



INTERNAL NEWS

INTERIM CHAIR'S COMMUNIQUE

Special dates of interest

- **May 15** —Internal Medicine Commencement Seminar
- **May 16** — Meharry's Graduation at the Grand Ole Opry House. Key Note Speaker: Major General Elder Granger, M.D.
- **May 27- 31**— "Updates in Internal Medicine" Board Review Course
- **June 15-30** — New Resident Orientation
- **June 26**— Residents' Graduation
- **June 2009** — Departmental Faculty Retreat

– **Marquetta Faulkner, MD, MBA, FACP**

Academic year 2009-2010 began with exciting challenges and golden opportunities. The year seems to be closing with challenges that are being transformed into golden opportunities. These opportunities are being developed into state-of-the-art educational facilities, programming and singular accomplishments. Dr. Ayodeji Oso, appointed to lead the Education Programs Division, accepted the leadership with his usual poise; and, the Preventive Cardiology Clinic opened.

This winter, the Department resumed its commitment of providing preceptors for sophomore students in the P PM course (Physical Diagnosis) The Office of Student Affairs invited the Department to fully and actively participate in the Scramble process for unmatched stu-

dents seeking unfilled internal medicine residency slots. This year, the department matched 100 percent of its 12 PGY1 resident slots. This PGY1 resident class is culturally diverse and unparalleled in its demographics: one-third have already passed Step 3.

Faculty recruitment is ongoing. Attendings in our under represented disciplines are being actively recruited to enhance our faculty.

The Wellness Center received HRSA continuation funding until 2012. This three-year continuation of more that \$2 million provides patient services, patient related activities and medications.

Community outreach activities continue, with the Sickle Cell Center scheduling several community-based health fairs. Dr. Rahul Gupta and Dr. Minerva Covarrubias are wished well as

they leave to pursue separate career aspirations: Dr. Gupta to head up the West



Virginia Public Health Department and Dr. Covarrubias to join a group practice in Columbia, Tenn.

Welcome is extended to Dr. Buntwal Somayiji and Dr. Alfred Shaw, gastroenterologists. Dr. Somayiji returns after a brief sojourn from the department. Welcome is also extended to Julie Scott, a certified physician's assistant assisting the Gastroenterology Division. The department is looking for an administrative assistant, sr. experienced in computer technology.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Residency Program	2
Welcome Interns!	2
Board Review Course	2
Preventive Cardiology	3
Cardiology Visioning	3
Clerkship	3
Meharrians Match in IM	4

THIMS LUMINARIES

Daniel Addison, MSIV, president of the **THOMAS-HARDY INTERNAL MEDICINE SOCIETY**, and Kwame Asante, MSIV THIMS student member, accepted the invitation from the Harvard Medical School Diversity and Community Partnership and

the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) to display their scientific poster at the eighth annual New England Science Symposium. The Symposium was Friday, April 3, 2009 at The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School in

Boston. The Abstract title is **Cardiovascular Outcomes in Patients with Positive Nuclear Stress Tests and Negative Coronary Angiograms**. Dr. Henry E. Okafor served as the faculty advisor.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

- David Trochtenberg, MD, MSCI, FACP

Preparation of the National Residency Matching Program ranking is complete. More than 800 applied; 60 were selected for interviews; and 34 PGY-1 applicants were ranked. This year, 17 Meharrians applied to our program, a 189 percent



increase compared to last year. The single PGY-2

opening for next year was successfully filled with a superb resident, Dr. Ruki Odiete, a

graduate of Ross University, who has a passion for teaching. He completed his PGY1 at New York Methodist Hospital.

Passage of the USMLE Step 3 exam is going well for our residents. Dr. Richmond Akatue, associate program director, deserves special mention for his efforts to prepare residents for this exam.

There are two new conference rooms, improved P-Tel to the V.A., and lunches for noon conferences. The program went to a "block disease" format, in which a single organ system is covered each month. With the coordination of post-testing of the month's lectures (a model very successfully used by other programs), we anticipate scores to improve on both the ITE and

ABIM examinations.

Per the American Council of Graduate Medical Education, improved elective experiences in neurology and geriatrics were established. In return, the Emergency Department rotation for senior residents has become an elective. We are also actively working to share the ambulatory continuity clinic experience with the V.A. campus in Murfreesboro.

Dr. Gaddipati, associate program director at the Murfreesboro V.A. Hospital, has the residents' best interests at heart and is a wonderful teacher. She is to be accorded all of the rights and respect that accompany this position.

WELCOMING NEW RESIDENTS

"Meharry, dedicated solely to the education of minority and other health professionals."

The 2009 PGY Class of Interns marks Meharry's continued commitment to training and diversity. This year's intern class represents the world in its cultural diversity — eight countries, including the U.S., are represented; the female/male ratio is 8:4; the age range is 26-38 years of age; 33 percent (4) have passed Step 3; and 58 percent (7) reported during their interviews being interested in pursuing fellowship opportunities.

Following are the members of the **PGY1 Class of 2009**:

Dr. Oluwafisayo Adebiji, a 2005 graduate of the University of Ilorin.

Dr. Kim D. Canlas, a 2005 University of Santo Tomas alumnus.

Dr. Kareem Figueroa, a 2006 graduate of the Universidad Nacional de Trujillo.

Dr. Linda Esuzor, a 2006 University of Benin alumna.

Dr. Amaka Ezimora, a 2002 graduate of the University of Lagos.

Dr. Ngozi Igbinosa, a 1996 University of Nigeria alumna.

Dr. Taopheeq Mustapha, a 2002

graduate of the University of Lagos.

Dr. Syed Imam, a 2007 Army Medical College alumnus.

Dr. Monay Mahmoud, a 2004 graduate of the University of Alexandria.

Dr. Hetalben Patel, a 2007 Government Medical College Bhavnagar alumna.

Dr. Nisha Prakash, a 2008 graduate of Ross University.

Dr. Michelle Stanford, a 2006 Meharry alumna.

BOARD REVIEW IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

Plan to attend the **UPDATES IN INTERNAL MEDICINE** Board Review Course, scheduled for all day Thursday thru Sunday, May 28-31, 2009. This is the weekend *after* Memorial Day. The topics have been confirmed; the speakers have been invited; the acceptances received; and, the schedule is being finalized. Like last year, the course will be taught in LRC1, with the heart-healthy breakfasts and lunches in the

TQM Room. Bring your laptop since the course will be paper-free this year. Community physicians and physicians-in-training are welcomed to attend. The cost for the four days is \$250, which, includes meals, discs and

other program materials. Checks should be made payable to MMC.

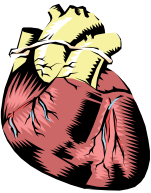


Contact Johnnie Thomas @ 327-6159 for details or for additional information.

PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY CLINIC

- Yasmine Ali, MD, MSCI

The Preventive Cardiology Clinic (PCC) in the new Heart Center at NGH opened to provide patient care, Wednesday, March 11, 2009!



Under the direction of Yasmine Ali, MD, MSCI, the PCC will

provide care for primary and secondary cardiac prevention on Wednesdays afternoons.

Dr. Ali, assistant professor of medicine and director of PCC, elatedly shared the news of the

PCC's opening last month in conjunction with the Grand Opening of the new Heart Center. Referral diagnoses that will be evaluated in the PCC, are:

1. Hypertension (when this is the primary reason for referral to the cardiology clinic).
2. Advanced management of lipid disorders (not limited to LDL, but also low HDL, hypertriglyceridemia, and mixed dyslipidemias - particularly when more than just a statin is required). This would also include patients who are intolerant of statins and need further options.
3. Chronic kidney disease patients who have not yet had a cardiovascular risk assess-

ment (especially given that cardiovascular disease [CVD] is the #1 cause of death in these patients).

4. COPD patients who have not yet had a cardiovascular risk assessment.
5. Secondary prevention (patients who are stable from a CVD standpoint, but need to have aggressive management of all modifiable risk factors to prevent recurrence).
6. Primary prevention (patients who have not yet had CVD, but who have risk factors such as obesity, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, family history, Htn, etc., and need a comprehensive risk reduction strategy to avoid CVD or congestive heart failure).

CARDIOLOGY BEYOND THE WALLS

- Henry E. Okafor, MD.

The Division of Cardiology is positioning itself to provide patients with the quality and spectrum of care proven to reduce morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular disease and provide our residents and students with enhanced educational experiences. Patients will benefit from the establish-

ment of comprehensive, high-quality clinical cardiology services including general cardiology, preventive cardiology, arrhythmia management, and interventional cardiology all now located in the newly opened exclusive Cardiology Suite in The Heart Center in Nashville General Hospital.

Enhanced educational experi-

ences for residents and students will be facilitated by a physical exam curricula modules, developed by Dr. Potts utilizing HARVEY, the cardiology patient simulators. It will have a self-directed component to allow residents to refresh those skills at their leisure.

“Rapid advances in CV medicine leading to improved patient outcomes call for quick adaptations by healthcare systems.”

CLERKSHIP PROGRAM RECOVERS

The Internal Medicine Junior Clerkship is regaining losses experienced in the recent past. Student performance on the shelf exam lagged behind the national average. The reinstatement of biweekly quizzes, the incorporation of 30 percent of USMLE book questions into the



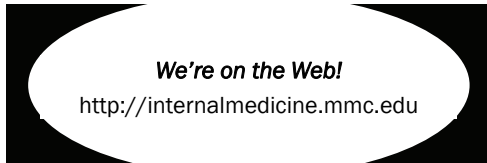
biweekly quizzes, item analysis, and the development of a question bank so that students can practice test-taking skills are added enhancements supporting improved performance. Additionally, faculty are provided guidelines highlighting areas in which students need emphasis prior

to their lectures. Students are given constructive feedback by their attending/resident and clerkship director evaluations observing their clinical experiences. Each student spends six weeks on a general medicine ward; four weeks in an ambulatory clinical setting; and two weeks on the Neurology Service. Additional clinical preceptors are actively being recruited.

Department of Internal Medicine

Marquetta Faulkner, M.D., MBA, FACP
Interim Chairman
D. Johniene Thomas, MSPH
Education Coordinator/Editor
Internal Medicine Department
MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE
Nashville, TN 37208

Phone: 615 327-6277
Fax: 615 327-6733
E-mail: jthomas@mmc.edu



*"Worship of God through
service to mankind."*

Contemporary History of the Department of Internal Medicine

Under the visionary leadership of Frederic Tremaine Billings, M.D., FACP, chairman and professor of medicine (1950—1961), the Department of Internal Medicine became one of the most prestigious departments in the South. Key faculty were:

- George B. Brothers, MD.'44, FACP, internist;
- Robert S. Anderson, MD.'43, FACP, endocrinologist;
- Cleve W. Ewell, Jr., MD.'47, hematologist;
- John Thomas, Jr., MD.'44, FACP, cardiologist
- Benjamin L. Love, MD.'51, infectious diseases; and,
- Emile C. Nash, MD.'43, FACP, gastroenterologist.

Dr. Billings envisioned a cadre of highly trained, exceptionally competent physicians providing high quality medical care and services to underserved populations, a tradition that continues today.

MEHARRIANS MATCHING IN INTERNAL MEDICINE...

Daniel Addison (THIMS President) matched in Internal Medicine at Baylor SOM in Houston.

Phillip Brooks matched in Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota.

Joshua Gilchrist (THIMS Vice President) matched in Family Medicine at Baylor in Dallas.

Rachel Ann Joseph matched in Internal Medicine at Kaiser Permanente – Oakland.

Vernon Mackie matched in Internal Medicine at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.

Benjamin Nti matched in the combined Medicine-

Pediatrics program at Indiana University.

Kwame Okyere-Asante matched in a preliminary year position at the University of Chicago and a categorical Dermatology program at Pennsylvania State University.

Britt Stone matched in Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Djeunou Tchamba matched in Internal Medicine at the University of South Carolina.

Angela Williams matched in Internal Medicine at the University of Maryland.



Meharrians
preparing to live
out our Motto...
*"Worship of God
through service to
mankind."*