

WORD ON THE STRIET

A newsletter of the Department of Medicine

Volume 1, Issue 10

June 8, 2007



Striet Talk

Dr. Robert M. Strieter,
Chairman

The Centennial Celebration last month was a great success, and I would like to again extend my thanks to everyone involved in the planning and execution of the two-day event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to specifically acknowledge the hard work and outstanding leadership of Dr. Michael Thorner, who so ably and successfully led the Department as Chair for nine years. The excellent guidance of Dr. Thorner, combined with the strong foundation established by the DoM's previous Chairs, is what is most centrally responsible for the success and excellence that we celebrated at the Centennial Celebration.

Last week, on Thursday, June 14, the Department continued its celebration of excellence with its Year-end Faculty/Housestaff dinner. Awards for excellence in each of our five core missions were handed out, and the event was well attended. A complete listing of award winners can be found on page 2.

In a look to our future, our next class of residents arrived for their first days of orientation early last week. Medicine has 38 new interns, all of whom look to be outstanding doctors and teachers. On Monday, June 18, they begin their Medicine orientation, and will be busy "learning the ropes" through Thursday, before beginning their first days of work on Friday, June 22. I hope all of our faculty will take the opportunity to introduce themselves to our new housestaff throughout the week.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to extend an official welcome to our new team of Chief Residents: Farah Ahmed, Jen Kirby, Lillian Kizer, and Jason Lewis. I have every confidence in our new Chiefs, and I know they will be able successors to Steve, Tyler, and Amy, who have gone on to fellowship training. I hope everyone will support Farah, Jen, Lillian, and Jason in their early weeks in this new role.

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Save the Date

June 18—21—Incoming Resident Orientation.
Please contact Diane Farineau for details.

July 10—Medical Grand Rounds moves to Tuesdays at
8:00 am

Take Note

The Billing Office requests that all Encounter Forms and Consult Cards be delivered daily for June, either by hand or campus mail.

To ensure billing remains current, all June charges should be submitted by mid-day, Friday, June 29.

Please click [here](#) for more details

Departmental Awards for Excellence

At the June 14th Year-end Faculty/Housestaff dinner, the Department gave out awards to faculty and staff who have demonstrated excellence within our five core missions: Clinical Affairs, Education, Faculty Development, Finance & Administration, and Research. Congratulations to everyone, and many thanks for all of your hard work.

Clinical Affairs

During the November, 2006 Executive Committee Retreat, division chiefs approved our template for defining clinical excellence. This document specified six different performance domains, each containing explicit metrics and threshold criteria for exemplary patient care. Using this model, we attempted to objectively evaluate each division and all clinicians with faculty appointments in the Department of Medicine throughout FY07. Our analysis shows that we have many outstanding clinicians who regularly engage in objective self-reflection in order to continuously improve their quality of care. We believe this year's Clinical Excellence awardees are richly deserving and we should all be proud of their unique contributions to our clinical enterprise. In addition to celebrating these successes on June 14, each recipient will receive a \$2500 gift account.

The awardees are:

- Best Division: Cardiovascular Medicine
- James D. Bergin—Cardiovascular Medicine
- Stephen J. Bickston—Gastroenterology
- Michel Kahaleh—Gastroenterology
- Kambiz Kalantarinia—Nephrology
- Barbara T. Post—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Michael Ragosta—Cardiovascular Medicine
- Vanessa M. Shami—Gastroenterology
- Geoffrey M. Weiss—Hematology/Oncology
- Michael E. Williams—Hematology/Oncology

Faculty Development

- Shu Man Fu—Rheumatology
- Richard L. Guerrant—Infectious Diseases
- Theresa A. Guise—Endocrinology
- Raghavendra G. Mirmira—Endocrinology
- Mark D. Okusa—Nephrology

Administration

- Jane R. Boissevain—Infectious Diseases
- Heather B. Bower—Administration
- Megan Cupp—Infectious Diseases
- Camilla M. Curnow—Administration
- Therese M. Ellison—Cardiovascular Medicine

- Emily W. Gray—Infectious Diseases
- Katherine E. Grooms—Nephrology
- Dawn R. Starks Johnson—Cardiovascular Medicine
- Keith Johnson—Administration
- Kristine F. Kwok—Nephrology
- Nicole L. Purcell—Pulmonary and Critical Care
- Danielle L. Qureshi—Allergy & Clinical Immunology
- Cynthia D. Smith—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Terri P. Washington—Administration

Research

There are many outstanding researchers within the Department, but this year we've chosen to focus on junior investigators. The current difficult funding climate impacts these individuals particularly hard, so it is especially fitting to celebrate their success. Each recipient will receive a \$5000 gift account.

- Harini Bagavant—Rheumatology
- Eric R. Houpt—Infectious Diseases
- Shyr-Te Ju—Rheumatology
- Brian R. Wamhoff—Cardiovascular Medicine
- Judith A. Woodfolk—Allergy & Clinical Immunology

Education

- Robert Carey—Endocrinology
- Gene Corbett—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- John Dent—Cardiovascular Medicine
- Rebecca Dillingham—Infectious Diseases
- Molly Hughes—Infectious Diseases
- Michel Kahaleh—Gastroenterology
- Steven Koenig—Pulmonary and Critical Care
- Steve Lommatzsch—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Anthony McCall—Endocrinology
- Mo Nadkarni—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Peggy Plews-Ogan—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Michael Rein—Infectious Diseases
- Mitch Rosner—Nephrology
- Vanessa Shami—Gastroenterology
- Ajeet Vinayak—Pulmonary and Critical Care
- John Voss—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Mark Williams—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
- Brian Wispelwey—Infectious Diseases
- Andy Wolf—General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care



**Research Spotlight:
General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care**

Research Spotlight is a new monthly section for Word on the Striet. Each month the focus will be on one or two divisions and their current opportunities for collaboration.

It's the blessing and the curse of generalist medicine: a diverse and exciting array of research interests and ongoing projects that enable us to better serve our patients and train young physicians. The blessing, of course, is that there is never a dull moment when it comes to research activity in our Division; the curse crops up periodically when we must remind ourselves to "Stay focused!"

The Division of General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care has a fascinating history of research activity, one that has evolved to reflect our faculty's varied interests as well as the many changes in health care. For example, ten years ago, we were in the throes of a large, NHLBI-funded smoking cessation intervention study that leveraged the influence of rural African-American churches in their communities. Our faculty have also studied the predictive value of the d-dimer test for DVT, the effect of informed consent on PSA screening preferences, and innovative methods of geriatric functional assessment, to name a few.

Patient Safety Research

In addition to the geriatric prescribing study, Division faculty have been leaders in patient safety in the ambulatory setting. The development of a clinic-based error reporting, analysis, intervention, and feedback program at UMA led to increased error reporting by 20-fold. Errors reports by physicians increased from 0 to 66 in one year. In preparation for an expansion to a unit-based inpatient safety project, our faculty studied physician barriers to incident reporting at UVA. Physicians' barriers to safety reporting are negatively associated with their perception of hospital safety. These barriers are remediable, however, and most physicians appear amenable to increased participation in the hospital safety process.

In the Community

In collaboration with other DOM faculty and community partners, we have studied the prevention of elder mistreatment in Albemarle County, finding that abuse allegations are not uncommon in our community. General medicine faculty have studied the role of free clinics both nationally & locally as safety net providers for the underinsured.

Future interests will continue to reflect our desire to improve the quality and safety of care for medically underserved patients facing chronic illness. We welcome opportunities to collaborate with others at UVA and in the community. Questions may be sent to: Natalie May, Ph.D. nlb7r@virginia.edu.



Medical Education Research

Division faculty have made significant contributions to curriculum development and research in cutting-edge areas of physician training. We have developed and studied several innovations: a hands-on patient safety residency training program; SPARC, a Web-based information system to support training residents in practice-based learning and improvement; CHESS, a Clinical Health Economics System Simulation; and we have collaborated with Family Medicine and Pediatrics faculty to develop clinical skills assessment OSCEs for medical students.

Chronic Illness Care Research

More recently, Division research has focused on innovations in chronic illness care. We have implemented a chronic illness care model in the UMA clinic, including the creation of a Diabetes Patient Registry. General medicine faculty have used this registry to study whether feedback to physicians regarding patient lab, visit, and medication adherence data results in improved care (It does).

We have studied the effects of Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction and massage in the treatment of chronic pain. General medicine and geriatrics faculty collaborated on studies to improve prescribing practices among high-risk elders. A practice-based medication review of nearly 200 elderly UMA patients found that 78% of patients had at least one potential prescribing error and 39% were taking a "Beer's list" medication. Only 5% of interactions detected by Micromedix™ prompted expert advice to modify the drug regimen, and 66% of investigators' recommendations were accepted by UMA physicians.

Education

Gerald Donowitz & Michael Rein

Looking ahead to 2012

The Residency program received the results of its RRC site visit from October, 2006. We were thrilled to hear that not only has the program been re-certified, but we have been put on the five-year cycle for site visits—the longest cycle possible.

I would like to extend a big thanks to all the staff, faculty, and housestaff who participated in the site visit and work to make the program a success on a day-to-day basis.

Research

Joel Linden & Sue Moenter

Establishment of the Shyr-Te Ju Research Award

In honor of the research contributions Dr. Shyr-Te Ju, PhD has made to research in the area of Fas and Fas-ligand in autoimmunity, as well as to the research environment in the Division of Rheumatology and Department as a whole, the Department is pleased to announce the establishment of the Shyr-Te Ju Research Award with a \$10,000 endowment. From this, an annual award will be made on Research Day for the best poster in the area of immunology research.

Getting to Know U Grants

In order to help familiarize investigators in the DoM with the relatively-unknown U grant, below are descriptions from the Principal Investigators of some of the U grants currently awarded to DoM faculty. If you are interested in learning more about U grants, please feel free to contact any of these faculty with questions.

U01 - William Petri : The Research Focus is to produce a vaccine against the NIAID Category B priority pathogen *Entamoeba histolytica* comprised of the Gal/GalNAc adherence lectin. The application is the product of the long-standing partnership of the University of Virginia and TechLab, Inc. for applied research on amebiasis. Together we propose to develop and test in mice an acellular vaccine for the prevention of amebic colitis. The vaccine will be composed of one or more of the 3 subunits that comprise the *E. histolytica* Gal/GalNAc lectin.

2007 Residency Awards

These awards were announced at the Chief Residents' Medical Grand Rounds on May 28th.

Inpatient Nursing - Marianne Hickson

Outpatient Nursing - Darlene Leon

Inpatient Attending - Ajeet Vinayak

Outpatient Attending - John Voss

Dunn Award - Jennifer Kirby and Farrokh Sohrabi

Excellence in Resident Teaching Award -

Vinay Sundaram, Brian Hanrahan, Clay Cauthen

Honorable Mention in Excellence in Resident Teaching Award - Dave Winchester and Rodney Snow

Congratulations to everyone!

U19 - William Petri : Cooperative Research for the Development of Diagnostics for Biodefense Category B Enteropathogens. Unifying Theme: Production of rapid, sensitive, specific and cost-effective diagnostics for Category B enteropathogens appropriate for public health laboratories and point-of-care use.

U01—Richard Guerrant and Cirle Warren: Our new U01 grant is to address one of the most worrisome, increasingly common and severe hospital-acquired infections, *C. difficile* colitis. Since this organism is now more resistant than ever, and has new virulence traits, it is causing more severe disease, even in previously healthy young people without recent antibiotic use. Therefore, since treating with antibiotics only increases shedding and relapse rates, our approach to blocking the colitis-causing toxin/s of the new, emerging, resistant and hypervirulent *C. difficile* is a critical innovative approach. In partnership with Adenosine Therapeutics, investigators from the Divisions of Infectious Disease, Cardiovascular Medicine and Nephrology came together to develop new approaches to controlling this troublesome complication of antibiotic use, a problem that we have recently documented is twice as common here at UVa Hospital as it was only 3-4 years ago.

U01—Tom Obrig: "New Therapeutics for Pathogenic E. coli Diseases"

In response to a 2001 NIH-RFA, an U01 "Partnership" grant application (with Adenosine Therapeutics, LLC) was submitted to address the need for therapeutics aimed at the low-dose enteric pathogen E. coli O157:H7. This 2002-funded U01 project was a natural continuation of our NIH-R01-supported efforts to describe E. coli Shiga toxin modes of action in human disease. Importantly, no effective therapeutics are currently available to treat this disease.

E. coli O157:H7 is a food-borne infectious agent that has a reservoir in bovine species, with bovine feces being the most frequent origin of food contamination, including the tainted spinach event in California of 2007. Almost all individuals affected by this form of pathogenic E. coli develop hemorrhagic colitis and approximately 5 to 10% are impacted by the hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) that includes acute renal failure.

The goal of the current U01 project has been to develop agents that would be employed in the clinical setting to protect the individual against the damaging E. coli toxins and renal failure. Simultaneously, a new murine model of HUS was developed with the NIH-R01 support, and revealed that both Shiga toxin and bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS) were required for HUS. Therapeutic targets were then identified in the animal model that led to our current concept that separate therapeutics will be necessary to counteract the actions of Shiga toxin and LPS.

In collaboration with researchers at Adenosine Therapeutics, LLC and the Linden laboratory, efforts in past 4 years of the U01 project have shown that adenosine receptor agonists block renal inflammation caused by Shiga toxin and LPS. Thus, infiltration of neutrophils, monocytes/macrophages, and platelets into the kidneys is sharply reduced by such adenosine compounds. Blocking of this inflammation also reduces renal microvascular coagulation which is a hallmark of HUS. Most recently, efforts are being made to combine the adenosine agents with specific inhibitors of signal transduction pathways that are activated by Shiga toxin.

Finance
Bess Wildman

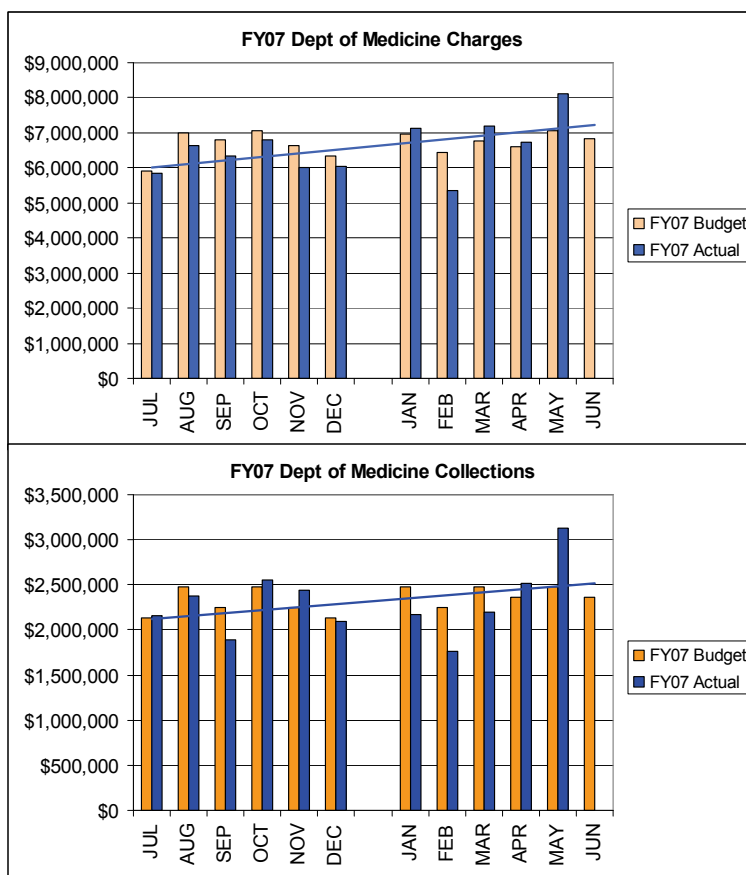
FY07 Charges & Collections (through May 2007)

The department has seen many ups and downs in charges and collections through fiscal year 2007. The first six months of the fiscal year (July '06 - December '06) had many "downs". Volumes, and therefore charges, were down. The department missed charge budget all six months and found ourselves 5% behind budget by the end of December.

The new calendar year brought a change in the "down" pattern and things started looking "up". The department has made charge budget four out of the last five months. We expect to make budget again in June if charges continue to come in consistently. In the month of May the department posted a record \$8,119,214 in charges. Even though we probably won't make the year end charge budget, the \$2 million deficit we had in December will be cut in half by year end.

In January, HSF started a project which affected collections. By March collections were 6.1% behind budget. With the project finishing up, the department saw a record collection month in May of \$3,131,764. We now project that the department will miss the year end collection budget (\$28.1 million) by only 1.5%.

Overall, the department is ending on several good "up" trends that we hope will carry over into FY08.



We Need Your Help to Make Year-end a Success*Incoming Encounter Forms*

The Billing Office asks that reconciled and completed Encounter Forms/Consult Cards be sent via messenger mail or be hand delivered to the billing office daily for the month of June. The data entry staff are and can continue to be current with charge entry if all clinic sites comply with this request. To guarantee all charges are keyed by end of month/year for June, all charges must be received no later than mid-day on Friday, June 29th. Charges received after that time will be keyed in the order they are received as time permits.

Incomplete Encounter Forms

All Incomplete Encounter Forms/Consult Cards returned to you need to be worked promptly when received and returned to the Billing Office as soon as completed. Any Incomplete Encounter forms not corrected and returned to the billing office by mid-day June 29th will not be credited (charges/RVU's) in this Fiscal Year. Thank you in advance for helping us make Year-end a success for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Terry Scott at 243-9818

Division News, Publications & Grants

Allergy and Clinical Immunology**Publications**

- Steinke, J.W., and Culp, J. Leukotriene synthesis inhibitors vs. antagonists: the pros and cons. Current Allergy and Asthma Reports 7:126-133 (2007)

Grants

- Victoria McMeen-Fellow received the following grants:
 1. MedImmune Pediatric Fellowship Grant in viral respiratory infectious diseases
Topic: Viral Replication and Clearance in Asthmatic Versus Non-Asthmatic Individuals During Experimental Infections with Rhinovirus
 2. UVA Children's Hospital Grant-In-Aid
Topic: Experimental Rhinovirus Infection in Asthmatics
- Jeff Culp-Fellow received the following grant:
2007 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI)/American Thoracic Society (ATS) Fellow Career Development Award, funded by an unrestricted grant from GlaxoSmithKline for one-year Reserach project: The role of stat6 in aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease.

Cardiovascular Medicine**News**

- Dr George A. Beller has agreed to serve as the Acting Chief of the Cardiovascular Division until June 30, 2008.
- Dr Christopher Kramer has been appointed Director of the Cardiovascular Imaging Center.
- Christopher Kramer was named Associate Editor of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Imaging.
- In May, Robert Gibson was re-elected to a three year term as Vice President of the Clinical Staff.
- On May 11, Robert Gibson gave a plenary session lecture at an International Symposium honoring Ilya Mechnikov (1908 Nobel Laureate) in St. Petersburg, Russia, entitled "Contemporary Management of the Acute Coronary Syndromes."
- John P. DiMarco has been elected to the office of Treasurer of the Heart Rhythm Society and is chairing their task force on Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- Liza Prudente was this year's recipient of the Allied Professionals Travel Award of the Heart Rhythm 2007 & AFib Summit for her abstract "Groin Complications in Patients Treated with Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation." (Authors were : Liza A. Prudente, RN, MSN, ACNP, Raj Subramanian, MD, Heather Greenbaum, BS, Srijoy Mahapatra, MD, John P. DiMarco, MD, PhD, J. Michael Mangrum, MD, J. Paul Mounsey, MD, and John D. Ferguson, MD.) This abstract was the highest-scoring abstract submitted to the Allied Professionals Research Category, and was presented by Ms Prudente at the summit.
- "Impact of a Dedicated Atrial Fibrillation Center: Experience with the first 1000 patients," was presented as a poster in the Feature Poster Session. (Authors were: Liza A. Prudente, RN, MSN, ACNP, Douglas E. Lake, PhD, Yuping Xiao, MS, John D. Ferguson, MD, John P. DiMarco, MD, PhD, J. Paul Mounsey, MD, PhD, J. Randall Moorman, MD, and J. Michael Mangrum, MD.)

- Shizuka Modica successfully defended her PhD in Higher Education and her dissertation was recognized as one of the three best this year in the Curry School.

Publications

- Rembold CM. Force suppression and the crossbridge cycle in swine carotid artery. *Am J Physiol Cell Physiol.* 2007 May 23; [Epub ahead of print]
- Beller GA. Noninvasive screening for coronary atherosclerosis and silent ischemia in asymptomatic type 2 diabetic patients: is it appropriate and cost-effective? *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2007 May 15;49(19):1918-23. Epub 2007 Apr 30.
- Gazoni LM, Fedoruk LM, Kern JA, Dent JM, Reece TB, Tribble CG, Smith PW, Lisle TC, Kron IL. A simplified approach to degenerative disease: triangular resections of the mitral valve. *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2007 May;83(5):1658-64; discussion 1664-5.
- Cheung JY, Rothblum LI, Moorman JR, Tucker AL, Song J, Ahlers BA, Carl LL, Wang J, Zhang XQ. Regulation of cardiac Na⁺/Ca²⁺ exchanger by phospholemman. *Ann N Y Acad Sci.* 2007 Mar;1099:119-34. Review.

Endocrinology and Metabolism

News

Presentations for The Endocrine Society 89th Annual Meeting, 2007:

- Li C, Wu R, Chen P, Digruccio M, Nunemaker C, and Vale W. Transgenic over expression of Urocortin 3 in pancreatic β -cells elevates basal insulin secretion and increases islet mass.
- Roland AV, Nunemaker CS, Keller SR, Moenter SM. Insight into the mechanisms underlying glucose intolerance in a mouse model of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS).
- Title: Growth Hormone Increases the Abundance of the Free p85 Protein Fraction of Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase, a Mediator of Insulin Resistance, in 3T3-F442A Adipocytes Author: Juan Pablo del Rincon & Michael O. Thorner
- Title: LH secretion in obese adolescents and adults: absence of LH suppression in adolescents. Author(s): Kristin D. Helm, Susan K. Blank, Christopher R. McCartney, Carrie Cutchins, John C. Marshall
- Authors: Ping Fan, Jiping Wang, Richard J. Santen, Wei Yue. Title: c-Src, a critical molecule mediating tamoxifen resistance in MCF-7 breast cancer cells.
- Authors: Wei Yue, Jiping Wang, Ping Fan, and Richard J. Santen. Title: Estradiol and farnesylthiosalicylic acid (FTS) act synergistically to induce apoptosis in long-term estrogen deprived (LTED) breast cancer cells.
- Authors: Lev M. Berstein, Wei Yue, Jiping Wang, Richard J. Santen. Title: Estrogenic effects and their modification by tobacco smoke in wild type and estrogen deprived breast cancer cell lines.

Presentations for the American Diabetes Association 67th Scientific Sessions, 2007:

- Maybee NA, McDuffie M, Keller SR, Nunemaker CS, Nadler JL. Targeted deletion of 12/15 lipoxygenase markedly reduces the incidence of autoimmune diabetes in non-obese diabetic (NOD) mice.
- Nunemaker CS, Wu R, Jahanshahi P, Carter JD, Chakrabarti SK, and Nadler JL. Pancreatic islets from mice overexpressing 12-lipoxygenase show increased cell death.
- Kimble SD, Nunemaker CS. Carter JD, Chen M, Smith KM, Yang Z, Wu R, Garmey JC, Nadler JL. 12-lipoxygenase-null mice are resistant to high-fat-diet-induced metabolic stress and islet dysfunction.
- Jahanshahi P, Wu R, Carter JD, Nunemaker CS. Oscillations in intracellular calcium correlate with pancreatic islet health and function.
- Title: Profound Alterations of Lipid Composition in Liver of Mouse Models with Altered Growth Hormone Action Author: Juan Pablo del Rincon & Michael O. Thorner
- Title: Insulin Signaling and Regulation of the Insulin-Regulated Aminopeptidase IRAP in Kidney Authors: Caitlin E. Muse, Wendy C. Schmunk, Susanna R. Keller
- Presenting Author: Carmella Evans-Molina
Author Block: Carmella Evans-Molina, James C. Garmey, Robert Ketchum, Kenneth L. Brayman, Shaoping Deng, Raghavendra G. Mirmira
Abstract Title: Insulin Pre-mRNAs Are More Reliable Predictors of Acute Changes to Transcriptional Rates in Human and Mouse Islets
- Title: The Role of 5- and 12- Lipoxygenase Products in Pro-inflammatory Cytokine/ Adipokine Gene Expression in 3T3L1 adipocytes. Authors : Swarup K Chakrabarti, Susanna R Keller, Jerry L Nadler and Yeshao Wen .

Publications

- Evans-Molina C, Regan S, Henault LE., Hylek EM, and Schwartz G. The New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program: An Estimation of its Effect on Prescription Drug Costs in a Medicare Population with Atrial Fibrillation. *in press: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*
- Hylek EM, Evans-Molina C, Shea, C, Henault, L.E., and Regan, S. Major Hemorrhage and Tolerability of Warfarin in the First Year of Therapy Among Elderly Patients With Atrial Fibrillation. *Circulation 2007*: published online before print May 21, 2007,
- Evans-Molina C, Garmey JC, Ketchum R, Brayman KL, Deng S, Mirmira RG. Glucose regulation of insulin gene transcription and pre-mRNA processing in human islets. *Diabetes*. 2007 Mar;56(3):827-35.

Gastroenterology & Hepatology**News**

- Over the last several months, Carl L. Berg, M.D. has participated on the following NIDDK study sections:
 - Member, NIDDK Study Section ZDK1 GRB-8 M3 (Ancillary studies to major ongoing NIDDK and NHLBI Clinical Trials)
 - Member, NIDDK Study Section ZDK1 GRB-6 O2 (Special emphasis panel)
 - Member, NIDDK Study section ZRG1 Dig-D (R21)
- Peter Ernst will become Section Editor for the Journal of Immunology on July 1.
- Peter Ernst has been invited to sit on the Dean's Promotion and Tenure Committee, for a three-year term beginning in 2007.

Publications

- Veerman K, Williams MJ, Uchimura K, Singer MS, Merzaban JS, Owen P, Rivera-Nieves J, Rosen SD and Ziltener HJ. 2007 PSGL-1 interaction with CCL21/CCL19 facilitates efficient T cell homing to secondary lymphoid organs. *Nature Immunol* ;8(5):532-539.
- Stephen H. Caldwell, MD¹ James T. Patrie, MS² Elizabeth M. Brunt, MD³ Jan A. Redick, BS⁴ Christine A. Davis, BS⁴ Sang H. Park, MD¹ Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri, MD⁵ The effects of 48 weeks of rosiglitazone on hepatocyte mitochondria in human nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. *Hepatology*
- Stephen H Caldwell, MD¹ Elizabeth E Hespeneide, RN, MSN¹ Bruce D Greenwald, MD² Patrick G Northup, MD, MHES¹ James T Patrie, MS³ Enbucrilate for Gastric Varices: Experience in 92 Patients. *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*
- Armando Tripodi¹, Stephen H. Caldwell², Maureane Hoffman³, James F. Trotter⁴, Arun J. Sanyal⁵ The Prothrombin Time Test as a Measure of Bleeding Risk and Prognosis in Liver Disease Accepted *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*

Grants

- NIH-NCCAM funded R21 AT002901-01A1 (Caldwell, PI) 8/1/05 – 7/31/08:
Omega-3 fatty acids supplements in NASH: Relative efficacy with exercise tolerance and diet
Fatty acid metabolism appears to be significantly influenced by dietary fatty acids. Disordered fatty acid metabolism and lipid peroxidation are the two primary mechanisms in NASH. However, studies of various agents have been hampered by confounding variables including voluntary dietary changes and physical fitness. In this RCT, we are comparing 3 g/day of omega 3 fatty acids versus placebo with controls for exercise tolerance and dietary changes including measures of RBC fatty acid composition. The study platform is unique in that lifestyle changes including degree of activity measured by exercise tolerance and RBC fatty acid composition are controlled for. (\$574,416, 20% effort)
- Cancer Center Translational Research Grant 40510 MD-CANC Cancer Center 5/1/07-current
Commonwealth Cancer Foundation for Research
The effects of lipotoxic agents on DEN-Induced Hepatocellular Cancer (HCC) (Caldwell PI)
This is a joint project involving UVA and the University of Sao Paulo (Dr Claudia Oliveira) in which we aim to test the hypothesis that HCC commonly expresses adipocyte-like properties and may be susceptible to anti-adipocyte medications. The results will be used to develop new imaging and new therapeutic modalities based on fat metabolism and induction of oxidative stress within the HCC.

General Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care**News**

- The Geriatric fellowship program has been placed on a five-year accreditation cycle granted by ACGME. Congratulations to Jonathan Evans, MD, MPH (Fellowship Director), Julie Baird (Fellowship Administrator), and the faculty of the Section of Geriatrics on a job well done!

Publications

- Corbett E, Payne N, Bradley E, et al. Enhancing clinical skills education: the University of Virginia school of medicine's clerkship clinical skills workshop program. *Academic Medicine* July 2007, 82;7:1-6.
- Payne N, Corbett E, Bradley E, et al. Pediatric Chart Review and Case Presentation OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination). *MedEdPORTAL*; 2007. Available from: <http://services.aamc.org/jsp/mededportal/retrieveSubmissionDetailById.do?subId=570>.
- Gazewood JD, Corbett E. Physical Examination Videos, Ophthalmoscopy. *MedEdPORTAL*; 2006. Available from: <http://services.aamc.org/jsp/mededportal/retrieveSubmissionDetailById.do?subId=529>.

Infectious Diseases and International Health**News**

- Dr. William Petri: At the annual meeting of the American Society of Microbiology this month Dr. Petri was installed as Chair of the Division of Free-living, Symbiotic and Parasitic Protists.
- Dr. Michael Rein has assumed the Governorship of the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Physicians.
- Dr. Rein recently attended Leadership Day in Washington, where he met with Congressman Virgil Goode and with staffers for Senators John Warner and Jim Webb, lobbying for better reimbursement for internists.
- Dr. Rein carried the School of Medicine banner at Commencement on May 20, 2007.
- Dr. Michael Scheld was the "Robert J. Glaser Clinical Star" Visiting Professor at Washington University in St. Louis on May 25th, 2007.
- Dr. Dean Kedes: The cover of the May, 2007 issue of the *Journal of Virology* featured a photograph from an article from the laboratory of Dean H. Kedes. The article, entitled *Intracellular KSHV load determines early loss of immune synapse components* details how the human tumor virus underlying Kaposi's sarcoma evades detection by circulating T cells during the earliest times post-infection. <http://jvi.asm.org/content/vol81/issue10/cover>

Publications

- Laura Adang, Costin Tomescu, Wai Law and Dean Kedes. Intracellular Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus Load Determines Early Loss of Immune Synapse Components. *J of Virology*, May 2007; 81:5079-5090.

Grants

- Dr. Michael Scheld has received a one year NIAID "bridge award" for his work on sepsis and adenosine.
- Dr. Eric Houpt STTR Grant - "Targeted DNA extraction for Tuberculosis PCR from sputum" has been awarded.

Nephrology**News**

- Ross Issacs gave a plenary talk on Access to Transplantation last week at the Annual American Society of Transplantation, and has assumed the chair on the Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee for the American Society of Transplantation
- The University received 4 awards from the Network Spring Council: Dr. Schenk and Kim Deaver of Renal Services, vascular access coordinator, received Vascular Champion Awards UVA Augusta Dialysis and UVA Page Dialysis received awards for AVF greater than 50%.

The Nephrology Fellowship Program will be partnering with the American Board of Internal Medicine to provide fellows with practice improvement modules. These modules are designed to allow trainees to collect information on their practice and calculate performance measures. With the coming advent of pay-for-performance it will be important to have these skills to allow physicians to implement evidence-based practice improvement. Nephrology has contracted with ABIM to model two practice parameters: (1) control of hypertension and (2) communication skills with referring physicians. Those fellows enrolled in maintenance of certification for internal medicine will be able to use the credits from this program to be applied for recertification. The University of Virginia Nephrology division will be one of the first programs in the country to adopt this program.

Publications

- McCulloch M, Brooks H, Kalantarina K., Isolated polyarticular septic arthritis, an atypical presentation of meningococcal infection. Accepted for publication in *American Journal of Medical Sciences* 2007

Grants

- Kambiz Kalantarina: 1K23 DK074616-01A2
Adenosine A_{2A} Agonist in Diabetic Nephropathy Period: July 2007 – July 2012

Rheumatology**News**

- Dr. Umesh S. Deshmukh was awarded a Young Scientist Award to attend the 8th International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus held in Shanghai, China. May 23-27, 2007.
- Lingjie Zheng, graduate student in the Division of Rheumatology & Immunology successfully completed and defended her thesis for her Master's in Microbiology April 25, 2007. Congratulations to Ms. Zheng and her mentor, Dr. Shyr-Te Ju.
- Dr. Harini Bagavant has been accepted as a member of the Beirne Carter Center of Immunology Research.
- Dr. Umesh Deshmukh has been accepted as a member of the Beirne Carter Center of Immunology Research.

NIH Service

- Dr. Shyr-Te Ju is serving as chairman of the CSR special emphasis panel (ZRG1 HAI-G (09) for the June 2007 meeting.
- Dr. Harini Bagavant served on Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group 2007/05 on Renal and Urological Sciences on 04/04/2007.

Publications

- Sharma R, Jarjour WN, Zheng L, Gaskin F, Fu SM, Ju ST. Large functional repertoire of regulatory T-cell suppressible autoimmune T cells in scurfy mice. *J Autoimmune*. 2007 May 21; [Epub ahead of print]
- Poster in American Association of Immunologists: Lingjie Zheng, Rahul Sharma, and Shyr-Te Ju. Massive Changes in the TCR Repertoire of Regulatory T Cell-Deficient Mice. *Immunology* 2007. May 18-22. Miami Beach, FL. USA
- Posters in DOM Research day / Centennial Celebration 2007:
 - Rahul Sharma, Wael N. Jarjour, Lingjie Zheng, Felicia Gaskin, Shu Man Fu and Shyr-Te Ju. Functional Implications of large Auto-immune and Regulatory T cell repertoire : Transfer and Suppression of Multi-Organ Autoimmune Syndrome against 12 Organs in Individual Mice. Department of Medicine Research Day May 4 2007, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
 - Lingjie Zheng, Rahul Sharma, Wael N. Jarjour, Shu Man Fu and Shyr-Te Ju. Massive changes in TCR Repertoire of Regulatory T cell-Deficient Mice: Changes in all Vb subgroups imply a massive autoimmune reaction by a large repertoire of autoimmune T cells. Department of Medicine Research Day May 4 2007, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Grants

- Dr. Rahul Sharma was recently awarded a 2007 New Initiatives in Immunology Research grant of \$25,000 from the Beirne Carter Center for Immunology Research.

Rolf and Margaret Huppi have donated \$25,000 to fund research efforts in integrative medicine. If anyone is interested in collaborating on acupuncture grant proposals, to be submitted October 1, please get in touch with Justine Owens, Ph.D., 243-9272, owens@virginia.edu.