

Word on the Striet

The Department of Medicine Newsletter



The First Word

Robert M. Strieter, MD, Chairman



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Information

The following link goes to the annual financial report given to the Dean of the School of Medicine:

[Annual Report to the Dean](#)

Now that the 2008-09 academic year has ended, I would like to thank everyone for their extremely hard work during these changing and difficult economic times. While many changes are taking place throughout the school and medical center, it is important for everyone to continue their diligent work and professionalism that have always made us an outstanding Department. Although the Department has a deficit going into the 2009-2010 academic year, through your hard work we have been able to significantly reduce this deficit, as compared to what we had forecasted in July 2008. In addition, Dean DeKosky required the Department to submit a specific metrics report for our accomplishments for this past academic year. I am truly proud of our Department and what we have achieved during these difficult economic times. I would like to encourage everyone to take some time to read the report, which can be read by following the links provided in this issue.

Also in this issue, Dr. Mitch Rosner covers the Mortality Data for the Department and outlines steps on how we can ensure that the correct information is reported. In his report, Dr. Rosner goes over why our mortality rates are higher than expected and above the target level, which includes; incorrectly assigning comorbid conditions and incorrectly documenting the severity of the patient's illness. Due to these facts a new Mortality evaluation Process is being initiated and

Dr. Rosner highlights the important aspects of this new process.

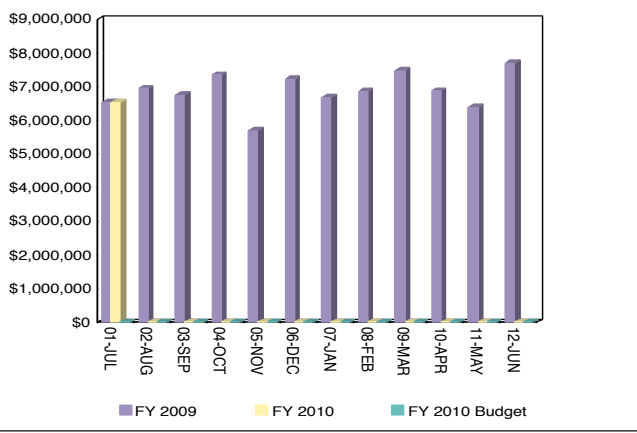
Finally, I would like to remind everyone that Bess Wildman's last day with the DoM was Friday the 31st of July and she has begun her new position at Wake Forest University. Stephanie Binger has taken over her role as the interim Chief Financial Officer and Karen Sniadecki has assumed the position of interim Chief Operating Officer (COO). During this transition period for the DoM, I hope that all of you will have patience and will work with both Stephanie and Karen to help make this a smooth transition. Finally, Dr. Mitch Rosner is serving as Chair of the newly established search committee to find us a new COO of the Department. I thank all of the committee members for their hard work and time in finding us a suitable candidate for this critical position in the DoM.

Finance & Administration

Monthly Gross Charges and Net Collections 4-in-1 Department of Medicine Monthly Gross Charges

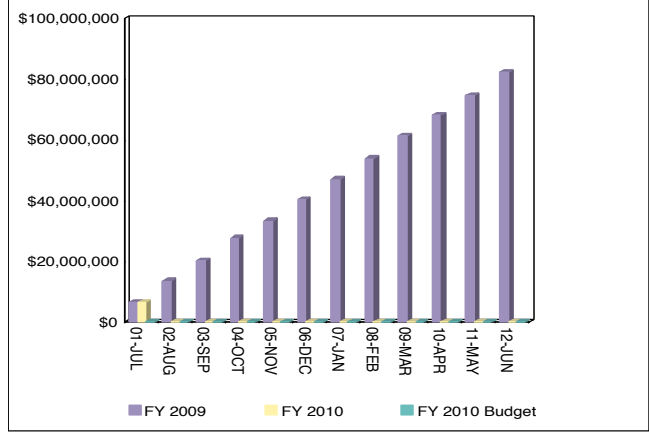
MONTHLY COMPARISON

	FY 2009	FY 2010	% Var	FY 2010 Budget	Variance to Budget	% Var
01-JUL	\$6,505,015	\$6,523,510	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
02-AUG	\$6,940,705	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
03-SEP	\$6,752,892	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
04-OCT	\$7,337,955	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
05-NOV	\$5,678,929	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
06-DEC	\$7,209,401	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
07-JAN	\$2,660,014	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
08-FEB	\$6,843,433	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
09-MAR	\$7,452,343	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
10-APR	\$6,865,655	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
11-MAY	\$6,361,331	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
12-JUN	\$7,690,706	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%



YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	FY 2009	FY 2010	% Var	FY 2010 Budget	Variance to Budget	% Var
01-JUL	\$6,505,015	\$6,523,510	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
02-AUG	\$13,445,719	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
03-SEP	\$20,198,611	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
04-OCT	\$27,536,565	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
05-NOV	\$33,215,495	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
06-DEC	\$40,424,895	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
07-JAN	\$47,084,909	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
08-FEB	\$53,928,343	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
09-MAR	\$61,380,686	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
10-APR	\$68,246,341	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
11-MAY	\$74,607,671	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
12-JUN	\$82,298,377	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%

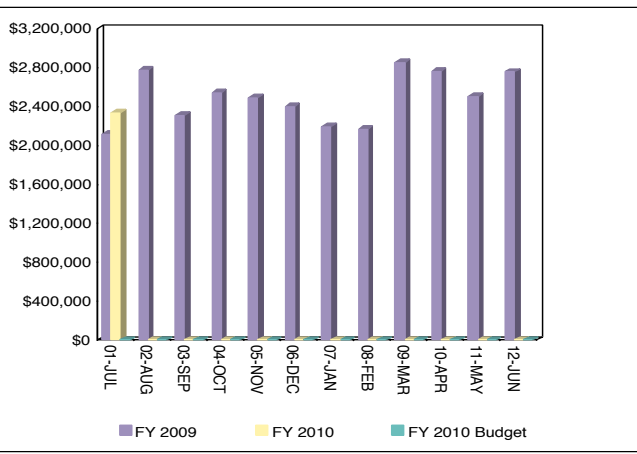


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Monthly Gross Charges and Net Collections 4-in-1 Department of Medicine Monthly Net Collections

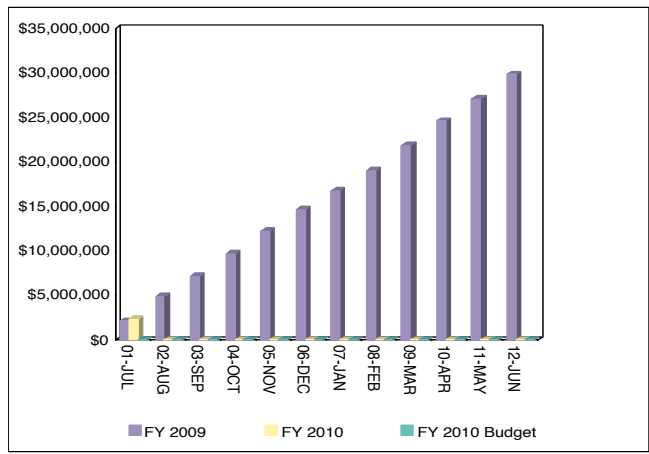
MONTHLY COMPARISON

	FY 2009	FY 2010	% Var	FY 2010 Budget	Variance to Budget	% Var
01-JUL	\$2,106,491	\$2,329,965	11%	\$0	\$0	0%
02-AUG	\$2,769,296	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
03-SEP	\$2,300,366	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
04-OCT	\$2,535,532	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
05-NOV	\$2,484,273	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
06-DEC	\$2,397,116	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
07-JAN	\$2,193,680	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
08-FEB	\$2,165,421	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
09-MAR	\$2,847,856	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
10-APR	\$2,758,628	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
11-MAY	\$2,500,123	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
12-JUN	\$2,751,003	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%



YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	FY 2009	FY 2010	% Var	FY 2010 Budget	Variance to Budget	% Var
01-JUL	\$2,106,491	\$2,329,965	11%	\$0	\$0	0%
02-AUG	\$4,875,786	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
03-SEP	\$7,176,152	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
04-OCT	\$9,711,685	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
05-NOV	\$12,195,958	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
06-DEC	\$14,593,074	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
07-JAN	\$16,786,754	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
08-FEB	\$18,952,175	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
09-MAR	\$21,800,031	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
10-APR	\$24,558,659	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
11-MAY	\$27,058,782	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%
12-JUN	\$29,809,784	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	0%



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Clinical Affairs

[Mitch Rosner](#)

Mortality Data for the Department of Medicine and an Action Plan

Each quarter the medical center provides product line mortality reports that benchmarks our mortality rates for grouped DRGs as compared to an expected mortality rate as well as to other members of the University Health Consortium (UHC). Across numerous product/service lines, our mortality rates are higher than expected and certainly above the organizational target level.

Service line	Observed/Expected Mortality	UHC rank
General Medicine	1.20	91/103
Medical Oncology	0.96	83/103
Cardiology	1.38	103/104
Gastroenterology	0.91	61/104
Ventilator Support	1.49	102/103

(service line defined by applicable DRG groupings within that specialty)

There are many reasons why this may be the case. The mortality rates are risk adjusted and this process includes four steps: (1) assignment of a severity of illness and risk of mortality level to each case; (2) selection of a patient population to serve as the basis of the model to provide norms; (3) use of regression techniques to predict probability of mortality based upon the normative patient population; and (4) assignment of an expected probability of mortality to every patient in the database. Given this methodology, it is critical that documentation of a patient's comorbid conditions, as well as the severity of illness be carefully documented in the chart. Without this information, the assignment of an accurate severity of illness and risk of mortality level to each case will be flawed and will affect the expected level of probability of mortality. Thus, it is critically important that residents and attending physicians carefully and accurately document these aspects in the chart.

However, we must also carefully review our care to determine if opportunities exist for improvement. To this end, led by the Medical Center Quality and Performance Improvement Program, a Mortality Evaluation Process will be initiated. This process will have several aspects:

1. There will be a group of performance improvement liaisons who will complete and submit a death review form for all patients who die under a department attending.
2. These liaisons will also ensure discussion of all deaths in departmental mortality conferences. All deaths with opportunities for improvement **MUST** be discussed at these conferences. There will be more information regarding these conferences soon.
3. These liaisons insure that action plans that involve attending and resident performance and education are implemented and monitored.
4. Concurrent with this effort, unit managers and unit medical directors must review cases, look for opportunities for improvement, and complete death evaluation forms
5. Finally, regional quality teams as well as systems opportunity teams will review opportunities for improvement and implement plans as well as allocate resources for corrective actions.

Obviously, providing the highest quality care is our mission and looking for opportunities for improvement will further this goal. Each departmental attending will be asked, in some form, to participate in this process. It is imperative that we work collaboratively to lower mortality rates.

News & Publications

[Cardiovascular Medicine](#)

[Publications:](#)

- Ham AS, Klibanov AL, Lawrence MB. Action at a Distance: Lengthening Adhesion Bonds with Poly(ethylene glycol) Spacers Enhances Mechanically Stressed Affinity for Improved Vascular Targeting of Microparticles. *Langmuir*. 2009 Jul 21. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 19621909.
- Kramer CM, Narula J. Atherosclerotic plaque imaging: the last frontier for cardiac magnetic resonance. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2009 Jul;2(7):916-8. PubMed PMID: 19608145.
- Strieter RM, Keeley EC, Hughes MA, Burdick MD, Mehrad B. The role of circulating mesenchymal progenitor cells (fibrocytes) in the pathogenesis of pulmonary fibrosis. *J Leukoc Biol*. 2009 Jul 6. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 19581373.
- West AM, Kramer CM. Comprehensive cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. *J Invasive Cardiol*. 2009 Jul;21(7):339-45. PubMed PMID: 19571346.
- Han F, Tucker AL, Lingrel JB, Despa S, Bers DM. Extracellular Potassium Dependence of the Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase in Cardiac Myocytes; Isoform Specificity and Effect of Phospholemman. *Am J Physiol Cell Physiol*. 2009 Jul 1. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 19570895.
- Beller GA. Implications of randomized studies of medical therapy vs revascularization for reducing rising costs of health care. *J Nucl Cardiol*. 2009 Jul-Aug;16(4):483-5. Epub 2009 Jun 27. PubMed PMID: 19562423.
- Ferguson JD. Stress that causes palpitations: oxidative stress and atrial fibrillation. *Heart Rhythm*. 2009 Jul;6(7):941-2. Epub 2009 May 8. PubMed PMID: 19560082.
- Xiao Y, Griffin P, Lake DE, Moorman JR. Nearest-Neighbor and Logistic Regression Analyses of Clinical and Heart Rate Characteristics in the Early Diagnosis of Neonatal Sepsis. *Med Decis Making*. 2009 Jun 18. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 19541797.
- Allen JD, Miller EM, Schwark E, Robbins JL, Duscha BD, Annex BH. Plasma nitrite response and arterial reactivity differentiate vascular health and performance. *Nitric Oxide*. 2009 Jun;20(4):231-7. Epub 2009 Jan 25. PubMed PMID: 19371597; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2676216.
- Wu FT, Stefanini MO, Gabhann FM, Kontos CD, Annex BH, Popel AS. Computational kinetic model of VEGF trapping by soluble VEGF receptor-1: effects of transendothelial and lymphatic macromolecular transport. *Physiol Genomics*. 2009 Jun 10;38(1):29-41. Epub 2009 Apr 7. PubMed PMID: 19351908; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2696151.

[Gastroenterology and Hepatology](#)

[Publications:](#)

- Carol Rees Parrish MS, RD: 7/24/09 - Nutritional Aspects of GI Motility at the Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders (AGMD) Digestive Motility Symposium and the University of Kansas Medical Center Office of Continuing Medical Education, Boston, MA.

News & Publications

Hematology/Oncology

News:

- Tom Harris, M.D. completed his UVA Hematology/Oncology fellowship in June with a focus on solid tumor malignancies and joined the UVA faculty in July. He decided to remain at UVA because of his positive experience with UVA's multidisciplinary cancer team and his interest in combining patient care with innovative clinical trials. "I'm impressed by the compassion the faculty and staff show for their patients and the interest they show in new therapies in the field of oncology," he says.
- Dr. Harris' clinical practice will focus on gastrointestinal and lung cancer along with general oncology, while his research will emphasize new treatments for gastrointestinal cancer, lung cancer and chemotherapy safety. "If we develop innovative ways to deliver drugs to patients more safely, then our patients will receive an immediate benefit," he says.

Publications:

- Gaughen J, Bourne TD, Aregawi D, Shah L, Schiff D. Focal neuronal gigantism. *Am J Neurorad* 2009 July 2 (epub ahead of print).
- Schiff D, Purow B. Isocitrate dehydrogenase mutations in low-grade gliomas. *Nature Reviews Neurology* 2009;5:303-304.
- Mut M, Schiff D. Unmet needs in the treatment of glioblastoma. *Expert Reviews in Anticancer Therapy* 2009;9:545-551.

Infectious Diseases and International Health

News:

- Grace Milad, a rising 2nd year medical student at UVa, has just received the Ben Kean Traveling Fellowship from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene to work with Dr. William Petri in Bangladesh this summer. This fellowship is awarded to just 10 students nationally annually.
- Dr. Christopher C. Moore attended the following meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on June 29 and June 30, 2009: World Health Organization Consultation on Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness (IMAI) District Manual: Management of Acute Lung Injury and Septic Shock at district hospitals with limited resources and no mechanical ventilation.
- Dr. Petri was a visiting professor in July at: Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Dhaka; Tribhuvan University, Nepal; and taught at the Military Tropical Medicine Course in Bethesda, Md.

Publications:

- Singh A, Petri WA Jr, Houtp ER. *Giardia intestinalis* assemblage A and B infections in Nepal. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*, in press 2009.
- Guo X, Barroso L, Becker SM, Lyerly DM, Vedvick TS, Reed SG, Petri WA Jr., Houtp ER. Protection against Intestinal Amebiasis by a Recombinant Vaccine is Transferable by T cells and Mediated by IFN-g. *Infection and Immunity*, in press 2009.
- Carmolli M, Duggal P, Haque R, Lindow J, Mondal D, William A. Petri, Jr, Mourningstar P, Larsson CJ, Screenivasan M, Khan S, Kirkpatrick BD. Deficient serum MBL and MBL2 polymorphisms increase the risk of single and recurrent *Cryptosporidium* infections in young children. *J Infect Dis* 2009, in press.

News & Publications

- Singh A, Houghton E, Petri WA Jr. Rapid Diagnosis of Intestinal Parasitic Protozoa, with a Focus on *Entamoeba histolytica*. *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases* Vol. 2009, Article ID 547090, 8 pages, 2009. doi:10.1155/2009/547090
- Petri WA Jr. Book Review: “Manson’s Tropical Diseases” (book review). *JAMA*, 2009; 302(4):443-444; in press.
- Petri WA Jr. Acute Pharyngitis. *BMJ Point of Care* (web-published) 2009.

Grants:

- AARA Stimulus Funds Supplement to Dr. Erik Hewlett’s NIH Grant (R01 AI18000-28): *Bordetella* Cyclase Toxin: Effects on Leukocytes and Respiratory Epithelial Cells, PI: Erik L. Hewlett, M.D.; Granting Agency: NIH/NIAID; Dates: June 5, 2009 – September 30, 2010, Total Funding: \$32,213.00 for student summer research.
- The Influence of Novel Oligopeptides Produced by Transgenic Bacteria on Intestinal Injury Due to *C. difficile* Infection. PI, Glynnis L. Kolling, Ph.D, 2009 Young Investigator Grant for Probiotics Research, Granting Agency: Global Probiotics Council, Total Funding \$50,000.
- The NCI awarded Dean Kedes, MD, PhD a supplement to his R01 award to support Melissa Anderson, a third year Microbiology graduate student. Ms. Anderson’s thesis work will focus on deciphering the biological role of a specific virion-associated protein in the life cycle of the oncogenic gammaherpesvirus, RRV. RRV is a close homolog of KSHV/HHV8, the pathogen that causes Kaposi’s sarcoma as well as certain B cell lymphomas. Dr. Kedes credits the ID (T32) training grant (PI: Dr. William Petri), which supported Ms. Anderson over the last year, for contributing to their success in obtaining this new supplement. Total Funding \$52,000.
- The NCI awarded Evonne Johnson, a fourth year Microbiology student also in the Kedes Laboratory, an independent F31 pre-doctoral fellowship to support her work focused on understanding the activation of MAP kinase signaling pathways during RRV infection as well as the incorporation of phosphorylated components of these pathways within the viral particles.

Nephrology and The Center for Immunity, Inflammation, and Regenerative Medicine:

News:

- W. Kline Bolton, MD participated in two study sections:
 - IAR Reviewer Invitation for meeting 2009/10 ZRG1 IMM-F (02) M – Cellular and Molecular Immunology Special Emphasis Panel
 - Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group 2009/10 ZRG1 IDM-C (58) R meeting, scheduled for 07/20/2009-07/21/2009
- June 4-5, 2009 Rasheed A Balogun was visiting professor at University of Connecticut-St Francis Healthcare Integrated Internal Medicine Program and the Division of Nephrology. He spoke at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds and The Greater Hartford Nephrology Conference in addition to Professor rounds with the residents.

Publications:

- Zhang W, Sharma R, Ju S-T, He X-S, Tao Y, Tsuneyama K, Tian Z, Lian Z, Fu SM, and Gershwin. ME. Deficiency in regulatory T cells results in development of anti-mitochondrial antibodies and autoimmune cholangitis. *Hepatology* 2009. 49:545-552.
- Sharma R, Sung SS, Fu SM and Ju S-T. Regulation of multi-organ inflammation in the regulatory T cell-deficient scurfy mice. 2009. *J. Biomed. Sci.* 16: 20. PMID: 19272184.

News & Publications

- Kinsey GR, Sharma R, Huang L, Li L, Vergis, AL, Ye H, Ju, ST, and Oksua MD. Regulatory T cells suppress innate immunity in kidney ischemia-reperfusion injury. 2009. J. Am. Soc. Nephrol. (in press)
- Sharma R, Sung SSJ, Abaya CE, Ju ACY, Fu SM and Ju S-T. IL-2 regulates CD103 expression on CD4+ T cells in Scurfy mice that display both CD103-dependent and independent cutaneous and mucosal inflammation. 2009. J. Immunol. (in press)
- Sharma R, Deshmukh US, Zheng L, Fu SM, and Ju ST. 2009 X-linked Foxp3 (Sf) Mutation Dominantly Inhibits Submandibular Gland Development and Inflammation Respectively through Adaptive and Innate Immune Mechanisms. J Immunol. 2009. doi/10.4049/jimmunol.0804355 (in press).

Grants:

- Michael Brown, MD was awarded an U19AI083024 grant entitled: “Immune Regulation of Virus Clearance and Tissue Injury at Sites of Infection” Project title: “NK cell regulation of adaptive immunity”
- Peter Lobo, MD was awarded an NIH R21 DK077281 grant entitled: “IgM Antileucocyte Autoantibodies Inhibit Kidney Allograft Rejections”