

# WORD ON THE STRIET

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

OCTOBER, 2008



## THE FIRST WORD

ROBERT M. STRIETER, MD  
CHAIRMAN

Continuing our discussion from last month, I appreciate everyone's continued efforts to improve the department's finances. I encourage the faculty to provide additional ideas as to how we can improve our finances. In this month's issue there is an arti-

cle on page 2 discussing the importance of collecting co-payments. Co-pays are an important source of revenue for the Department, and a co-pay that needs to be collected after the patient has left the hospital can often result in a loss for the Department. It is important that co-pays be appropriately collected at the time care is provided. If you have any

questions about co-pays, please contact Mark Elliott. Also in this month's issue is an update from our Enterprise Reporting System group. The DoM-ERS team is responsible for the informative graphs that have been turning up around the department. The ERS system is a vital information tool for our faculty, and I encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with it. This



month Russ Dinsmore has provided us with a series of graphs from the ERS to demonstrate the breadth of information available. Divisions should use these graphs as a way to target areas for possible cost-reduction.

Finally, Bob Gibson, our Chief Quality Officer, has included an article about Healthcare-associate Infections. HAIs are a chronic issue in hospitals, and a national HAI taskforce has taken steps to not only identify the most common HAIs, but also suggest strategies for controlling or eliminating them. HAIs are responsible for billions of dollars in additional healthcare costs for patients and insurance companies, and negatively impact length-of-stay and mortality rates. All of our faculty should

be familiar with common HAIs and prevention methods. If you would like more information about HAIs and the Department's efforts to minimize them on the Medicine services, please contact Dr. Gibson.

I would like to remind everyone that next Tuesday, November 4, is Election Day. All faculty, staff, and housestaff are encouraged to vote. Staff who need to arrive late or leave early to make it to the polls should plan to use personal leave to make up the time.

## 35TH ANNUAL RECENT ADVANCES CONFERENCE

Dr. Andrew Wolf, Course Director, is pleased to announce that the Department of Medicine's 35th Annual Edward W. Hook, Jr., M.D. Recent Advances in Clinical Medicine Conference will be held at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville from Wednesday October 29 through Friday October 31, 2008.

For the complete conference agenda, please visit the UVA CME website at [www.cmevillage.com](http://www.cmevillage.com) or contact conference coordinator, Tammy Eberly, in the CME office for details: [teberly@virginia.edu](mailto:teberly@virginia.edu) or 924-1657.

Also, please join Dr. Wolf for the Recent Advances Cocktail Reception at 5pm on Wednesday October 29 at the Omni Hotel. This is an excellent opportunity to meet referring physicians from the community and region.

## NAVIGATION



### VC/AC ARTICLES

- FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION **2**
- QUALITY **8**

DIVISION NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, & GRANTS **8**

## MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

- NOV. 4 ANTHONY MCCALL & ZACH BUSH  
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM
- NOV. 11 TOM WALSH  
VISITING
- NOV. 18 GREGORY SCHMIDT  
VISITING
- DEC. 2 CHRISTOPHER MCCARTNEY  
ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM

[Click to view the full schedule](#)

BESS WILDMAN

## NEW TRAVEL EXPENSE LIMITS

Procurement Services has received changes to the Commonwealth's expense limits for lodging and meals for travel occurring on or after October 1, 2008. These rates apply to travel and business meal expenses paid from state funds.

Please ensure that you are using current expense limits when planning travel or business meals. Current and previous lodging and meal limits are posted on our website at <http://www.procurement.virginia.edu/main/departments/LodgingAndMealLimits.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Procurement Services at 434-924-4212.

New Travel Rates in Effect (09-30-2008)

New Lodging, Meal, & Incidental Expense Limits are effective for travel expenses incurred on or after October 1, 2008.

New Mileage Rate (07-01-2008)

Effective July 1, 2008 the mileage rate set by the state for reimbursement increased to \$.585 per mile.

## CO-PAYS: COLLECTING OUR FAIR SHARE

What is a co-payment?

- A copayment, or co-pay, is a dollar amount paid for a medical service at the time of service by an insured patient. Co-pay amounts can differ between outpatient, inpatient, emergency room or specialist visits. Insurance companies use copayments to share health care costs with their insured population.

Why do patients pay co-pays?

- Contractually a co-pay must be paid before any policy benefits are paid by the patient's insurance company. Insurance companies use copayments to share health care costs with the insured and to prevent people from seeking medical care that may not be necessary. The underlying philosophy is that with no co-pay, the perception is that medical care is "free" and then is accessed more often.

What is the impact of collecting a co-pay?

- First and foremost co-pays are an important source of revenue for both HSF and the Medical Center. There is a contractual obligation between the insurer and the institution to collect this revenue. There is a penchant by many in the institution to trivialize the co-pay as unimportant, too small an amount of money to be collected, or just an inconvenience. Collecting this revenue at the time of service minimizes further overhead cost incurred in the billing process.

What is the impact of collecting a co-pay incorrectly?

- It is important to collect the correct co-pay amount from the patient when services are provided; this prevents the need for issuing a refund to the patient. Depending on the insurer, there are times when a co-pay is collected and not collected. The best resource for determining the co-pay amount is on the insurance card. This information can also be found in the insurance quad screen in A2K3. Issuing a refund is a net loss to the institution: not only is the amount of the co-pay lost but also the added expense of processing the refund.

What is the impact of not collecting a co-pay?

- When a co-pay is not collected at the time of service several things occur. First, it unnecessarily increases the amount of dollars in accounts receivable (AR) on the institution's books. Second, the longer a co-pay ages on the institution's AR the higher the probability that this revenue will never be collected and is lost to the institution. Additional revenue maybe spent in the attempt to collect these dollars, or they maybe simple written off as bad debt. Lastly, the opportunity cost of collecting the co-pay at the time of service is significantly less then when the co-pay is collected later in the revenue cycle.

## SEPTEMBER CHARGES AND COLLECTIONS

On the following page are the Department's monthly charges and collections progress graphs. Unfortunately, the department as a whole missed September's monthly charge budget by 6% (\$399,731) and missed September's monthly collection budget by 10% (\$260,264).

## RESIDENCY RECRUITMENT

On November 3rd the Residency Program will begin its 08-09 recruitment season. Interview days are Mondays and Thursdays each week from November through the end of January (excluding holidays). We anticipate interviewing at least 400 medical students this year.

It is vital that we have a strong showing from our faculty during the recruitment season. Interviews are done in 30-minute sessions from 10:00—11:30 on each recruitment day. Interviewers receive 1 TRVU for each interview conducted (so up to 3 per recruitment day).

If you are interested in conducting interviews during the recruitment season, please contact Diane Farineau with your availability.

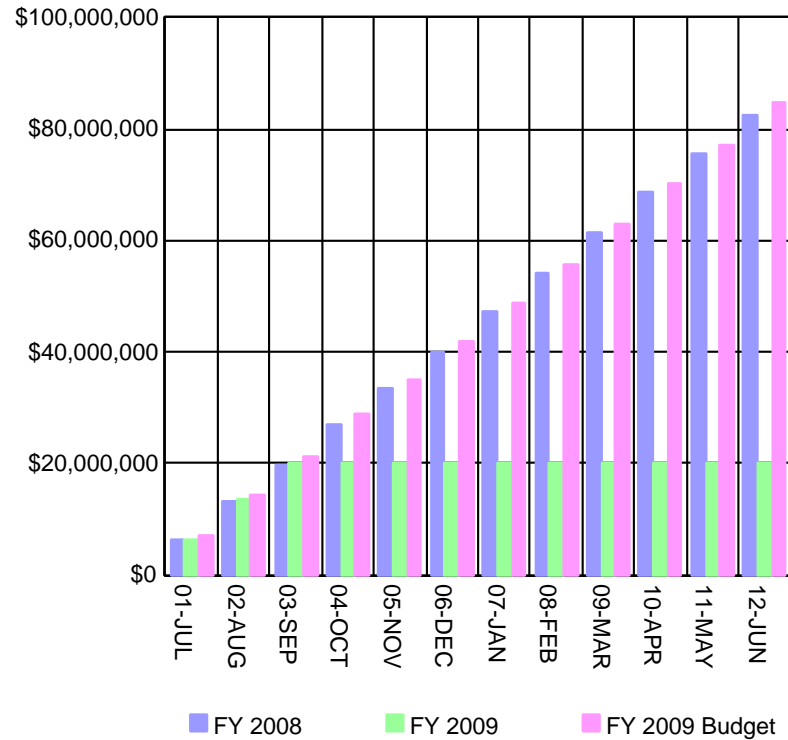
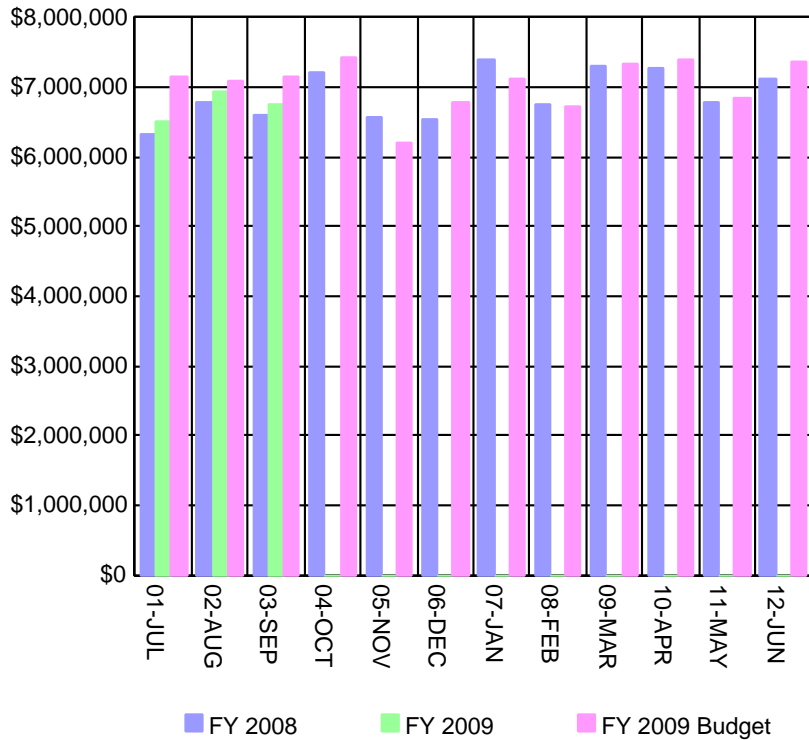
Department of Medicine All  
Monthly Gross Charges

**MONTHLY COMPARISON**

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03-SEP	\$6,597,783	\$6,752,892	2%	\$7,152,622	(\$399,731)	-6%
04-OCT	\$7,223,651	\$0	0%	\$7,433,301	(\$7,433,301)	0%
05-NOV	\$6,564,865	\$0	0%	\$6,215,105	(\$6,215,105)	0%
06-DEC	\$6,527,055	\$0	0%	\$6,796,783	(\$6,796,783)	0%
07-JAN	\$7,391,410	\$0	0%	\$7,112,622	(\$7,112,622)	0%
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09-MAR	\$7,300,423	\$0	0%	\$7,345,961	(\$7,345,961)	0%
10-APR	\$7,287,400	\$0	0%	\$7,400,961	(\$7,400,961)	0%
11-MAY	\$6,792,162	\$0	0%	\$6,851,783	(\$6,851,783)	0%
12-JUN	\$7,116,633	\$0	0%	\$7,373,461	(\$7,373,461)	0%

**YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON**

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11-MAY	\$75,545,885	\$20,198,611	0%	\$77,258,006	(\$57,059,395)	0%
12-JUN	\$82,662,518	\$20,198,611	0%	\$84,631,467	(\$64,432,856)	0%



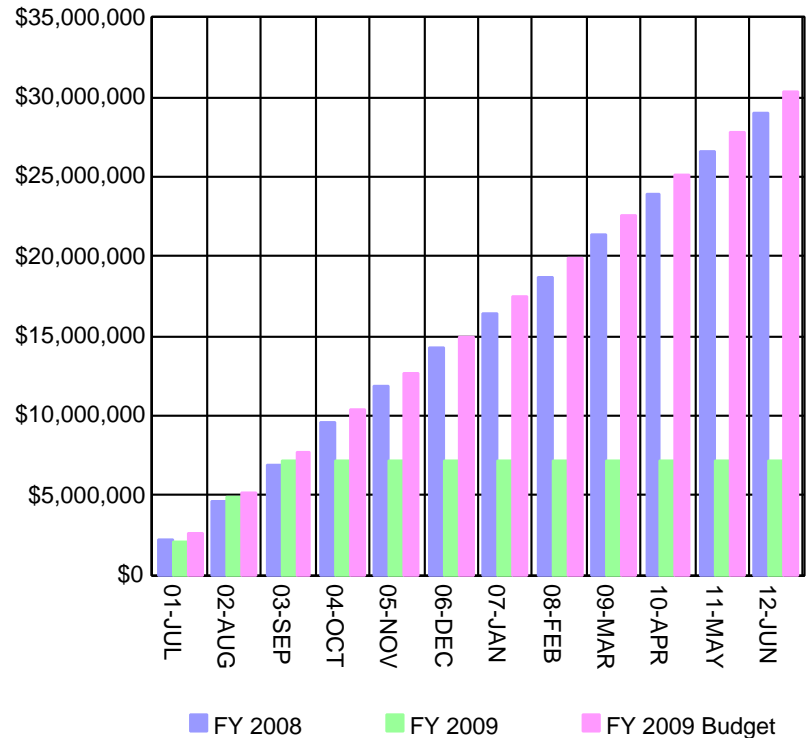
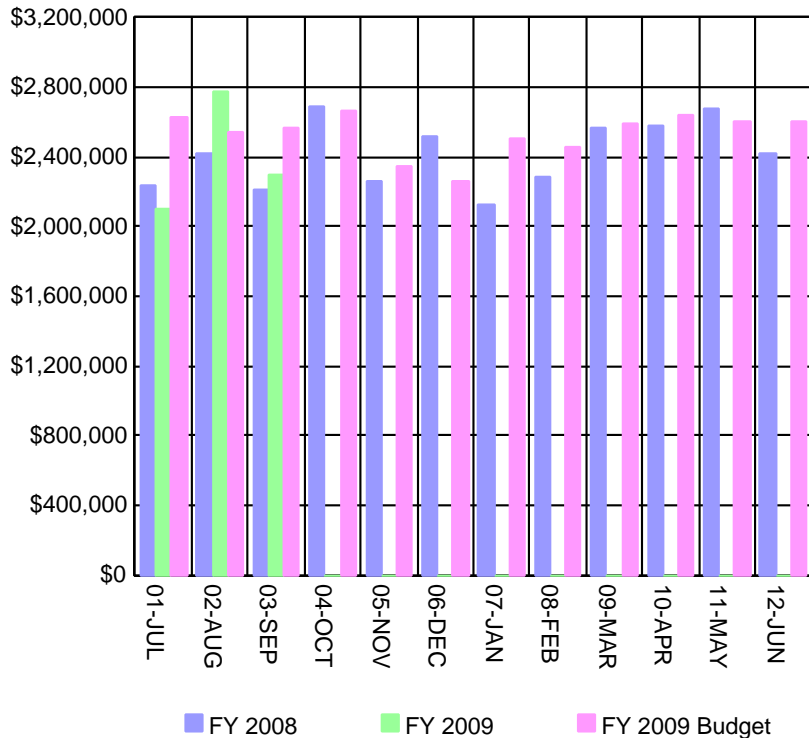
Department of Medicine All  
Monthly Net Collections

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08-FEB	\$2,285,888	\$0	0%	\$2,453,180	(\$2,453,180)	0%
09-MAR	\$2,567,150	\$0	0%	\$2,589,137	(\$2,589,137)	0%
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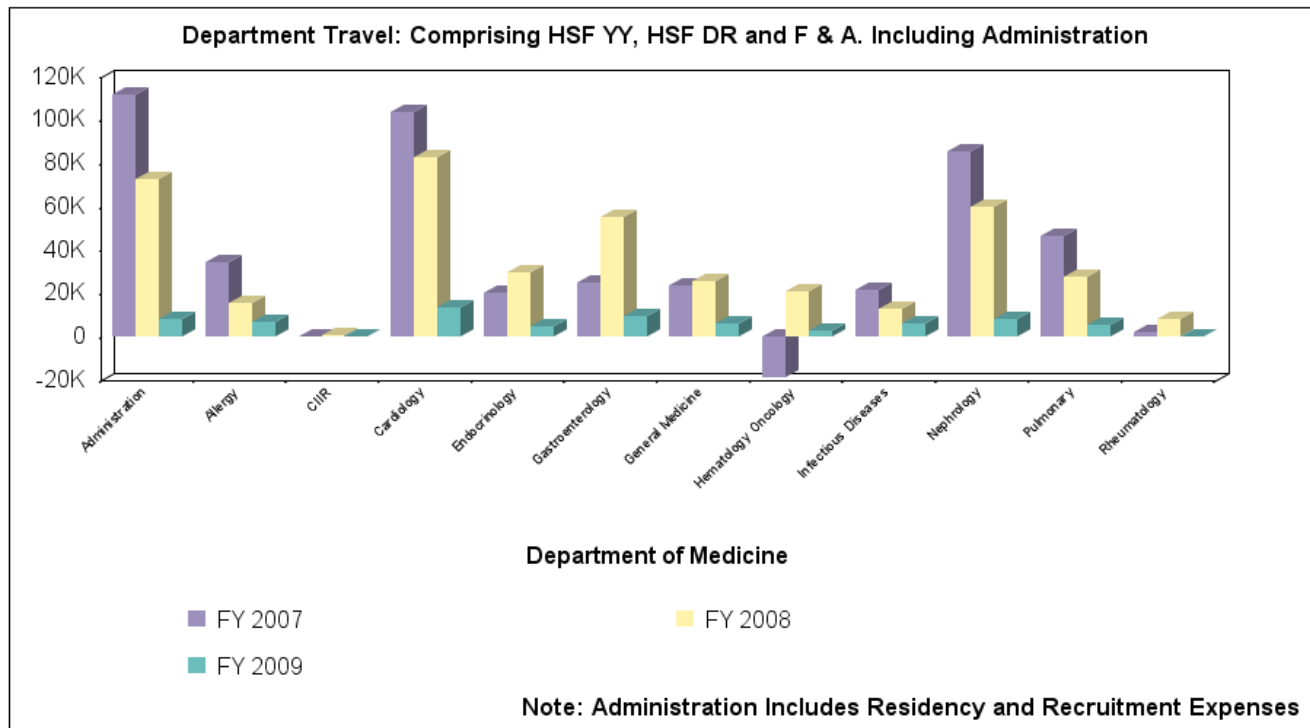
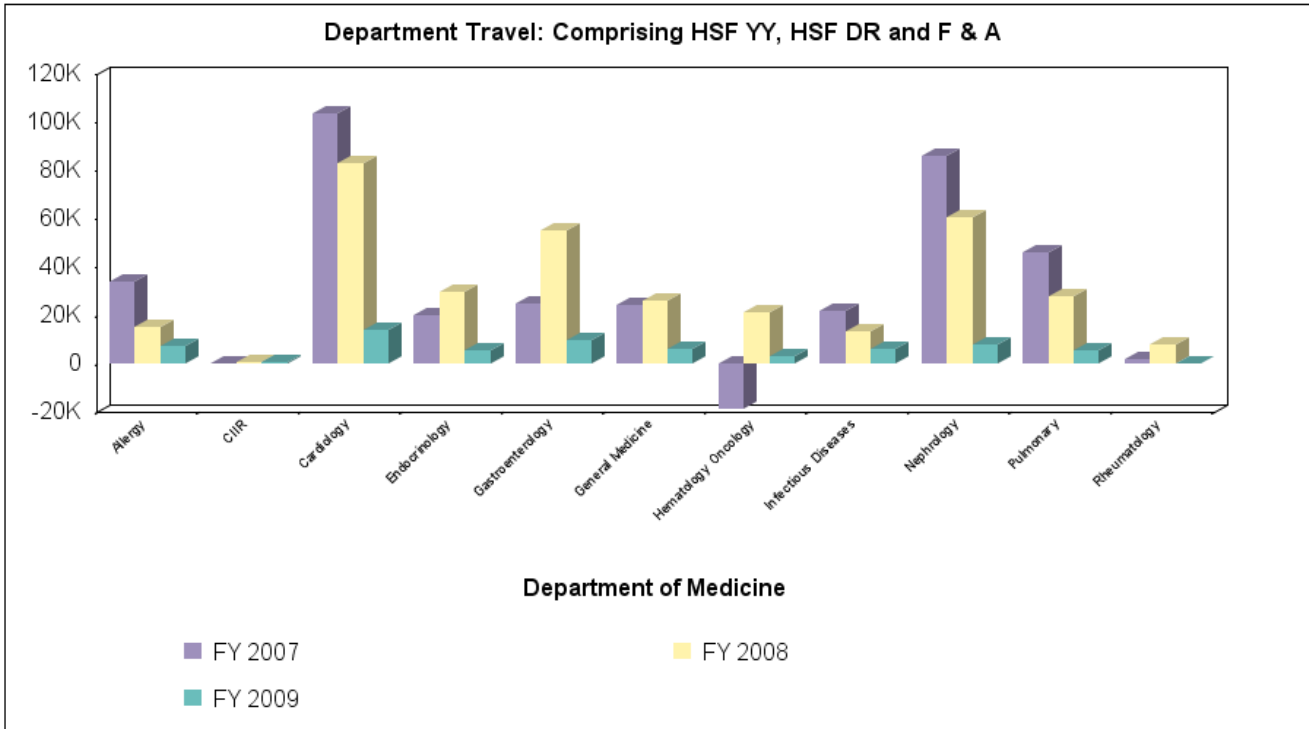
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07-JAN	\$16,455,694	\$7,176,152	0%	\$17,493,925	(\$10,317,772)	0%
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11-MAY	\$26,557,364	\$7,176,152	0%	\$27,777,673	(\$20,601,521)	0%
12-JUN	\$28,973,683	\$7,176,152	0%	\$30,376,418	(\$23,200,265)	0%

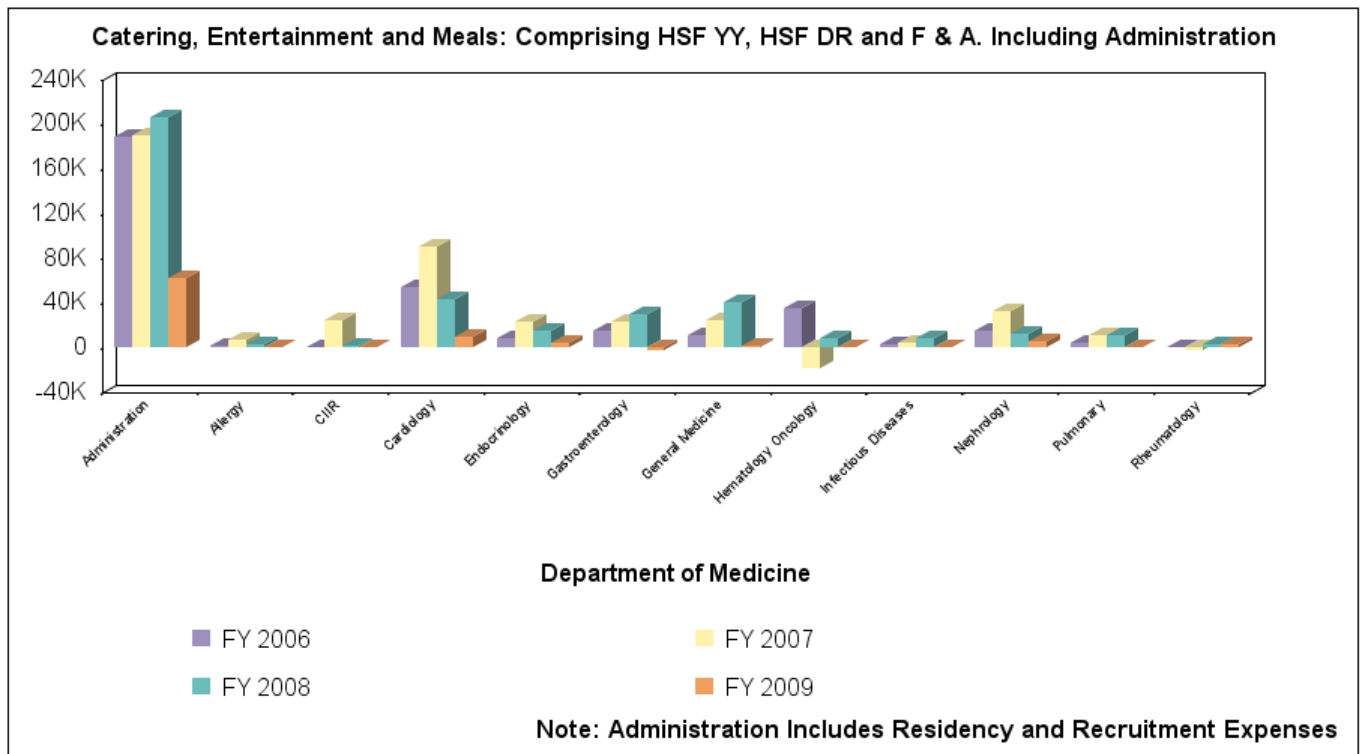
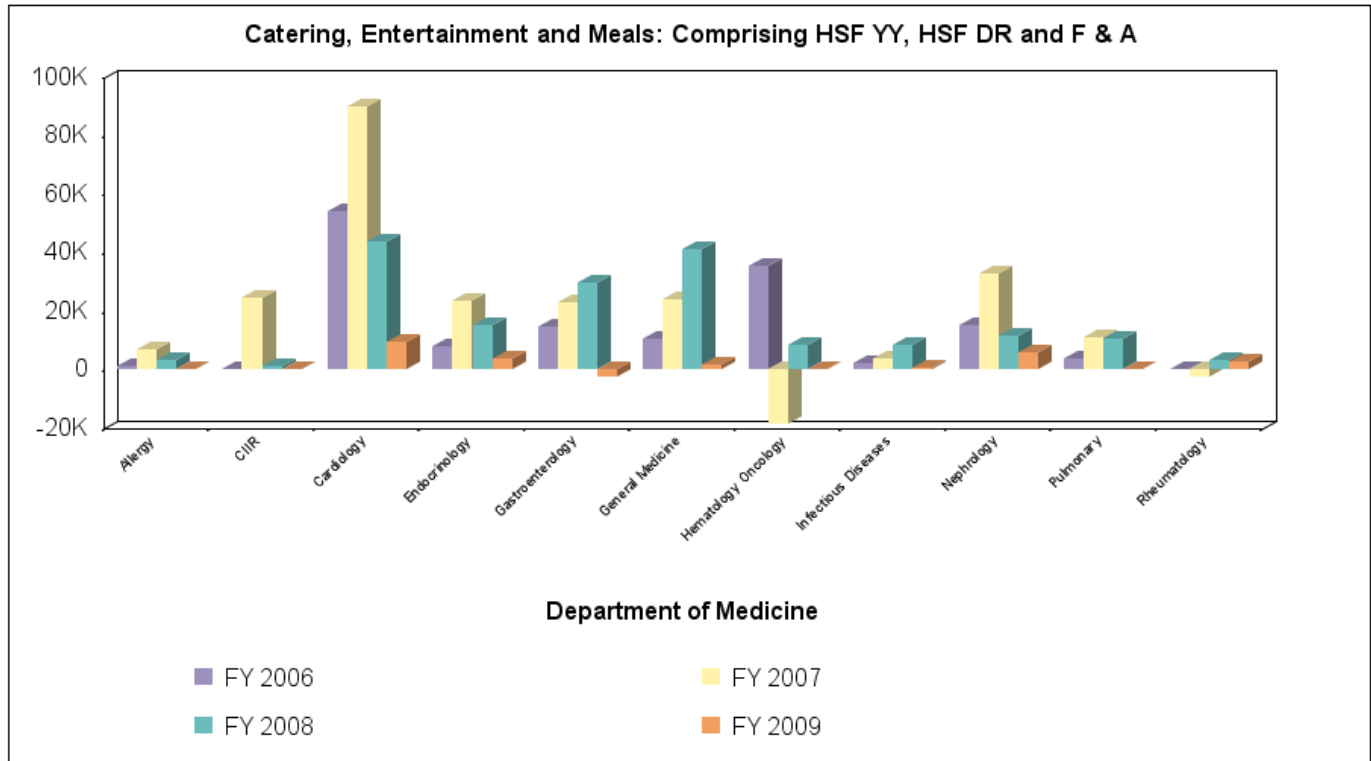


THE ENTERPRISE REPORTING SYSTEM

The Department of Medicine Enterprise Reporting System (DoM-ERS) has published 3 reports this month for faculty. The **Department Travel** report is a graph of travel expenses over a period of time. 3 years of data are contained in this example. The report outputs 2 graphs. The first one contains all the divisions and excludes Residency and Recruitment Expenses. The second graph includes these expenses.



**Catering, Entertainment and Meals** graphs these expenses over a period of time. This example contains 4 years of data. The report outputs 2 graphs. The first one contains all the divisions and excludes Residency and Recruitment Expenses. The second graph includes these expenses.

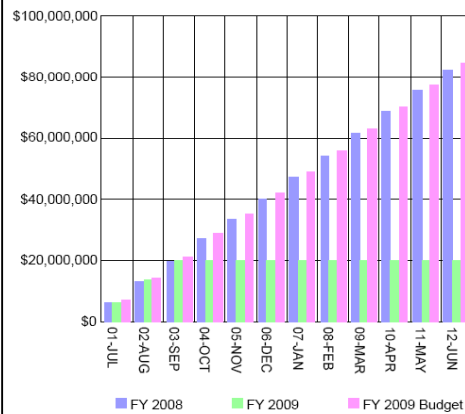
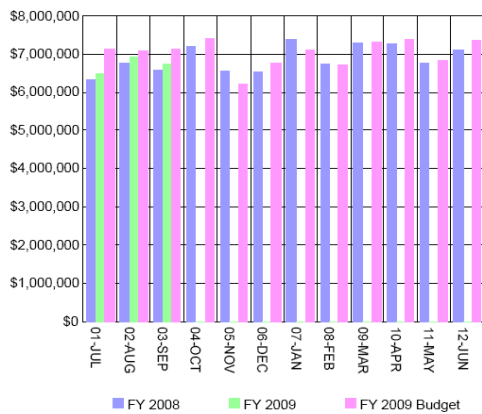


**Monthly Gross Charges/Net Collections 4-in-1** is a bar graph and data table comparing the monthly charge budget to the actual charges posted and has a running year to date for the total YTD charge budget and total YTD charges posted. It does the same type of comparison with the collection budget and actual collections posted monthly and YTD. All four graphs also show the variance from the current fiscal year to the previous fiscal year.

Department of Medicine All  
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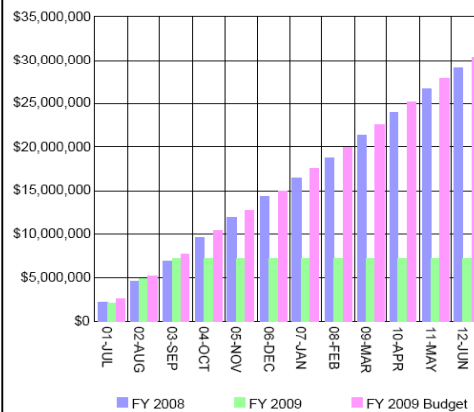
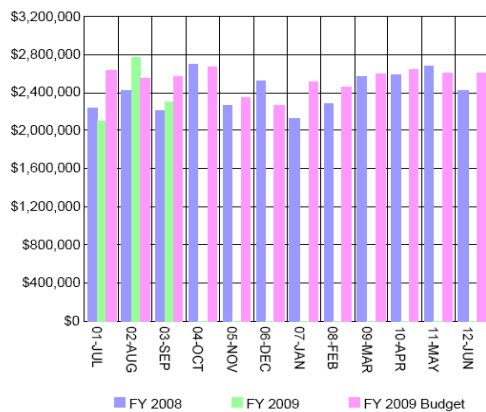
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12-JUN	\$28,973,683	\$7,176,152	0%	\$30,376,418	(\$23,200,265)	0%



We've also added a document that describes each report and what it could be used for. This document has been added to the DoM-ERS dashboard. Log into the DoM-ERS web site to view these new reports: [http://domerpl.eservices.virginia.edu/ibi\\_apps/bid-login?](http://domerpl.eservices.virginia.edu/ibi_apps/bid-login?)

## MEDICARE'S FINAL RULE ON TEACHING PHYSICIAN DOCUMENTATION

### What is Required?

#### Medicare Regulations:

- When working with a resident, the teaching physician must establish and document their physical presence during the appropriate portion(s) of the service(s) rendered to the patient.
- The teaching physician must personally document their review of the care provided by the resident. Documentation must be completed within the applicable time period (during or immediately after the rendered service).
- The teaching physician must document their personal participation in the medical decision making made during the patient encounter – i.e. revising or confirming the plan and assessment documented by the resident/fellow.

HSF does not bill for professional healthcare services that are provided solely by a resident physician. Along with participating in the care of a patient, a teaching physician must personally document the supervision of the professional services rendered by a resident in order to bill for the service(s). All documentation of provider services (including supervision standards) must comply with applicable payer regulations.

### Using the Convenience of Compliance Text (VESA)

#### Documenting Attending Physician Involvement in Resident Services:

The Compliance Text is initiated whenever someone other than the attending physician dictated a document that requires the attending physician's signature. The attending physician must:

- Select an option
- If statement is selected, add the Resident's name and edit text as appropriate
- If the blank option is selected, delete the "?" and enter free text

The compliance text option selected will not populate the document until the document is finalized.

It is important to note that the compliance text statement that is added to the document by the attending physician must be accurate and complete, (i.e. if a patient is seen by an attending physician, but no physical examination was done that day, then the compliance text should be edited to reflect this).

### Standard VESA Compliance Text Option:

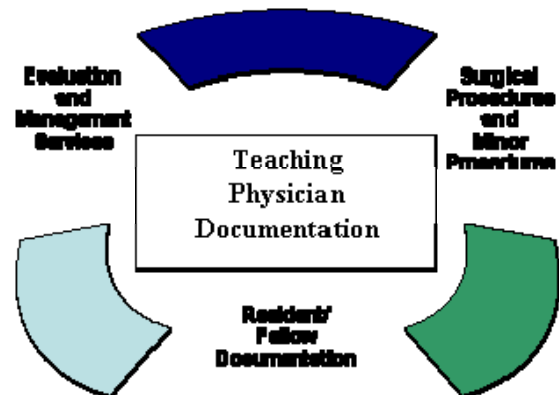
"I have personally interviewed and examined the patient. I have reviewed Dr. <?>'s history, physical exam, assessment and management plans. I concur with or have edited all elements of the resident/fellow's note."

### Correctly Edited VESA Compliance Text:

"I have personally interviewed the patient. I have reviewed Dr. Smith's history, assessment and management plans. I concur with or have edited all elements of the resident's note."

Another example is a Nurse Practitioner note that requires a physician signature. In this case, no compliance text is necessary. Therefore, it is acceptable to select the blank option, and delete the "??".

If you have questions about the proper use of Compliance Text, or if you do not feel that you have the proper options for the document(s) that you are signing, please contact Wendy Droppleman at [wkd3e@virginia.edu](mailto:wkd3e@virginia.edu) or 972-4293. For technical questions about VESA and Compliance Text, page 923-5117 Monday through Friday 7:30 – 4:00. For after hours, page 923-5121.



## FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

FROM THE SOM NEWSLETTER

### NEW INTERNATIONAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER

University Human Resources has announced the appointment of José Fleming as the new International Compliance Officer within the Compliance and Immigration Services Division (<http://www.hrs.virginia.edu/cis.html>), effective September 22, 2008. José comes to the University with many years of employment immigration experience, most recently as International Employment Coordinator at the University of Texas-Arlington. An attorney, he holds a B.B.A. degree in international business, an M.A. in international relations, and a J.D. all from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. José is a native of Chiapas, Mexico.

As an Immigration Compliance Officer, José will be responsible for immigration matters related to the recruitment and retention of international faculty and scholars. This includes non-immigrant visas (H-1B, O-1, TN, and E-3), immigrant (permanent resident-green card) filings, and visas for foreign, short-term visitors (B-1, B-2).

In addition, José will assist in I-9 Compliance oversight, review immigration-related legislation from the Virginia General Assembly and U.S. Congress, coordinate the development of internal policies and procedures, offer workshops and other training opportunities relating to immigration issues. He also will liaise with various government agencies on behalf of the University to ensure regulatory compliance.

### SOM GRANTS AUDIT

#### Expenditure Record Retention

SOM departments should comply with all University policies and procedures regarding procurement and travel expenditures. Please make sure to retain, including adequate supporting documentation, all expenditure transactions within your departmental financial records.

#### Timesheet Certification and Approval

SOM departments should follow the University's procedures regarding the certification and approval of timesheets. Specifically, employees and their supervisors should properly sign, with a full signature, and date all timesheets by the corresponding pay periods' timesheet due date, to ensure that all hours worked and leave taken are accurately documented and entered into the time and leave system in a timely manner. In addition, supervisor should never approve an employee's timesheet before it is completed and certified by the employee. A recent internal audit review has identified areas where the School of Medicine must improve its practices for the fiscal administration of sponsored awards. Faculty and departmental administrators are strongly encouraged to ensure they are compliant with

University policies and procedures concerning monthly reviews for sponsored awards and maintaining sufficient documentation of cost transfers.

#### Monthly Review Process

Examples of deficiencies found with monthly reviews include misplaced records, incomplete records, reports not properly signed and reviews not conducted on a timely basis. All School of Medicine departments must comply with University Financial and Administrative Procedure 1-4a, *Monthly Review and Certification of Sponsored Program Project or Award Expenditures* ([www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/1-4a.html](http://www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/1-4a.html)). Further, all departments should act now to locate all missing monthly project reviews and ensure that records for monthly reviews are complete and accessible.

All departmental staff who have a role with monthly reviews should take *Mastering Account Reconciliations*, ([www.virginia.edu/finance/genacct/training.html](http://www.virginia.edu/finance/genacct/training.html)) a training course offered by Accounting Services.

#### Cost Transfer Documentation

Deficiencies also were found with records for cost transfers. Departments must comply with all University policies and procedures regarding cost transfers, including maintaining adequate supporting documentation of charges and PI and/or Office of Sponsored Programs approvals.

The processes for preparing and documenting cost transfers are provided in University Financial and Administrative Procedures 8-20, *Preparations of Cost Transfers Involving Sponsored Program Accounts* ([www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/8-20.html](http://www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/8-20.html)), 8-21, *Retroactive Cost Transfers for Expenditures* ([www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/8-21.html](http://www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/8-21.html)), and 8-22, *Retroactive Labor Distribution Adjustments* ([www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/8-22.html](http://www.virginia.edu/finance/polproc/proc/8-22.html)). Also, all departments should act now to locate all missing documentation pertaining to cost transfers, which may include obtaining copies of invoices from Account Payable, if available.

Staff involved in cost transfers should take the training course offered by the Office of Sponsored Programs titled: *The A, B, C and Ds of Cost Transfers*. It will next be offered on Oct. 29, 2008 from 9 a.m. to noon. Contact Andrew Bedotto at 924-3852 for more information. Additional materials, including a Cost Transfer Checklist, are available at <http://www.virginia.edu/sponsoredprograms>.

#### Impact

The importance of compliance with sponsor and University fiscal requirements for sponsored awards cannot be underestimated. Consistent failure to document transactions, reconcile accounts and maintain records could jeopardize receipt of federal grant support, as well as the University's highest level of autonomy under the Restructured Higher Education Financial

and Administrative Operations Act. The Dean's Office thanks you for your help in these areas; please contact Stewart Craig, Interim Director of Grants and Contracts, at 924-8426 should you need additional information.

### INDUSTRY SPONSORED CLINICAL TRIALS

Please see the attached documents regarding recommended steps for successful institutional recovery from industry sponsored clinical trials.



Institutional  
Recovery from In...



Clinical trials\_excel  
tracking...

## QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ISSUES

ROBERT S. GIBSON

### HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly two million patients (5-10% of hospitalized patients) experience an HAI each year, leading to almost 100,000 deaths and \$4.5 to \$6.5 billion in additional health care costs.

National health care leaders, through the HAI-Allied Task Force, have joined together to address HAIs by developing the Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals. The HAI-Allied Task Force, lead by the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) and the Society of Healthcare Epidemiology in America (SHEA), in partnership with The Joint Commission, American Hospital Association, and the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) have developed a practical, easy to use set of implementation strategies for six common HAIs:

Catheter-associated urinary tract infections  
Central line-associated bloodstream infections  
Clostridium difficile-associated disease  
Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus  
Surgical site infections  
Ventilator-associated pneumonia

The strategies can be found at [www.preventingHAIs.com](http://www.preventingHAIs.com)

## DIVISION

### NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, AND GRANTS

#### THE CENTER FOR IMMUNITY, INFLAMMATION, AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE PUBLICATIONS

- Sharma R, Ju AC, Kung JT, Fu SM and Ju ST. Rapid and Selective Expansion of Nonclonotypic T cells in Regulatory T cell-Deficient, Foreign Antigen-Specific TCR-Transgenic Scurfy Mice: Antigen-Dependent Expansion and TCR analysis. *J. Immunol.* 2008. 181: (epub Nov 15, 2008).
- Zhang W, Sharma R, Ju ST, He XS, Tao Y, Tsuneyama K, Tian Z, Lian ZX, Fu SM and Gershwin ME. Deficiency in regulatory T cells results in development of antimicrobial antibodies and autoimmune cholangitis. *Hepatology.* 2008 (epub Sep 22, 2008).
- Deshmukh US, SR Nandula, PR Thimmalapura, YM Scindia and H Bagavant. 2008. Activation of innate immune responses through toll-like receptor 3 causes a rapid loss of salivary gland function. *J Oral Pathol Med, in press.*
- Scindia YM, US Deshmukh, PR Thimmalapura and H Bagavant. 2008. Anti-alpha 8 integrin immunoliposomes: A novel system for delivery of therapeutic agents to the renal glomerulus in systemic lupus erythematosus. 2008. *Arthritis and Rheumatism, in press.*
- Oral Presentation in Plenary Session at American College of Rheumatology Meeting, San Francisco. (US Deshmukh, D Sim, G Rajagopalan, C David, F Gaskin, SM Fu. 2008. HLA-DR3 restricted T cell epitope mimics of a lupus-associated autoantigen can initiate autoimmune responses. *Arthritis and Rheum*, 58 (9): S872. )
- Rahul Sharma, Angela Chiao-Ying Ju, John T. Kung, Shu Man Fu, and Shyr-Te Ju. 2008. Rapid and Selective Expansion of Non-Clonotypic T Cells in Regulatory T Cell-Deficient, Foreign Antigen-Specific TCR Transgenic Scurfy Mice: Antigen-dependent expansion and TCR analysis. *J. Immunol.* (in press) 2008

#### GRANTS

- Umesh Deshmukh, PhD was awarded the Innovative Concept Grant from the Sjögren Syndrome Foundation for his proposal entitled: *Adenosine Receptor Agonists: Novel therapeutic agents for Sjögren's syndrome*. He also won the Annette Lightner Research Award in Rheumatology from the University of Virginia, School of Medicine for his proposal entitled *Inhibition of autoantibody responses by adenosine receptor agonists*:

## ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM NEWS

- Pierrick Fournier, Ph.D., is the recipient of the first Bone and Cancer Foundation Noa Schwartz Siris Research Award. He won the grant for his research project entitled: “*T Cell in Bone Metastases and Role of the Bone Microenvironment.*” The award was created to fund basic or clinical research on bone metastasis and osteosarcoma, named in memory of Noa Schwartz Siris, a physician who died of osteosarcoma at the age of 29.
- Bush, Zachary; Crook, Margaret K; Pielecka, Justyna. The Endocrine Society: ENDO 08 Trainee Poster Competition Award. Immunohistochemistry of COUP-TFI: an Adjuvant Diagnostic Tool for the Identification of Corticotroph Microadenomas. San Francisco, CA. June, 2008
- Carey, RM: American Heart Association Scientific Councils Distinguished Achievement Award (September, 2008) John and Meredith Oates Distinguished Lectureship in Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine (October, 2008) President, The Endocrine Society (2008-2009)
- Christian, C: The Endocrine Society’s 2008 Endocrine Scholars Award: Recognizes research trainees for outstanding achievements in basic endocrine research.
- Liu, Z: Promoted to Associate Professor
- Marshall, JC: Endocrine Society, 2008 Clinical Investigator Award
- Khalis S. Mohammad, M.D., Ph.D. - promoted July 2008 from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, Endocrinology and Metabolism.

## PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The following people of the Guise/Chirgwin Team in the Department of Endocrinology made presentations at the 30th Annual ASBMR Meeting held in Montreal, Canada, September 12-16, 2008:

- Theresa A. Guise, M.D., oral lecture: Session – Cancer and Bone: “Complexities of TGF Signaling in Bone Metastases.”
- Khalid S. Mohammad, M.D., Ph.D., two plenary posters: “2-Methoxyestradiol Blocks Prostate Cancer Bone Metastases” and “Combined Transforming Growth Factor  $\beta$  Receptor I Kinase Inhibitor and Bisphosphonates are Additive to Reduce Breast Cancer Bone Metastases,” and a poster “Transforming Growth Factor  $\beta$  Receptor I Kinase Inhibitor Increases Bone Mass in Normal Mice.”
- Gregory Clines, M.D., Ph.D., two oral lectures: “DKK1 is Regulated by mRNA Stability and Epigenetic Mechanisms in Bone Metastasis,” and “CFTR Regulates Osteoblast Bone Formation Independent of Chloride Conductance.”
- Sue A. Brown, M.D., moderator of Session: Aging and Other Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism I; and a poster: “Extended Lactation is Associated with failure to Restore BMD 6 Months after Resumption of Menstrual Cycle.”
- Pierrick Fournier, Ph.D., two posters: “TGF- $\beta$  Activates Prostate Cancer Bone Metastases, Pro-Osteolytic Gene Expression and the New TGF- $\beta$  Signaling Regulator PMEPA1,” and “TGF- $\beta$  Blockade Inhibits Osteolytic but not Osteoblastic Prostate Cancer Metastases.”
- Meg Crook, M.D., a poster: “TGIF Regulation of Bone Mass: Impaired Osteoblast Differentiation.”
- Patricia Juarez-Camacho, Ph.D., a plenary poster: “Halofuginone Inhibits Melanoma Bone Metastases and TGF-beta Signaling.”
- Lauren Kingsley, graduate student, an oral lecture: “Inhibition of HIF1 $\alpha$  Alone or Combined with TGF $\beta$  Blockade Prevents Breast Cancer Bone Metastases,” and moderator of Session – Cancer and Bone II.
- Valerie Siclari, graduate student, a poster: “Opposing Effects on Bone Metastases of Tumor Adrenomedullin Expression in Breast and Prostate Cancer.”
- American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Task Force on Osteonecrosis of the Jaw, Khosla S, Burr D, Cauley J, Dempster DW, Ebeling PR, Felsenberg D, Gagel RF, Gilsanz V, Guise T, Koka S, McCauley LK, McGowan J, McKee MD, Mohla S, Pendrys DG, Raisz LG, Ruggiero SL, Shafer DM, Shum L, Silverman SL, Van Poznak CH, Watts N, Woo SB, Shane E. Oral bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis: risk factors, prediction of risk using serum CTX testing, prevention, and treatment. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg* 66(6):1320-1; Jun 2008. PMID: 18486811.
- Hadji P, Body JJ, Aapro MS, Brufsky A, Coleman RE, Guise T, Lipton A, Tubiana-Hulin M. Practical guidance for the management of aromatase inhibitor-associated bone loss. *Ann Oncol* 19(8):1407-16, Aug 2008. PMID: 18448451.
- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Role in bone metastases. Second International Conference on Osteoimmunology: Interactions of the Immune and Skeletal Systems, Rhodes, Greece, Jun 2008.
- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Cancer, bone and beyond. Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Jun 2008.
- Guise TA. Molecular mechanism of bone metastases: Insight into pathophysiology and treatment 2008. Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan, Jun 2008.
- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Cancer, bone and beyond. TGF $\beta$  Signaling in Cancer, Sapporo Cancer Center, Sapporo, Japan, Jun 2008.
- Guise TA. Molecular mechanisms of bone metastases. International Meeting for Cancer-Induced Bone Diseases, Edinburgh, Scotland, Jun 2008.

- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Cancer, bone and beyond. Research Seminar, Genzyme Inc., Boston, MA, Jun 2008.
- Chirgwin JM. Metastasis to the skeleton changes the phenotypes of tumor and bone. Sigma-Aldrich Research Biotechnology Division meeting, St. Louis, MO, Jul 2008.
- Chirgwin JM. Animal models for metastasis-selective drug development: Targeting the bone microenvironment. Sigma-Aldrich Research Biotechnology Division Meeting, St. Louis, MO, Jul 2008.
- Brown SA. Hypocalcemia: Diagnosis and management. Endocrine Fellows Conference, UVA, July 2008.
- Guise TA. Biology of Bone Metastases: Implications for Therapy. Endocrine Grand Rounds, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN, Jul 2008.
- Guise TA. How to deliver a scientific presentation: A 6 hour workshop. Metastases Research Society and American Association for Cancer Research Joint Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Jul 2008.
- Guise TA. Biology of bone metastases – Implications for therapy. Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA, Aug 2008.
- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Cancer, bone and beyond. Endocrine Grand Rounds, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA, Aug 2008.
- Guise TA. Can we improve the bone health of breast cancer patients by specifically targeting the biology of the bone? 2008 Breast Cancer Symposium: Integrating Emerging Science into Clinical Practice, Washington, DC, Sep 2008.
- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Cancer, bone and beyond. Lady David Institute for Medical Research, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Sep 2008.
- Guise TA. TGF $\beta$ : Cancer, bone and beyond. American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, Montreal, Canada, Sep 2008.
- Guise TA. Molecular mechanisms of solid tumor metastasis to bone. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and ORS Molecular Biology and Therapeutics in Musculoskeletal Oncology Research Symposium, Salt Lake City, UT, Sep 2008.
- Guise TA. Biology of bone metastases: Therapeutic implications. Yale Cancer Center Ground Rounds, Yale University, New Haven, CT, Sep 2008.
- Abdel-Rahman EM, Abadir PM, Siragy HM. Regulation of renal 12(S)-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid in diabetes by angiotensin AT1 and AT2 receptors. *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol*. 2008 Sep 17. [Epub ahead of print]
- Bush ZM, Vance ML. Management of acromegaly: Is there a role for primary medical therapy? [Review] *Rev Endocr Metab Disord*. 2008 Mar;9(1):83-94.)
- Christian CA, Glidewell-Kenny C, Jameson JL, Moenter SM. 2008 Classical estrogen receptor  $\alpha$  signaling mediates negative and positive feedback on gonadotropin-releasing hormone neuron firing. *Endocrinology*, in press
- Christian CA, Moenter SM 2008. Vasoactive intestinal polypeptide can excite gonadotropin-releasing hormone neurons in a manner dependent on estradiol and gated by time of day. *Endocrinology* 149:3130-3136.
- Christian CA, Moenter SM. 2008 Critical roles for fast synaptic transmission in mediating estradiol negative and positive feedback in the neural control of ovulation. *Endocrinology*, in press.
- Dehlina E, Liu J, Yun SH, Fox E, Snyder S, Gineste C, Willingham L, Geysen HM, Gaylinn BD, Sando JJ. 2008 Regulation of Ghrelin Structure and Membrane Binding by Phosphorylation. *\*Peptides\** 29:904-911
- Evans WS, Farhy LS, and Johnson ML. Biomathematical Modeling of Pulsatile Hormone Secretion: A Historical Perspective, (2009), *Methods in Enzymology* 453 (in press).
- Farhy LS, Du Z, Zeng, Veldhuis PP, Johnson ML, Brayman KL, McCall AL. Amplification of pulsatile glucagon secretion by switch-off of -cell suppressing signals in Streptozotocin (STZ)-treated rats. *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab*, 2008; 295: E575 - E585.
- Foster-Schubert, KE, Overduin, J, Prudom, CE, Liu, J, Callahan, HS, Gaylinn, BD, Thorner, MO, Cummings, DE. 2008 Acyl and Total Ghrelin Are Suppressed Strongly by Ingested Proteins, Weakly by Lipids, and Biphaseically by Carbohydrates *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 93:1971-1979.
- Gill JC, Wadas B, Chen P, Portillo W, Reyna A, Jorgensen E, Mani S, Schwarting GA, Moenter SM, Tobet S, Kaiser UB. 2008 The GnRH neuronal population is normal in size and distribution in GnRH-deficient and GnRH receptor-mutant hypogonadal mice. *Endocrinology* 149:4569-4604.
- Huang X, Moore DJ, Ketchum RJ, Nunemaker CS, Kovatchev B, McCall AL, Brayman KL. Resolving the conundrum of islet transplantation by linking metabolic dysregulation, inflammation, and immune regulation. *Endocr Rev*. 2008 Aug;29(5):603-30. Epub 2008 Jul 29. Review.
- Johnson ML, Farhy LS, Veldhuis PP and Lakowicz JR. Identifying Small Pulsatile Signals within Noisy Data: A Fluorescence Application, (2008) *Methods in Enzymology* 450 (in press).
- Johnson ML, Pipes L; Veldhuis PP, Farhy LS, Boyd DG, Evans WS. AutoDecon, a Deconvolution Algorithm for Identification and Characterization of Luteinizing Hormone Secretory Bursts: Description and Validation Using Synthetic Data, *Analytical Biochemistry* 2008 (in press).

- Liu, J, Prudom, CE, Nass, R, Pezzoli, SS, Oliveri, MC, Johnson, ML, Veldhuis, P, Gordon, DA, Howard, AD, Witcher, DR, Geysen, HM, Gaylinn, BD, Thorner, MO. 2008 Novel Ghrelin Assays Provide Evidence for Independent Regulation of Ghrelin Acylation and Secretion in Healthy Young Men J Clin Endocrinol Metab 93:1980-1987.
- McCartney CR, Stukenborg GJ. Decision analysis of discordant thyroid nodule biopsy guideline criteria. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 93: 3037-3044, 2008
- Nass, R, Farhy, L, Liu, J, Prudom, CE, Johnson, ML, Veldhuis, P, Pezzoli, SS, Oliveri, MC, Gaylinn, BD, Geysen, HM, Thorner MO. 2008 Evidence for Acyl-Ghrelin Modulation of Growth Hormone Release in the Fed State J Clin Endocrinol Metab 93:1988-1994.
- Nunemaker CS, Chen M, Pei H, Kimble SD, Keller SR, Carter JD, Yang Z, Smith KM, Wu R, Bevard MH, Garmey JC, Nadler JL. 12-Lipoxygenase-knockout mice are resistant to inflammatory effects of a high fat western diet. Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab. 2008 Sep 9. [Epub ahead of print]
- Patil, CG, Prevedello, DM, Lad, SP, Vance, ML, Thorner, MO, Katznelson, L, Laws, ER Jr. 2008 Long-term recurrences of Cushing's disease after initial successful transsphenoidal surgery J Clin Endocrinol Metab 93:358-363
- Saunders, J. T. and J. G. Pastors (2008). "Practical tips on lifestyle management of type 2 diabetes for the busy clinician." Current Diabetes Reports. 8(5): 353-60.
- Siragy H, Huang J, Lieb DC. The development of the direct renin inhibitor aliskiren: treating hypertension and beyond. Expert Opin Emerg Drugs. 2008 Sep;13(3):417-30.
- Siragy HM. Evidence for benefits of angiotensin receptor blockade beyond blood pressure control. Curr Hypertens Rep. 2008 Aug;10(4):261-7.
- Siragy H. Advance in management of vascular complications of diabetes. Curr Hypertens Rep. 2008 Aug;10(4):255-7.
- Siragy HM, Xue C. Local renal aldosterone production induces inflammation and matrix formation in kidneys of diabetic rats. Exp Physiol. 2008 Jul;93(7):817-24.

#### GRANTS

- Bush, ZM: NIH individual NRSA research grant, Fellowship Award, PI/Mentor: Vance, ML, 8/08-7/10: \$57,782
- Bush, ZM: (NIH) Clinical Loan Repayment Program (LRP)
- Keller, S (PI): R56-DK081471: 8/1/08 - 7/31/10: NIH/NIDDK Role of Rab GAPs AS160 and Tbc1d1 in GLUT4 translocation and glucose homeostasis The goal of the research under this proposal is to perform in vivo and in vitro characterizations of metabolism and insulin-regulated membrane trafficking in mice in which the Rab GTPase activating proteins AS160 and Tbc1d1 have been deleted: \$189,375
- Keller, S (PI): 7-08-RA-80 Research Award: 7/1/08 - 6/30/11: American Diabetes Association
- Role of the Rab GAP AS160 in glucose homeostasis The goal of the research under this proposal is to perform a thorough in vivo and in vitro characterization of metabolism and insulin-regulated membrane trafficking in mice in which the akt substrate and Rab GTPase activating protein AS160 has been deleted: \$99,820
- McCartney, C (PI): NIH RO1 HD058671: 09/29/08 – 08/31/13: NICHD
- "Pubertal hyperandrogenemia, modification of day-night GnRH secretion, and PCOS": \$238,613
- Nunemaker, CS: NIH NIDDK 1K01-DK081621, "Assessing and Improving Pancreatic Islet Viability and Function", 09/01/08: \$105,195
- Padia, SH: K01. 9/08-6/13: \$128,817
- Saunders, J. T: Contract with Virginia Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy for project titled: Telehealth Support and Programs to the Seven Critical Access Hospitals in Virginia: \$31,000

#### GENERAL MEDICINE, GERIATRICS, AND PALLIATIVE CARE

- The University of Virginia Health System Community Service Award recognizes and honors exceptional individuals who make volunteerism and community service a way of life. This award is given to those who embody a sense of caring and responsibility for others that connect citizens and solve community problems. They make extraordinary contributions beyond their normal job duties to enhance community life. Congratulations to Dr. Mohan Nadkarni for receiving this award.

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Payne NJ, Bradley EB, Heald EB, Maughan KL, Michaelsen VE, Wang XQ, and Corbett, Jr. EC. Sharpening the eye of the OSCE with critical action analysis. Acad Med. 2008;83:900-905.
- Corbett EC. Invited commentary: Altering the glycemic index or carbohydrate intake did not affect glycemic control in type 2 diabetes. Evidence-Based Medicine 2008 v13;4:107.
- Corbett E. Invited commentary. Intensive insulin therapy improved glycemic control more than oral hypoglycemic agents in newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes. ACP Journal Club. 2008 Sept 16;149:JC3-7.

## GRANTS

- John Voss, MD (PI) John Jackson MA , Ye Chen MS, Vladimir Goodkovsky PhD Bonnie Jerome-D'Emilia PhD MPH RN (Rutgers University); "The Genetic/Genomic Resource Tool for Interdisciplinary Education" from the NIH for \$100,000

## GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

## NEWS

- 9/12/08 - Evidence vs Practice, Nutrition Support Symposium 2008, Colorado Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (CSPEN), Denver, CO.

## HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

## NEWS

- Michael E. Williams - Presentation: European Union-USA Workshop: How Systems Biology Can Advance Cancer Research. Presentation in Targeted Research Approaches - Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Brussels, May 2008
- Gail Macik completed her tenth year as a faculty member of the George Washington University Board Review Course in Hematology.
- Gail Macik was a faculty speaker at the Gastroenterology Society of Florida's Annual Meeting 7/19 on the Coagulopathy of liver disease.
- Paula Fracasso has been appointed by the National Cancer Institute as a member of the newly formed Operational Efficiency Working Group (OEWG) of the Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC) based on her recognized expertise and leadership in developing, conducting, and/or managing clinical trials and because of her leadership role in a cancer center. The goal of the OEWG is to reduce the time for activation of NCI supported clinical trials.
- Paula Fracasso was invited to give a talk at the 77th Semiannual Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) Meeting in Chicago to the Data Management Committee, on "The Role of Clinical Trials in the Development of New Cancer Treatments"
- Geoffrey Weiss has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of Subcommittee A, Cancer Centers of the National Cancer Institute Initial Review Group for a term beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2012. This membership on a peer review committee represents a unique opportunity to participate in the review of grant applications submitted to the NCI. Committees make recommendations to the National Cancer Advisory Board and survey the status of research in their respective fields of science. Dr. Weiss has been appointed as a member because of his demonstrated competence and achievement in his scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of his research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors

## PUBLICATIONS

- Robinson KS, Williams ME, van der Jagt RH, Cohen P, Herst JA, Tulpule A, Schwartzberg LS, Lemieux B, Cheson BD. Phase II multicenter study of bendamustine plus rituximab in patients with relapsed indolent B-cell and mantle cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2008; 26:4473-79
- Harris TJ, Brooks H, Williams ME. Mantle cell lymphoma. *Community Oncology* 2008; 5:465-72.
- Tan, B.R., Brenner, W.S., Marsh, S., Gao, F., Fournier, C., Suresh, R., Fracasso, P.M., James, J., Yen-Revollo, J., Picus, J., McLeod, H.L. Phase I Study of Oxaliplatin, Gemcitabine and Capecitabine in Patients with Advanced Upper Gastrointestinal Malignancies. *Ann Oncol.* 2008; 1742-1748.
- Lhome, C., Joly, F., Walker, J.L., Lissoni, A.A., Nicoletto, M.O., Manikhas, G.M., Baekelandt, M.O., Gordon, A.N., Fracasso, P.M., Mietlowski, W.L., Jones, G.J., Dugan, M.H. Phase III Study of Valspodar (PSC 833) Combined with Paclitaxel and Carboplatin Versus Paclitaxel and Carboplatin Alone in Patients With Stage IV or Suboptimally Debulked Stage III Epithelial Ovarian Cancer or Primary Peritoneal Cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2008; 26:2674-2682.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

## NEWS

- The UVA ID-HIV Clinic is the recipient of the Venture Award sponsored by the UVA Hospital Auxiliary. The Clinic will be the recipient of funds donated to the 2009 Lights of Love Program through which one can purchase a "light" with a recipient's name on it, which will be placed on the Holiday Trees located in the main lobby of the Hospital.
- Dr. William Petri and Dr. Carol Gilchrist: In September Dr. Petri was a speaker and discussion leader, and Dr. Gilchrist a speaker, for the conference on "Genomic Perspectives on Host-Pathogen Interactions" held at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, United Kingdom.
- Dr. Petri also convened a symposium on amebiasis at the International Congress for Tropical Medicine & Malaria, Jeju Island, Korea and spoke at the VII Nestle Nutrition Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. Dr. Petri served on the Advisory Committee for the Center for Immunology and Infection at the U. Vermont October 16-17, 2008.
- Dr. Richard Guerrant has been awarded the Walter Reed Medal of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

This is the highest honor of the Society, and is awarded only once every three years. Past honorees include Mrs. Walter Reed, Carlos Finlay (discoverer of the role of the mosquito in transmitting yellow fever), Albert Sabin (polio vaccine), Willy Burgdorfer (discoverer of the Lyme disease bacterium) and Thomas Weller (Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and discoverer of varicella and CMVviruses).

## PUBLICATIONS

- Solaymani-Mohammadi S, Factor SM, Coyle CM, Petri WA Jr. Amebic colitis in an antigenically and serologically negative patient: usefulness of a small-subunit ribosomal RNA (SSU-rRNA) gene-based PCR in diagnosis. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis*, in press 2008. DOI information: 10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2008.06.014
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- Ding, S.; Olekhnovich, I.; Cover, T.; Peek, R.; Smith, M.; Goldberg, J. *Helicobacter pylori* and mitogen-activated protein kinases mediate activator protein-1 (AP-1) subcomponent protein expression and DNA-binding activity in gastric epithelial cells. *FEMS Immunol. & Med. Microbiol.*, 2008, 53, 385-394.
- Rao S, Solaymani-Mohammadi S, Petri WA Jr., Parker, SK. Hepatic Amebiasis: A Reminder of the Complications. *Current Opinion in Pediatrics*, in press 2008.
- Kim FS and Moore CC. A 59-Year-Old Man With Severe Sepsis and Vesiculobullous Skin Lesions. *Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice*. 16(4):245-246, July 2008.
- [Moore CC](#), [Martin EN](#), [Lee G](#), [Taylor C](#), [Dondero R](#), [Reznikov LL](#), [Dinarello C](#), [Thompson J](#), [Scheld WM](#). Eukaryotic Translation Initiation Factor 5A Small Interference RNA-Liposome Complexes Reduce Inflammation and Increase Survival in Murine Models of Severe Sepsis and Acute Lung Injury. *J Infect Dis*. 2008 Sep 15. [Epub ahead of print]
- Sifri CD, Brassinga AKC, Flohr T, Kinchen JM, Hazen KC, Sawyer RG, Pruett TL, Bonatti H. *Moraxella osloensis* bacteremia in a kidney transplant recipient. *Transpl. Int.*, 2008;12:1011-3. Epub 2008 Jul 25. PMID: 18662367
- Sifri CD. Quorum sensing: bacteria talk sense. *Clin. Infect. Dis.*, 2008;47:1070-6. Epub 2008 Sep 9. PMID: 18781869
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- Stelzmueller I, Fille M, Hager J, Dossett L, Sifri CD, Bonatti H. Group Milleri Streptococci in paediatric infections. *Eur J Pediatr Surg*, in press.
- Bonatti H, Pruett T, Brandacher G, Hagspiel K, Hosseini M, Sifri CD, Sawyer RG. Pneumonia in solid organ recipients: spectrum of pathogens in 217 episodes. *Transplant Proc*, in press.

## GRANTS

- Dr. Erik Hewlett, Dr. Molly Hughes and Dr. Jeffrey Tessier have been granted a one-year extension of a contract with BEI Resources (ATCC/NIAID partnership for the development and distribution of biomedical research tools for biodefense and emerging pathogens) to study recombinant anthrax toxins.
- Dr. Dean Kedes: Strategies for therapeutic vaccination against KSHV. Supplement to Dr. Kedes' current NCI R01 Award in collaboration with the laboratory of Dr. Tim Bullock in Pathology. Award is through 2010.
- Dr. W. Michael Scheld: Correction of item in September Issue: Dr. W. Michael Scheld's award for "Studies on Severe Sepsis in Uganda" from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, should have been for \$270,000 instead of \$27,000.

## NEPHROLOGY NEWS

- Mark Okusa was appointed Member, Board of Advisors, American Society of Nephrology and Ad Hoc, DDK-D subcommittee meeting on T32 and K awards. October 28, 2008
- The W. Kline Bolton, M.D. Festschrift was held Sept 12-13, 2008, Jordan Conference Center in honor of 20 yrs of out-

standing service as Chief, Division of Nephrology.

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- Jo. S.-K, Bajwa, A., Hong Ye, Y. Kharel, K. Lynch and M.D. Okusa. Role of sphingosine kinases in ischemia-reperfusion injury. In press *Kidney Int.* 2008. \*Equal contributions as first author
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- Balogun RA, Abdel-Rahman EM. Successful Maintenance Hemodialysis in Nonagenarians with End-Stage Renal Disease and Pre-existing Comorbidities Accepted by *Journal of American Geriatrics Society*
- Abdel-Rahman EM, Abadir PM, Siragy HM. Regulation of renal 12(S)-hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid in diabetes by angiotensin AT1 and AT2 receptors. Accepted by *Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol*