state by making specific grants to a number of entities. This included direct patient initiatives, and also a New Investigator Award to a member of the Division of Renal Diseases, Rujun Gong, MD, Ph.D., to support his laboratory research program. This year, the board of the Foundation for Health decided to change its mode of operation and instead of making small annual grants, to make this large gift to Brown, to endow a special fund, the income from which will be used to provide perpetual annual support for renal research. An awards process will be established that identifies one or two individuals who conduct research in kidney disease each year as Foundation for Health Scholars, and funds will be allocated to support their research programs. Alternatively, funds may be used to purchase needed equipment or for other purposes that directly enhance research in kidney disease at Brown. The University and the Department of Medicine are extremely grateful for this generous gift that will certainly enhance the kidney research program at Brown and its long term goal of improving outcomes for the many patients, in our state and around the world, that suffer from of kidney disease.

Visit our website at: www.brownmedicine.org

Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., Receives nation's top award in academic internal medicine and honored for being an exemplary clinician and teacher

Providence, RI – Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD, founder of the Immunology Center at The Miriam Hospital and professor of medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, was recently honored for more than 50 years of excellence in internal medicine as the recipient of the Robert H. Williams, MD, Distinguished Chair of Medicine Award. The award is given by The Association of Professors of Medicine (APM) and was presented to Carpenter at the APM Winter Meeting in early March.

The Williams award is presented annually by the APM, the national organization of departments of internal medicine at medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals. It is given to a distinguished physician who has demonstrated outstanding leadership as a current or former chair of a department of internal medicine.

In the nomination letters submitted by his peers and former students, Carpenter is hailed for being “one of the giants in American medicine” with a “bedside demeanor that has endeared him to generations of younger and older colleagues.” They point to his belief that his patients and students are at “the center of his universe” referencing the ease at which he gives out his home number to patients, makes house calls, or comes to the hospital in the middle of the night to see one of his patients in the emergency department. Characteristic of his devotion to his medical students, Carpenter has published extensively, but has allowed many of his most widely quoted papers to be first authored by students.

Known more recently for his research and care for patients with HIV, Carpenter’s interest in infectious disease began as a student and teacher of cholera in the 1960’s. In 1962, he started the Johns Hopkins Cholera Research program in Calcutta, India where he demonstrated the value of antibiotics and defined the fluid requirements essential for the treatment of cholera. The advances his group made in oral rehydration therapy in developing countries were quickly adopted around the world.

Carpenter remained active in cholera research for the next decade both in Calcutta and as a professor of medicine at John Hopkins University and physician-in-chief at Baltimore City Hospital. Subsequently, Carpenter joined the faculty of Case Western Reserve University where he developed the first division of geographic medicine within a department of medicine serving as a model for many U.S. academic institutions.

Arriving in Providence in 1986, Carpenter was named physician-in-chief at The Miriam Hospital and professor of medicine at Brown

University. Within a year, he established the Immunology Center at The Miriam Hospital under the belief that all individuals battling HIV deserved access to the very best care available. The Center quickly became a major clinical research and education center for medical students, residents and fellows, as well as healthcare professionals from developing nations.

In the early years of the AIDS epidemic, Carpenter was one of the first to see how the virus was not only affecting gay men, but also how it was spreading within

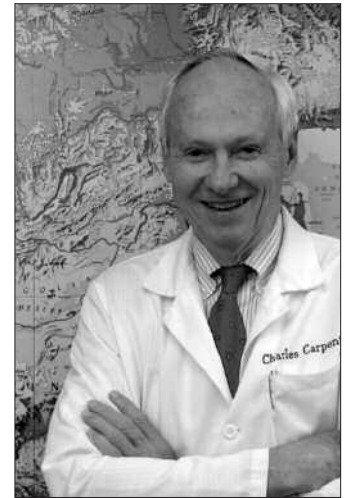
prisons and becoming prevalent in women. In 1987, he initiated a unique program in which Brown University faculty/Miriam Hospital physicians assumed responsibility for all HIV care in the Rhode Island state prison system. This program now includes elective rotations for medical students, resident physicians, and subspecialty fellows.

Research remains a primary focus for Carpenter and he is the director of one of the 18 Centers For AIDS Research (CFAR) in the country, headquartered at The Miriam Hospital in collaboration with Tufts and Brown University. In addition, he is the principal investigator for the SUN study, a national, multi-site project that is the first longitudinal study to attempt to understand the natural history of HIV in the era of effective treatment.

Carpenter has enormous international stature and is a member of the International AIDS Society panel, a group comprised of 17 of the world’s leading physicians who every two years author international guidelines published in the prestigious Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) on how to best administer antiretroviral treatment. Carpenter served as chairman of the first panel in 1995 and held the position through 2001.

Carpenter’s teaching efforts reach far beyond Rhode Island as he frequently makes trips to India, Vietnam, Kenya and Cambodia to help institute and facilitate HIV drug treatment programs and education.

His expertise and guidance continues to be recognized at the highest levels as he was recently asked by Congress to chair the Treatment



Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., winner of the 2007 Robert H. Williams, M.D., Distinguished Chair of Medicine Award

PROFILES



Katherine M. Sharkey, M.D., Ph.D.

Katherine M. Sharkey, M.D., Ph.D. has recently joined the Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Disorders Medicine Division

as a Sleep Medicine physician. Dr. Sharkey is a graduate of the M.D.-Ph.D. program at Rush University in Chicago, IL. During her pre-doctoral training she received an NIMH Fellowship to study circadian rhythms and sleep in night shift workers and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. She pursued her graduate medical education in the Internal Medicine-Psychiatry Residency Program at Rush University Medical Center where she served as Chief Resident for Internal Medicine and Psychiatry in 2005–2006. Dr. Sharkey is a member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society and is an assistant professor

with joint appointments in the Departments of Internal Medicine and Psychiatry. She will be seeing sleep disorders patients at 1 James P Murphy Industrial Highway in West Warwick and will also be involved in research and teaching activities in the department. A Rhode Island native, Dr. Sharkey is delighted to return to the Ocean State where she intends to have a productive academic career and to introduce her husband, Keith Callahan, M.D., a family medicine physician, and sons Nick and Alex to the pleasures of her home state, “especially Narragansett Bay, amazing Italian food, and Del’s!”



Stefan Gravenstein, M.D., M.P.H., C.M.D.

Stefan Gravenstein, M.D., M.P.H., C.M.D. has joined the Gerontology Center of Brown University and the Geriatrics Division as a new faculty member in July 2007. Dr. Gravenstein is a graduate of Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, OH, completed his medical residency and geriatric fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and William S. Middleton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Madison. He received his MPH at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA and was elected to Delta Omega in 2002. Dr. Gravenstein is a fellow of the American

Geriatrics Society and the American College of Physicians; and a member of the Association of Directors of Academic Geriatrics Programs, Gerontologic Society of America, among others. Dr. Gravenstein was tenured as Associate Professor of Medicine at UW-Madison before leaving for Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1996 to become the John Franklin Chair of Geriatrics, was promoted to professor, and he developed and directed the Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology, including a geriatrics fellowship, which he directed until this June. He also has won multiple competitive federal grants, including the VA Associate Investigator Award, K07, K08, and RO1, as well as foundation grants such as the Geriatric Leadership Scholars Award, Hartford Geriatric Academic Programs Award and others as principle investigator. The scientific focus of his research has centered on immune senescence and influenza in elderly people, with a growing emphasis on inflammation. He has chaired NIH review committees, among others. He is immediate past president of the Virginia Geriatrics Society. Clinically,

Dr. Gravenstein founded and directed the first “memory” clinics both at UW-Madison and EVMS, which primarily served dementia patients and their families, especially for those patients with associated behavioral disorders. He has been a medical director at a dementia care unit at the assisted living level, as well as at nursing homes. Among his present responsibilities, he serves as the director of the American Medical Directors Association-Foundation Research Network and the CMS’ quality improvement organization support center (QIOSC) for nursing homes through Quality Partners of Rhode Island, a Steering Committee Member and Workgroup Chair of the Advancing Excellence in America’s Nursing Homes Campaign, and medical director at the Tockwotton Home in Providence. Dr. Gravenstein moved to Providence from Virginia Beach with his wife Mary Ann, to partner with “some of the amazing talent” at the Gerontology Center at Brown and Quality Partners.

Memorial Hospital Welcomes New Physicians



Joe Yamine, M.D. has joined Memorial Hospital's Department of Medicine/Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. Dr. Yamine evaluates patients with diverse cardiovascular issues with a special emphasis on electrophysiological problems. He is board certified in cardiology, echocardiography and internal medicine.

Dr. Yamine earned his medical degree from the Lebanese University,

Faculty of Medicine in Beirut, Lebanon. He completed his internal medicine residency and his fellowship in cardiology at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. He is completing a fellowship in advanced cardiac electrophysiology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.



Dr. Aurora Pop-Vicas, MD, MPH, has joined Memorial's active staff in the Infectious Diseases Division of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Pop-Vicas earned her medical degree and completed her Internal Medicine residency at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. She completed her Infectious Diseases fellowship at Beth-Israel Medical Center in Boston, and is board certified in

internal medicine and infectious diseases. Dr. Pop-Vicas received the Maxwell Finland Award for Research Excellence from the Massachusetts Infectious Diseases Society.



Sabrina Witherby, M.D. has joined Memorial Hospital's Department of Medicine/Division of Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Witherby earned her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA after pursuing undergraduate studies at Wesleyan and postgraduate studies at Harvard Universities. She completed her internal medicine residency at Rhode Island Hospital/The Miriam

Hospital/ The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology from the Fletcher Allen Health Care/University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. Dr. Witherby is board certified in internal medicine and is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Hematology, American Medical Association, and the Massachusetts Medical Society



Dr. Adrian Salmon, M.D. has joined the DOM's Intensivist Service at Memorial Hospital. Dr. Salmon earned his medical degree from the Universidad Catolica de Santiago de Guayaquil, Ecuador and completed his Internal Medicine residency at the University of Illinois. He completed his fellowship in Critical Care Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Salmon is board certified

in Internal Medicine and is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, American College of Physicians and the American Medical Association.

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Subcommittee to evaluate the effectiveness of the \$15 billion President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

The Williams' award adds to Carpenter's long list of accolades ranging from local to

international honors - one of the most notable being the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star, given to him by the Emperor of Japan in 1998 for his contributions to the Japan-United States

Cooperative Medical Science Program.

Drs. Ed Wing and Lance Dworkin receive honorary appointments as Professors of Medicine at Nanjing University School of Medicine during visit to China

Recently, a delegation of senior faculty from Brown Medical School, including Ed Wing, Rena Wing, Rujun Gong, and Lance Dworkin visited The Research Institute of Nephrology of Nanjing University School of Medicine and Jingling Hospital, in Nanjing, China. The visit was an outgrowth of a long-standing collaboration between the Division of Kidney Disease and Hypertension at Brown and the Research Institute of Nephrology in Nanjing, under the auspices of the Renal Sister Center Program of the International Society of Nephrology. This program pairs kidney centers in developing countries with established programs in the United States or Europe, in order to facilitate the development worldwide of clinical and academic programs in nephrology. The affiliation between the programs began in May 1997 and just celebrated its 10-year anniversary. As a result of this affiliation, several post-doctoral fellows from Nanjing have spent 1-2 years working in the kidney division laboratories at Brown. More recently, there have been visits to Brown by senior faculty from Nanjing, the current director of the Research Institute of Nephrology, Dr. Zhi-Hong Liu, and a 3-month observership of our clinical and training programs in nephrology by the director of clinical programs in nephrology at the Institute in Nanjing.

Ed, Rena, Rujun, and Lance traveled to China for two weeks from May 19th to June 2nd and spent the first week visiting Nanjing University. Nanjing is the southern capital of China, located in the southeast about 200 kilometers from Shanghai and the Pacific Ocean. Nanjing is an ancient city and was the capital of China for 6 dynasties lasting about 1000 years. It is also a modern city with a population of 8.2 million and a major center for commerce, culture, and education in southern China. Founded in

1902, Nanjing University is one of the top 5 universities in China. It includes 17 Schools and 50 Departments. It has 18,000 students and approximately 2000 faculty. Thirty-three of the faculty are members of the Chinese Academy of Science or Engineering, including our hosts Dr. Lei-Shi Li and Dr. Zhi-Hong Liu.

The Research Institute of Nephrology at Nanjing is the premier kidney program in China. It occupies a modern 7 story building on the campus of Jingling Hospital, which has nearly inpatient 2000 beds, and is equipped with all of the tools of modern medicine including PET, CT and MR imaging equipment. The kidney program provides inpatient and outpatient clinical care to patients with kidney disease including acute, chronic and continuous dialysis, hemoperfusion, renal transplantation. There are 28 full-time faculty and active PhD training programs in both clinical and investigational nephrology. The Institute staffs a 150-bed inpatient renal hospital, which cares for about 3,600 inpatients per year. Over 3,000 renal biopsies are performed each year. Dialysis is provided to about 450 patients at an on site unit with 90 stations. Approximately 120 renal transplants are performed each year with a total transplant population of about 1400. The outpatient program operates 6 days a week. Remarkably, there are 160,000 renal outpatient visits per year. The Institute is equipped with state of the art clinical and research laboratories. Major areas of investigation include studies on the pathogenesis and treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and IgA nephropathy.

During the visit, the faculty from Brown presented lectures in several symposiums. Most physicians in China speak and understand English quite well and all of these

lectures were highly publicized, well attended, and concluded with active question and answer periods. The delegation also met with administrative leadership of Jingling Hospital, toured the main campus of Nanjing University and met with the President of Nanjing University, Jun Chen. He was well aware of the collaboration in nephrology and very interested to explore the possibility of greater associations between our two Universities. Drs. Ed Wing and Lance Dworkin also received honorary appointments as Professors of Medicine at Nanjing University School of Medicine, which was a great honor.

We hope that the visit will foster even greater collaboration between the two kidney programs. To facilitate this process, Professors Li and Liu have been appointed Adjunct Professors in the Department of Medicine at Brown Medical School. A new post-doctoral fellow, funded by the International Society of Nephrology, will be arriving in December to work in the renal division labs for two years. This will bring total funding for the Sister Center Program to over \$40,000 per year, with the possibility of additional funding up to about \$70,000. Future plans include additional, bilateral faculty visits and a fellows' exchange program. Collaborative basic and clinical research programs are being discussed including molecular studies on the huge tissue bank of human kidney biopsy material maintained in Nanjing. An international conference on glomerular disease, sponsored by ISN and jointly organized by the kidney programs in Nanjing and Brown is being organized and will be held in Nanjing in August, 2008. This program is example of the expanding and diverse opportunities in international health in our Department and at Brown Medical School.

"Heart and soul of The Miriam Hospital" - Fred J. Schiffman, MD, named Physician of the Year

Recognizing more than 20 years of service, Fred J. Schiffman, MD, has been named the recipient of the 2007 Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD, Physician of the Year Award at The Miriam Hospital by his peers. Noted as "the heart and soul of The Miriam Hospital" by his colleagues, Schiffman was presented the award at the hospital's staff association meeting on June 18.

"Dr. Schiffman is a gifted physician and educator who embodies the very essence of the mission of The Miriam Hospital - inspiration," says Kathleen C. Hittner, MD, president and chief executive officer of The Miriam Hospital. "He inspires his fellow physicians, medical students, the staff, and most of all—his patients, to strive for the best for one another."

Schiffman has been on the staff at The Miriam Hospital since 1983 and in that time has been revered for his compassion and commitment to his patients as well as medical residents. A hematologist and oncologist by training, Schiffman was appointed medical director of Lifespan's Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2000, overseeing the collaborative cancer efforts at Rhode Island, The Miriam and Newport hospitals. Peers who nominated Schiffman for the award cited him as "world class in his treatment of patients" and an "impeccable physician who promotes excellence in patient care."

Schiffman's devotion to academic medicine is evident by his ongoing dedication to the medical residents at The Miriam Hospital. As associate program director of the internal medicine residency program at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, he plays a fundamental role in providing residents with the experience and education necessary to start their careers as physicians. Well-regarded outside of Rhode Island,

Schiffman is sought out nationally to speak on topics such as, "How to teach your residents," or "Advancing your academic agenda as chief resident." He has also been asked to deliver medical grand rounds and serve as a visiting professor at institutions such as Washington University and Columbia University.

Schiffman's compassion extends beyond his patients to his fellow caregivers as a co-chair of the ongoing "Schwartz Center Rounds" at The Miriam Hospital. Based upon the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, the rounds offer unique forums for caregivers to give and receive support from one another and to ultimately strengthen their relationship with their patients. Schiffman spearheaded the effort to bring the rounds to The Miriam to allow colleagues to speak freely about emotionally taxing situations they may face in providing patient care.

The physician of the year recognition adds to Schiffman's lengthy list of hospital and academic honors including numerous Best Teacher Awards, Model Physician Awards, Dean's Teaching Excellence Awards, Most Valuable Physician Awards, and most recently, the 2007 Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching given by the department of medicine of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Admired by medical students alike, Schiffman has been the recipient of multiple senior class awards, most recently this past year, and has been selected to serve as Marshall of Brown's Alpert Medical School commencement exercises five times.

Schiffman has more than 100 articles, abstracts, or book chapters to his credit and has edited a textbook on hematologic pathophysiology. He continues to



Fred J. Schiffman, MD

conduct and publish research in the hematology/oncology field as well as in medical education.

A New York native, Schiffman received his doctorate from New York University School of Medicine and performed his internship, residency, chief residency, and fellowship in hematology at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Schiffman also spent two years as a research associate at the National Cancer Institute in the laboratory of medicinal chemistry and biology. He served as an instructor and assistant professor at Yale University School of Medicine before coming to Rhode Island in 1983.

The Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD, Physician of the Year Award recognizes a physician, nominated by his/her peers, for outstanding contributions to medicine, leadership, professionalism and patient care—qualities exemplified by Carpenter. Charles C.J. Carpenter, MD, director of the Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and a professor of medicine at Brown Medical School, has achieved widespread recognition for his work in treating diseases in developing countries and for training a generation of researchers in the field of international health.

Graduate Medical Education

Internal Medicine Residency Programs

at Rhode Island Hospital –

The Miriam Hospital – VA Medical Center

2007 Post Graduate Career Plans

Fellowships

Cardiovascular

Todd Wood, MD
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Scott Cohen, MD
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Sarah Tsiaras, MD (2008)
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Lori Vales, MD
Beth Israel Medical Center

Amitoj Marwaha, MD
Medical College of Wisconsin

Hanna Ahmed, MD (2008)
Harvard Medical School

Jamie Kemp, MD (2008)
University of Louisville

Critical Care- Pediatrics

Traci Wolbrink, MD
Children's Hospital Boston /
Harvard Medical School

Endocrinology

Marla Barkoff, MD
University of Chicago

Gastroenterology

Matthew Myers, MD
University of Connecticut
Health Center

Jordan Wolff, MD
University of Maryland

Akshay Shah, MD
St. Luke's Roosevelt Medical
Center

Geriatrics

Rebecca Starr, MD
The Warren Alpert Medical
School of Brown University

Jessica Barry, MD
University of Hawaii

Hematology-Oncology

Kimberly Perez, MD
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Joshua Shipley, MD
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Marie Suga, MD
University of California

Matthew Quesenberry, MD
(2008)
University of Virginia

Infectious Disease

Gloria Aggrey, MD
Boston University Medical
Center

Danya Wenzler, MD (2008)
Boston University Medical
Center

Jessica Fairley, MD
Case Western Reserve

Julie Guilbert, MD (2008)
New England Medical Center

Nephrology

Michael Connor, MD
Cleveland Clinic

Ian Wu, MD
Yale University School of
Medicine

Obstetrics

Courtney Clark, MD
Woman & Infants Hospital

Pulmonary Diseases & Critical Care Medicine

Michael Blundin, MD
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Eric Gartman, MD (2008)
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Andrew Levinson, MD (2008)
Alpert Medical School of
Brown University

Charles Lane, MD
Yale University School of
Medicine

Rheumatology

Sheen Yee Lim, MD (2008)
SUNY Downstate

Hospitalist

Thao Pham, MD
Kaiser Permanente

John Gelzhiser, MD
Kent County Hospital

Meghan Gange, MD
Newton Wellesley Hospital

Siddharth Kakodkar, MD
Northwestern Memorial
Hospital

Jamie Kemp, MD
Norton Healthcare

Samuel Poon, MD
Norwood Hospital

Matthew Tracy, MD
Swedish Medical Center

Andrew Levinson, MD
Tri-County Medical
Associates, Milford, MA

Medical Practice

Melinda Hooton, MD
Laurel Internal Medicine
Clinic, Salinas, CT

Kathryn Koncsol, MD
Medical Associates of Rhode
Island

Leah Marano, MD (2008)
Primary Care Practice

Ting Kuang, MD
Vanguard, Quincy, MA

Research

Lauren Beste, MD
Health Services Research
Fellowship, University of
Washington

Office of the Chairman of Medicine
Rhode Island Hospital
593 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02903

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds - Tuesday Mornings at 8:00 AM

George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital

Hurvitz Board Room 1, The Miriam Hospital, Room 653, VA Medical Center • Library Video Room, Newport Hospital (teleconferenced from RIH)

November 20, 2007:

"Fifty Years After Steroids: Advances in Rheumatoid Arthritis"

Michael E. Weinblatt, M.D., Senior Physician, Department of Medicine, Director, Therapeutics Unit, Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, John R. Riedman Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

November 27, 2007:

Nephrology Update

"Normotensive Ischemic Acute Renal Failure (NIARF)"

J. Gary Abuelo, M.D., Associate Physician, Division of Renal Diseases, Rhode Island Hospital, Associate Professor of Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

"Update in the Prevention and Treatment of Contrast Nephropathy"

Douglas Shemin, M.D., Attending Physician, Division of Renal Diseases, Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals, VAMC, Associate Professor of Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

"Nephrogenic Systemic Sclerosis: A New Contrast Associated Disease in Kidney Patients"

Lance Dworkin, M.D., Director, Division of Renal Diseases, Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals, Professor of Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

December 4, 2007:

Morbidity & Mortality Conference

December 11, 2007:

"The Rising Tide of Arterial Stiffness-Related Disorders"

Gary F. Mitchell, M.D., Cardiovascular Engineering, Inc.

December 18, 2007:

Gastroenterology Update

Jose Behar, M.D., director (Subsection) Upper/Lower GI Motility, Rhode Island Hospital, Professor of Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Harland Rich, M.D., Director, Rhode Island Hospital Endoscopy Unit, Associate Professor of Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

December 25, 2007:

CANCELED - HAPPY HOLIDAY

January 1, 2008:

CANCELED

January 8, 2008:

Guest Lecture

January 15, 2008:

Radiology Imaging Update

January 22, 2008:

Morbidity & Mortality Conference

January 29, 2008:

Guest Lecture

Michael S. Barr, M.D., MBA, FACP, Vice President, Practice Advocacy & Improvement, ACP