

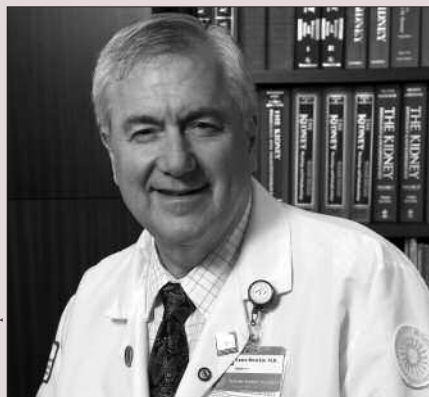
THE WARREN ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY

General Internal Medicine Research Section	1
Chairman's Message	2
Research Awards	3
7th Annual Beckwith Family Visiting Professorship Lecture and Awards for Outstanding Teaching	5
The Rhode Island Commission on Women Honors Susan Cu-Uvin, M.D.	6
Research News	7
Profiles	7
Department of Medicine at Women & Infants New and Departing Faculty	8
Graduate Medical Education Chief Medical Residents	9-10
Annual Senior Resident Research Day at Rhode Island Hospital	11
Update on the Director of the General Internal Medicine Research Section	11
Grand Rounds	12

Chairman's Message

Lance Dworkin, MD

Photo: Lifespan/Robin Blossom



This is a time of transition for the Department of Medicine, and an appropriate time to reflect on the tremendous progress our Department has made over the last ten years under the leadership of our outgoing Chairman, Edward J. Wing, MD, who became Dean of the Alpert Medical School of Brown University in July, 2008. Those of us with longer institutional memories may recall that, prior to his arrival in 1998, the Department was decentralized; faculty members were employed by one of two hospitals or three separate foundations. Among his first acts as Chairman, Ed Wing orchestrated the merging of the medicine foundations at the Miriam and Rhode Island Hospitals and became the first Chairman of Medicine at Brown to actually oversee academic programs across the entire system, serving as not only as the Brown Chair, but also Physician in Chief at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals, Executive Chief of Medicine at Memorial, the VA and Women and Infants' Hospitals, and the President of the unified University Medicine Foundation. Educationally, he merged the medicine residency training programs at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals. The unified program has grown in prestige and popularity and currently recruits outstanding graduates from across the country. Ed Wing recruited new leaders

to direct almost every division in medicine, and they in turn have unified and greatly expanded their programs across our multi-hospital system both clinically and academically. He instituted a new economic model in the Department and created the Academic Enrichment Fund, which annually channels millions of dollars directly into academic programs that have significantly contributed to the success of every division of the department. He presided over a period of unprecedented growth in extramural funding for both basic and translational research in the department, which has grown from approximately \$10 million in 1998 to \$40 million annually in 2007. Throughout his tenure, Ed was a principled and fair-minded leader, who always kept the academic mission and the needs of the department first and foremost on his list of priorities. We are grateful for his inspired leadership of our department and optimistic about the future of our medical school with Ed as our Dean.

Looking forward, I am greatly honored to have been selected as Interim Chairman to lead the Department until a new permanent chairman is appointed. Interim periods are often considered times of reduced activity during which little progress is made, however, our Department cannot afford to rest on its laurels. Rather we must strive to continue to expand and improve our clinical and academic programs. We face, as always, significant challenges, but there are also tremendous opportunities. Federal funding for biomedical research remains at a low ebb, however, programs and individuals continue to have considerable success in competing for extramural funding. One notable example was the \$20 million competitive renewal of the FAVORIT study, led by Andy Bostom, which is examining the

pathogenesis and treatment of cardiovascular disease in kidney transplant recipients. Educationally, the new class of medicine residents that arrived this July are, by all reports, an absolutely outstanding group of young physicians from top schools across the country. Our fellowship programs also recently completed a highly successful recruitment season and have attracted trainees from many of the best residency programs nationally. Clinically, we are in the midst of a rapid expansion of the hospitalist services at both The Miriam and Rhode Island Hospitals. As physician practices change and fewer and fewer primary care physicians round in the hospitals, the nature of the hospitalist programs are also evolving and will assume increasing responsibility for resident education.

In summary, I am tremendously optimistic about the future of our Department and our School. We operate within outstanding and highly successful institutions; Brown University, Lifespan, Memorial, the VA, and Women and Infants' Hospitals that are all committed to our academic mission. We stand on the verge of a revolution in medical knowledge and therapeutics, including systems biology, bioinformatics, nanotechnology, medical genetics, personalized medicine, stem cell, and gene therapy. Integrating these new disciplines into our laboratories and clinics will challenge our abilities and enrich our professional lives. Most of all, I am encouraged by the intelligence, skill, and dedication of our faculty and trainees, who are ultimately responsible for the success of the department and for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration. I look forward to working with you to continue to enhance and expand our clinical, research and educational programs.

Research Awards

Richard Besdine, MD, Division Director for Geriatrics, has received a two-year award from The John A Hartford Foundation titled 'Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Training at Brown University.' These funds will be used in synergy with Dr. Besdine's already funded Reynolds Foundation grant to further enhance the development of physician scientists and educator clinicians in aging at Brown University and the affiliated hospitals. The funding of nearly \$500,000 will provide protected time for selected 'Hartford Scholars' for additional coursework, research projects, medical education projects, and quality improvement projects. New strategies aimed specifically at medical students and residents for aging will also be developed from this program to ensure adequate flow of candidates for faculty careers in the future.

Jane Carter, MD, from the Division of Infectious Diseases, has received a five-year continuation award from the Centers of Disease Control via a subcontract from Indiana University for the project 'AMPATH, Controlling and Preventing HIV/AIDS in western Kenya.' There is approximately \$35,000 in annual direct funds funded for her role. Dr. Taylor's focus in this program has been on targeting TB care and management in this underserved area. The seven target goals are 1) Expansion of cough monitor community based programs; 2) Expansion of universal HIV testing of all TB suspects in all TB treatment sites in western Kenya; 3) Development of on-site Direct Specimen Testing; 4) Development isolation wards for contagious TB as well as MDR.XDR ward; 5) Expansion of culture access to all extrapulmonary cases, particularly targeting meningitis and childhood TB; 6) Evaluation of best practice methods for TB suspect evaluation and management; and 7) Family based screening, initially for all cases with pulmonary forms of disease.

Susan Cu-Uvin, MD, from the Division of Infectious Diseases, has received a grant at Brown University funded from the National Institutes of Health. This three-year award has \$125,000 annual direct costs for her project 'Interdisciplinary Framework in Global Health at Brown University.' The objective of this award is to develop new multi and interdisciplinary curricular and educational opportunities in global health for undergraduate, graduate, and/or postgraduate levels at Brown University. This program will involve faculty from community health, medicine, sociology, engineering, anthropology, economics, pathobiology, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, and infectious diseases. A foundational set of courses relating to global health will be developed, mentored internships in global health created, and other educational activities at Brown and affiliated hospitals coordinated. The program will emphasize health research and delivery in lesser-developed countries with broad perspectives and methods developing utilizing the expertise from the many programs and departments noted.

Leah Holmes, MSW, LICSW, from the Division of Infectious Diseases has received \$13,405 from the Rhode Island Department of Health for the project 'Integrated HIV and Viral Hepatitis Prevention.' These funds will be used to provide rapid HIV testing to approximately 100 people at the Community Access center in conjunction with the TMH Immunology Center. The Community Access center serves as an accessible point of entry for those individuals who may otherwise be alienated from the health care system and serves to reduce barriers to accessing care for those in need.

Susan Kiene, PhD, in the Division of General Internal Medicine, has received a five-year K01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health titled 'Client-Centered Counseling During Routine/Opt-

out HIV-Testing in Uganda.' With approximately \$145,000 in direct cost funding per year, Dr. Kien's K-award is being used to develop and implement an outpatient routine/opt-out HIV testing and counseling (RTC) program in Uganda. Uganda is one of the countries most affected by the HIV epidemic and 80% of those who are HIV-positive are unaware of their status. This program will help understand the dynamics of sexual risk behavior, provide recommendations for enhancing the RTC intervention program, and investigate behavior change processes following RTC to identify psychosocial, social-cognitive, and behavior factors that explain short and long term sexual risk behavior change.

Michelle Lally, MD, from the Division of Infectious Diseases has received funding from the National Institutes of Health via a subcontract from the University of Alabama at Birmingham as part of an Adolescent Trials Network (ATN) grant. Initial funding of \$20,000 will be used for Dr. Lally to participate in evaluating and prioritizing scientific research agendas for the ATN program. She will participate in protocol development, manuscript reviews, and hypothesis formulation assistance.

Daniel Levine, MD, in the Cardiology Division, has joined the University of Massachusetts via a subcontract from funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for becoming an enrollment site for an 'Observational Study of Delay in Heart Failure.' Over \$100,000 in direct costs over two years is being provided for Dr. Levine and the Rhode Island Hospital Heart Failure Clinic to enroll patients into this study. Using a questionnaire, demographic, and clinical information, factors that facilitated or were obstacles to seeking and receiving care for acute heart failure can be quantified.

Lynn Taylor, MD, from the Division of Infectious Diseases has received a five-year

General Internal Medicine Research Section

continued

continued from page 1

patients who drink heavily. The aim of the second study is to develop and test a cognitive-behavioral intervention to prevent the onset of depression among methadone maintenance patients undergoing interferon treatment for hepatitis C. The goal of the third study is to develop and test an HIV-risk behavior intervention for pregnant women in drug abuse treatment.

Cynthia Rosengard, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor (Research) of Medicine, studies the intersection of sexual and substance use risk among adolescents and young adults, with a goal to develop targeted primary prevention efforts to reduce STIs and unplanned pregnancy in non-traditional educational, correctional, and at-risk international settings. In December of 2002, she was awarded a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health entitled "Partner-specific Factors in Adolescent Sexual Behavior." In September of 2006, she was awarded an independent investigator award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse entitled "Partner-specific HIV Risk Reduction for Drug

Using Incarcerated Adolescents" which will run through May of 2010.

Christine Duffy, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, performs research on cancer survivorship, including the primary care and follow-up of cancer survivors, fertility issues related to cancer treatment, and tools to assist cancer survivors in making important decisions. A former BIRCWH scholar, in July 2007 she received a five-year career development award from the National Cancer Institute entitled "Measuring Preferences for Fertility in Breast Cancer for a Decision Aid" to characterize the decision-making needs of young breast cancer patients, develop and pilot test a decision aid for the fertility preservation decision.

Susan M. Kiene, PhD, Assistant Professor (Research) of Medicine and Community Health, examines behaviors that put individuals at risk for HIV/AIDS and methods for preventing HIV transmission. Dr. Kiene's research program in rural Uganda (the Salawo Uganda--Brown Collaboration) aims to develop effective and sustainable public health methods to empower individ-

uals to change their behavior to prevent HIV transmission. In May 2008 she received a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health, "Client-Centered Counseling During Routine/Opt-out HIV-testing in Uganda," to develop and pilot test a brief client-centered counseling intervention to reduce unprotected sex and STI incidence in a rural outpatient hospital clinic in Uganda.

Mark Schleinitz, MD, MS is Assistant Professor of Medicine. His centers on decision-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis applied to anti-platelet therapy for the prevention of cardiovascular events, policies to reduce the rate of hospitalization for long-term nursing home residents, emerging breast cancer screening modalities, including ultrasound and MRI, and using utility theory as a tool for the evaluation of breast cancer treatment disparities.

The Research Unit also has an experienced group of doctoral-level professionals, clinical interventionists and senior research coordinators responsible for supervision of the RA staff and the day-to-day operations of the unit, including Patricia Engler, PhD and David Dove, PhD, former post-docs with our group, and Randall Hoskinson, Jr.

Our investigators collaborate with research groups throughout the Brown University community, including the Centers for AIDS Research, Alcohol and Addiction Studies, Gerontology, Behavioral and Preventive Medicine, and Statistical Science, the Brown/Women & Infants Hospital Center of Excellence in Women's Health and the Departments of Medicine, Community Health and Psychiatry. Dr. Friedmann's goals are to coalesce these collaborative relationships to foster projects that leverage the clinical and research strengths among the DGIM Research Section, Lifespan and Brown investigators. He is also dedicated to making the Research Section a place where young faculty, trainees and students can flourish.



The Division of General Internal Medicine Research Group standing in front of their new headquarters located at 111 Plain Street.

Back row; (left-right) Dr. David Dove, Dr. Christine Duffy, Debra D'Allesandro, Dr. Peter Friedmann, Director
Front row: (left-right) Courtney McCarthy, Dr. Susan Ramsey, Dina DePalo, Dr. Kathryn Bell, Rosalie Lopez, Dr. Patricia Engler-Field, Patricia Cioe, RN, NP, Dr. Cynthia Rosengard, Linda Bigden, Laura DiMaio, Jen Wray, Kathi Hennessey and Randy Hoskinson. Missing from the Photo are: Drs. Mark Schleinitz and Susan Kiene

7th Annual Beckwith Family Visiting Professorship Lecture and Awards for Outstanding Teaching

The Department of Medicine held its Seventh Annual Beckwith Family Awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. It followed the Beckwith Visiting Professorship Lecture where Robert C. Moellering, Jr., M.D., Shields Warren-Mallinckrodt Professor of Medical Research, Harvard Medical School, Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA was the guest lecturer presenting "Top Stories in Infectious Disease 2007–2008."

This is the 7th year that the Department of Medicine has given awards to recognize superb teaching by its faculty on behalf of the Beckwith Family Fund. The Beckwith Family Research and Education 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. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, program and course directors in the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University Department of Medicine. Each winner was presented with a plaque and a cash prize.

The Seventh Annual Alpert Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Awards for Outstanding Teaching were presented to the following faculty members:

- Gary Abuelo, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Kidney Disease & Hypertension
- Joseph Harwell, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases
- Muhanned Abu-Hijleh, MD, Assistant Professor (Clinical) of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care
- Edward J. Wing, MD, Professor of Medicine Research, Chairman of Medicine
- Kim Amin, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine
- Edward Wittels, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology
- Nancy Freeman, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology

K-23 award from the National Institute of Drug Abuse for her project 'Buprenorphine as a Bridge to HCV Treatment for HIV/HCV Coinfected Opioid Users.' Averaging approximately \$170,000 per year, Dr. Taylor will use this Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award to train in designing and implementing studies to improve health services delivery for HIV/HCV coinfecting drug users and to develop treatment and secondary prevention interventions to stem these epidemics and limit the mortality and morbidity of those at high risk for HCV progression.

Shuping Tong, MD, PhD, from the Gastroenterology Division, was awarded a two-year R21 grant from the National Cancer Institute for his project 'Hepatitis B virus immune escape mutants.' With approximately \$100,000 per year in direct costs, Dr. Tong proposes to analyze how the mutations in the Hepatitis B Virus affect the ability of chronically infected individuals to clear the virus. Four hundred million people worldwide are chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV) and are at risk for cirrhosis or liver cancer, necessitating liver transplantation. The results of Dr. Tong's studies may lead to better predictor methods and better containment strategies in this area.

Zhu Zhang, PhD, from the Renal Division has received approximately \$26,000 from the Foundation for Health for his project 'HBEGF and Proliferation.' The long term goal of this project is to identify the signaling mechanisms of renal cell proliferation following acute renal failure (ARF) that lead to recovery of renal function. The specific studies hope to determine 1) whether heparin-binding epidermal growth factor is the primary growth factor for renal proximal tubular cell (RPTC) proliferation and renal function recovery after injury 2) understand the mechanisms of RPTC proliferation following injury and 3) may ultimately lead to the development of therapeutic agents that improve clinical outcomes on patients with ARF.

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



continued from page 3

The Rhode Island Commission on Women Honors Susan Cu-Uvin, M.D., as a 2008 Woman of the Year



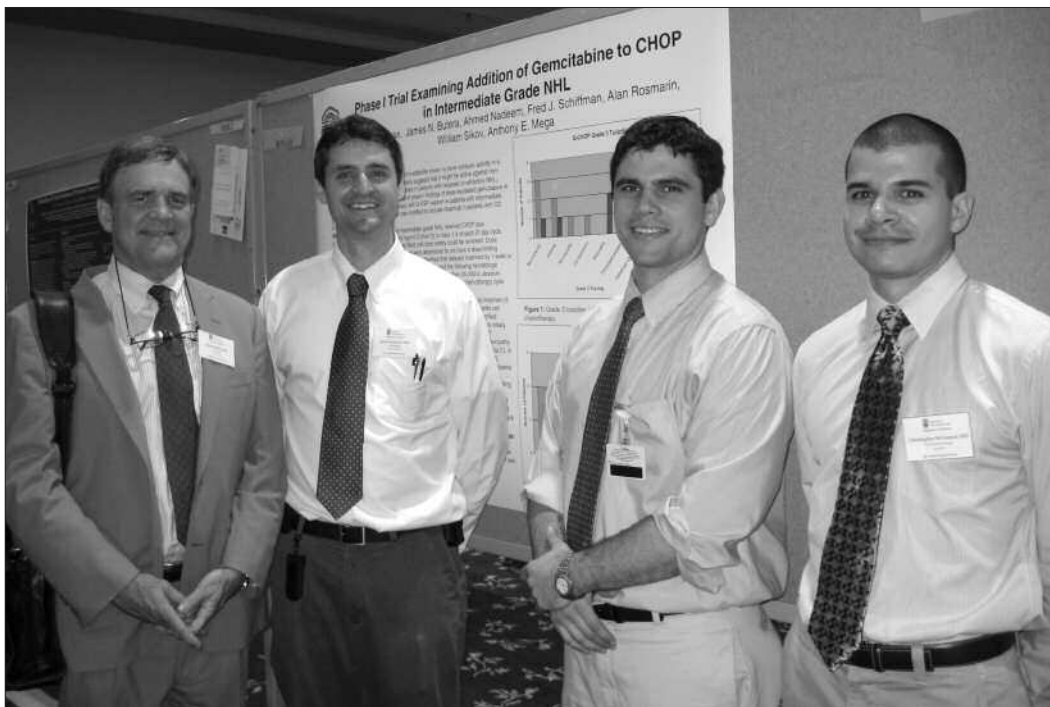
Susan Cu-Uvin, M.D

Providence, R.I., (June 11, 2008)—The Rhode Island Commission on Women (RICW) announced that it has selected three extremely distinguished individuals as recipients of the 2008 Women of the Year Award. The award is presented to Rhode Island residents with a history of achievement reflecting the mission of the RICW, which is to advance women toward full equality in all areas of life, and to

promote rights and opportunities for all women. The award is an important way to recognize the work of positive female role models who have made significant contributions to women in our State.

Susan Cu-Uvin, M.D.—Dr. Cu-Uvin, a resident of Sharon, MA, is a Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology at Brown University and Director of the Clinical Immunology Center at Miriam Hospital in Providence, RI. She established in Rhode Island the first clinic in the nation to treat the unique health needs of post-menopausal women living with HIV disease and AIDS. Dr. Cu-Uvin has trained 17 doctors from India, Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and the Philippines on women and HIV/AIDS and has participated in over 150 presentations and published scientific articles on women and HIV/AIDS.

The award will be presented at a dinner and reception to be held in their honor on October 16 at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick.



14th Annual Department of Medicine Research Forum held at Brown University on June 10, 2008
Left to right: Drs. Edward J. Wing, Ryan McNevin, John Reagan and Christopher McGowan

RESEARCH NEWS

Sharon Rounds, MD, Professor of Medicine and of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Chief of the Medical Service at the Providence VA Medical Center, has been named Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the American Thoracic Society. The ATS is a 13,000 member international professional organization of clinicians and scientists working in the area of lung health. As Chair of the ATS Scientific Advisory Committee, Dr. Rounds will be responsible for reviews and administration of a research grant program that will award \$4 million to investigators in 2009. This program consists of grants funded by the ATS and also grants co-funded by partnering patient interest organizations.

Dr. Qing LU, DVM, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Research) and staff biologist at the Providence VA Medical Center in the Vascular Research Laboratory, was awarded BEST POSTER SUBMITTED BY A NEW INVESTIGATOR by the RI Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) and the statewide network of EPSCoR, INBRE, CTSA and COBRE investigators at the STAC meeting on June 5, 2008.

PROFILES



Sarita Warriar, MD

Sarita Warriar, MD Joins the Division of General Internal Medicine

Dr. Sarita Warriar has taken a position as a General Internal Medicine teaching attending based at Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. Warriar is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan with highest distinction majoring in biology and history. She received her M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School in 2005. Dr. Warriar graduated from the General Internal Medicine Residency based at Rhode Island Hospital in June 2008.



Karen E. Aspry, MD, FACC

Local Physician Achieves Certification in Clinical Lipidology

Dr. Karen Aspry, a Cardiologist at MHRI has recently been awarded Diplomate status with the American Board of Clinical Lipidology (ABCL). The ABCL is a nonprofit certifying organization dedicated to reducing the morbidity and mortality from dyslipidemia and related diseases by assessing qualifications and certifying knowledge in clinical lipidology.

Dr. Aspry joins more than 400 physicians from across the nation and is the second physician in Rhode Island who has achieved this important credential. The ABCL certifies those physicians who have distinguished themselves amongst their colleagues and who have satisfied the credentialing and testing requirements established by the ABCL.

To obtain Diplomate status with the ABCL, a physician must complete a range of continuing medical education requirements and successfully pass a rigorous examination. Professionals in the area of lipid management or "lipidologists" specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of cholesterol disorders known as dyslipidemia, which may cause atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is responsible for approximately one-third of all deaths in the U.S.

Full Time Faculty Promotions

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

Pulmonary

Eleanor Summerhill
Associate Professor (TST)

The Miriam Hospital

Infectious Disease

Abigail Harrison
Assistant Professor (Res)

VAMC

General Internal Medicine

Peter Friedmann
Professor (RST)

Full Time Faculty Appointments

Rhode Island Hospital

Gastroenterology

Jiman He
Assistant Professor (Res)

General Internal Medicine

Claudia Segunda Rodriguez Cabrera
Adjunct Associate Professor

Laurie Hicks

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Geriatrics

Stefan Gravenstein, MD
Professor (TST)

Hematology/Oncology

Jason Aliotta
Assistant Professor

Ariel Birnbaum

Assistant Professor

Ravi Krishnadasan

Assistant Professor

Infectious Disease

Christine Wanke
Adjunct Professor

Nephrology

Andrew Cohen
Professor (TST)

Lei-shi Li

Adjunct Professor

Zhi-Hong Liu

Adjunct Professor

Rheumatology

Kerri Batra
Assistant Professor (TST)

Department of Medicine at Women & Infants New and Departing Faculty



Meghan Hayes, MD completed her Obstetric Medicine Fellowship with the Department of Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital on June 30, 2008 and joins us as of July 1, 2008 as an Obstetric Medicine attending physician. She received her MD degree from the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse

College of Medicine and completed her residency from the David Grant USAF Medical Center affiliated with the University of California at Davis.



Amanda Pressman, MD joins the Department of Medicine as of July 1, 2008 as the first-year Gastroenterology fellow. She received her MD degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRU), Cleveland, Ohio and completed her residency in Internal Medicine from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,

Boston Massachusetts. Dr. Pressman recently worked as a staff physician at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center since July 2006.



Kenneth Chen, MD joins the Department of Medicine as of July 1, 2008 as the first-year Obstetric Medicine fellow. Dr. Chen was an advanced endocrinology trainee at The Canberra Hospital in Australia, and most recently worked in the Department of Obstetric Medicine at the Royal Hospital for Women in Sydney, Australia.



Lilia Romero Bosch, MD joins the Department of Medicine as an attending psychiatrist in the Division of Behavioral Health as of July 7, 2008. Dr. Bosch received her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Jersey Medical School and completed her residency in General Pediatrics/General Psychiatry/Child and Adolescent

Psychiatry from the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI.



Sumona Saha, MD completed her Gastroenterology Fellowship with the Department of Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital on June 30, 2008 and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. She received her MD degree from Brown University Medical School and

completed her residency in Internal Medicine from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Saha will continue to collaborate with the Women & Infants' GI Division on inflammatory bowel disease in pregnancy projects.

Visit our website at:

www.brownmedicine.org

Graduate Medical Education

2008–2009 RIH/TMH/VAMC Chief Medical Residents Appointed



Kathleen Doyle, MD graduated from Georgetown University in 1995 with a BA in Theology. After college she worked for three years as a case manager for homebound elders in Boston. She then volunteered for three months at a health center in the mountains of

Nicaragua. It was there that she developed her interest in medicine. She returned to Boston to complete her pre-medical coursework and worked as a research assistant on a study linking men and women suffering from addictions to primary care.

Kathleen attended the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and received her medical degree in 2005. She participated in many volunteer activities during medical school. She served as the co-coordinator for the U Conn chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She also volunteered at multiple student-run clinics including one in a homeless shelter and another at a migrant worker farm. Kathleen also taught health education classes to teenagers at the American School for the Deaf.

She is a graduate of in the General Internal Medicine program. Kathleen hopes to pursue a career in Hospice and Palliative Care.



Ravi Gupta, MD graduated Summa Cum Laude from Brooklyn College in January 2001, where he was in the eight-year combined BA-MD program. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Golden Key Honor Societies. At Brooklyn College he majored in Political

Science; he concentrated in Middle Eastern politics and was awarded a Robert Kahn political science fellowship award. His thesis was focused on Afghani Domestic Terrorism, in particular role of Taliban and Osama Bin Laden in 2000 prior to the September 11th attacks.

Ravi attended State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate College of Medicine. He participated in research on the role of T wave alternans in predicting malignant ventricular tachycardia. He was active in the South Asians Students Society, as well as Community Outreach. He graduated Alpha Omega Alpha in May 2005 and was given the Merck Award of Excellence.

Ravi is a graduate of the categorical resident in Internal Medicine. Outside the hospital, Ravi is an avid car enthusiast, movie-lover, and food fan. In his free time he also enjoys spending time with his family and friends. Ravi and his wife recently welcomed the birth of their first child.



W. Anthony (Tony) Lizarraga, MD is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, he majored in chemistry and molecular biology and minored in mathematics. While there, he was active in residence life programs, tutoring, musical groups, and was involved with antibiotic resistance research at the molecular level.

Upon graduation, Tony taught high school chemistry and precalculus and was also the ultimate frisbee coach for one year before attending the University of Tennessee Health Science Center for medical school. At UTHSC, he established a local English as a Second Language program, was a CPR / BLS instructor, and a member of the Professionalism Committee. He graduated in 2005, having received the Gerald I. Plitman Award for excellence in Internal Medicine.

Tony was a categorical Internal Medicine resident and was awarded Best Poster Presentation of Original Research on Senior Resident Research Day. He enjoys racquetball, hiking, cooking, films, literature and travel. He and his wife, Katie, have a new daughter, Abigail Claire, who was born this past June. He plans to join the Frist Clinic, an internal medicine practice in Nashville, TN, next July.



Dr. Ted Sears graduated *summa cum laude* from Bowdoin College in 1998 with an A.B. in Philosophy and Russian Language. At Bowdoin he was president of the Bowdoin Outing Club, worked as an EMT in a local rescue service, studied abroad in Siberia, and was an early

inductee to Phi Beta Kappa. After graduation, he worked briefly for the Frontier Nursing Service in rural Kentucky and for a non-profit healthcare agency in New York City before attending the Bryn Mawr Post baccalaureate Premedical Program in Bryn Mawr, PA. He then entered the Brown-Dartmouth Medical Program. While in medical school he completed a NH/VT Albert E. Schweitzer Fellowship with a project on gun safety education and risk reduction. He also sat on the Dartmouth Medical School Admissions Committee.

Ted completed his Internal Medicine—Pediatrics residency at Brown and will begin a fellowship in pulmonary/critical care medicine in 2009 here at Rhode Island Hospital/Alpert Medical School. During his residency he received the Dean's Excellence Teaching Award as a small group facilitator in the Internal Medicine Clerkship.

In his free time Ted enjoys playing ultimate frisbee in a local league, snowboarding, hiking, canoeing, and traveling with his wife, Nell. Other jobs he has held in his life include wooden boat builder, sled dog handler, Alaskan cannery worker, and wilderness-trip leader.

Graduate Medical Education *continued*

2008–2009 RIH/TMH/VAMC Chief Medical Residents Appointed



Sarah A Tapyrik, MD, graduated Cum Laude from the University of Rochester in 2000 with a BA in Biology and a BA with honors in Russian. As an undergraduate, she worked on a study utilizing the BiSpectral Index (BIS) Monitor as a noninvasive way to measure the degree of sedation in children undergoing painful procedures, resulting in a publication in Pediatrics. Also in Rochester, she pursued her interest in music by performing and touring with the University orchestras and studied at the Eastman School of Music. To complete her Russian major, she spent a summer abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia. Following graduation, she worked as a lab tech at the University of Pittsburgh, assisting a

post-doctoral fellow with her work in the area of nitric-oxide research.

Sarah returned to the University of Rochester for medical school where she earned her medical degree in 2005. While in medical school, she served as co-vice-president of her class and spent time volunteering for tutoring programs for underserved children. She also spent time in Krakow, Poland, helping to teach junior medical students history and physical exam skills.

A recent graduate of the Brown General Internal Medicine program, Sarah looks forward to a fellowship position in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, beginning in July 2009 at NYU. Her interests outside of work include travel, music and summers in Maine.

2008–2009 Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island Chief Medical Resident



Rami Eltibi, MD graduated from the University of Jordan (UJ) School of Medicine in 2003. While at UJ, Rami was active in tutoring and fundraising to support disadvantaged students. He also volunteered in many understaffed primary care clinics in rural areas in Jordan.

Before beginning his internal medicine residency at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island (MHRI) Rami spent some time working at the King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman, Jordan- one of the premier cancer centers in the Middle East.

While a resident at MHRI, Rami has been actively working to improve the academic and personal experience for residents of the program. He is a member of numerous hospital committees and was a leader in recent revisions to the teaching service. For his achievements and hard work, Rami was awarded Senior Resident of the Year for 2007–2008.

In his free-time Rami enjoys cooking, playing soccer, spending time with his wife, and chasing after his lovely 18 month-old daughter, Maram. Rami is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and continues to work on improving his craft here in Rhode Island. Rami hopes to pursue a career in cardiology.



Drs. Dominick Tammaro and Edward Wing enjoy the RIH Internal Medicine Residency Annual Flea Follies.



Drs. Grace Lee and Mari Shiraishi, RIH Internal Medicine residents wait for the festivities to begin.

Annual Senior Resident Research Day at Rhode Island Hospital

The Sixteenth Annual Senior Resident Research Program was held during the Department of Medicine Grand Rounds in the Rhode Island Hospital George Auditorium on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

The top four abstracts chosen for oral presentations were:

- “The SHINE Study (Surgical and Medical Housestaff with MRSA Colonization in the Nares)” Anna Barbosa, MD
- “Diabetic Kidney Transplant Recipients Exhibit Reduced Biomarkers of T- and B-Cell Activity” Marilena Caldarusa, MD
- “Assessing the Prevalence and Risk Factors for Advanced Colonic Neoplasia in Asymptomatic, Average-Risk Women, 50–59 Years of Age” Christopher Fyock, MD
- “Comparison of Laboratory Methods to Determine Residual Post-antiplatelet Treatment Platelet Reactivity in Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Patients: A Pilot Study” Ryan J. MacNevin, MD

There was a concurrent poster session for the remaining 35 senior’s research posters in the lobby adjacent to George Auditorium.

The event was very well attended and 25 preselected Department of Medicine Faculty judged the presentations.

The awards were as follows:

- Best Oral Research Presentation presented to Christopher J. Fyock, MD, “Assessing the Prevalence and Risk Factors for Advanced Colonic Neoplasia in Asymptomatic, Average-Risk Women, 50–59 Years of Age”
- Best Research Poster presented to W. Anthony Lizarraga, MD, “Venous Thromboembolism in Chronic Liver Disease”
- Best Poster Of A Clinical Vignette presented to Sarita Warriar, MD, “AIDS as a New Presentation of HIV”



Dr. Christopher Fyock earned “Best Oral Research Presentation for “Assessing the Prevalence and Risk Factors for Advanced Colonic Neoplasia in Asymptomatic, Average Risk Women, 50–59 years of Age.



Dr. Fred Schiffman judging resident’s poster presentations at the 2008 Annual Resident Research Day at Rhode Island Hospital.

Update on the Director of the General Internal Medicine Research Section

Mike Stein has left the University Medicine Foundation and his role as Director of the General Internal Medicine Research Unit. He has moved his research grants and group to Butler, but will continue to see patients at 111 Plain St. Among his many and impressive accomplishments, Mike has built an incredibly successful research unit.

With Mike Stein’s move to Butler, Peter Friedmann has assumed the role as Director of the GIM Research Unit

effective July 1, 2008. Peter has established himself as a successful independent investigator and mentor. He will continue to serve as Director for the Program to Integrate Psychosocial and Health Services at the Providence Veterans Administration Medical Center. We are indeed fortunate that someone as capable and accomplished as Peter will be building on the strong foundation of success that Mike has established.

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)

August 2008:
SUMMER BREAK

September 2, 2008:
CANCELED

September 9, 2008:
Morbidity & Mortality Conference

September 16, 2008:
Guest Lecture
Atul C. Mehta, M.B., B.S., Vice-Chairman of the
Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care
Medicine, Head of the Section of Bronchology and
acting Medical Director of the Lung Transplant
Team at Cleveland Clinic

September 23, 2008:
"TB, HIV and Extensively Resistant (XDR) TB:
Triple Trouble"
Gerald H. Friedland, M.D., Director of the AIDS
Program at Yale New Haven Hospital and
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and
Public Health at Yale School of Medicine

September 30, 2008:
Update

October 7, 2008:
Morbidity & Mortality Conference

October 14, 2008:
CANCELED

October 21, 2008:
Guest Speaker
Donald Goldman, M.D., Institute for Healthcare
Improvement, Cambridge, MS

October 28, 2008:
Update

• The Rhode Island Hospital fully intends to comply with the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any participant of this conference is in need of accommodation, please contact the Rhode Island Hospital CME office at (401) 444-4260.

• The Department of Medicine Grand Rounds series is supported by an unrestricted educational fund as contributed by: Abbott Laboratories, Hoechst Marion Roussel, Merck & Co., The Liposome Company, Parke-Davis, Schering, Pfizer, Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company.