Presentations

- At the American Public Health Association meeting in Denver, October 29 – November 2, in addition to presentations included in last week’s Memo, the following Department faculty presented:

  Linda Long-Bellil, and co-authors: Experiences and Unmet Needs of Women with Physical Disabilities for Pain Relief During Labor and Delivery"

  Linda Long-Bellil, and co-authors: “Predisposing, Enabling and Need Factors Leading to Nursing Facility Readmission after Transition to the Community”

  Linda also moderated a panel on “Health Needs” of People Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.”

  Carole Upshur (PI) and Claudia Davidson of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) had the NIAAA study of homeless women conducted with the NHCHC PBRN :”Results from a NIAAA-NHCHC study: Women’s alcohol, drug, health, mental health risks, implications for improving care” presented by Alaina Boyer, PhD, the new Research Director of the NHCHC, the collaborating agency on the grant.

- Steve Martin made the following recent presentations:

  “Team of Non-Rivals: Lessons for Health Care Teams”, ”The Fox and the Hedgehog: Potential Simplicities in Complex Care”; Commonwealth Care Alliance Annual Clinical Best Practice Development Conference, October 28

  “A Physician’s Perspective on Oral Health”; Harvard School of Dental Medicine, November 1
• Michael Chin was an invited speaker for the 30th Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association, on November 12, held at the Massachusetts Medical Society, in Waltham. He co-presented a talk entitled, “The Mass HIway: An Introduction & Overview to the Commonwealth’s State-Wide Health Information Exchange.”

Medical Student Education

• Pam Sansoucy and Dan Mullin presented on Nov. 10th on Integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health at the third session of the new Primary Care Principles Optional Enrichment Elective for medical and nursing students.

Epic Update

• For those at UMass Memorial who will be transitioning to Epic next October, here’s the latest update:

  David Gilchrist will oversee training in our Department, which will take place in August or September. Training will be required for anyone who be seeing patients where Epic will be used, inpatient, ambulatory, etc. A definitive training schedule is in the works, stay tuned!

Academic Appointments and Promotions

• Congratulations to the following faculty with recently completed academic appointments:

  **Maria Basco, MD, MPH** was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Basco is a 2001 graduate of the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine and Surgery and completed training as a General Surgery Resident (2004-06) at Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey, followed by a two year Postdoctoral Research
Fellowship, Section of Vascular Surgery (2006-08) at Yale University School of Medicine. She is also a graduate of our Master in Public Health program which is a collaborative program between UMass Amherst and UMass Worcester (2014-16) and is a recent graduate of our Preventive Medicine Residency Program where she served as Chief Resident (2015-16). We recruited Dr. Basco as a valuable member of our voluntary core preventive medicine residency faculty. In this role, she will devote significant time to teaching preventive medicine residents, presenting seminars, serving as a resident advisor and will serve on four committees within the Preventive Medicine Residency: Advisory Committee, Selection Committee, Program Evaluation Committee and the Competency Committee. Dr. Basco is currently the owner/Medical Director of AmaranthMD, a private practice devoted to aesthetic and lifestyle medicine.

Although based in New Hampshire, Dr. Basco is actively engaged in teaching, research and service activities in Worcester for the medical school and within the community. She is developing a seminar on Opioid Addiction: A Public Health Crisis among others to be delivered to the preventive medicine residents. Additionally she is involved in two research projects; one is a pilot project with the City of Worcester which aims at developing a chronic care model for patients with addiction and the other is through the Department of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine where is she developing and implementing a web-based curriculum to help medical school address weight issues with patients.

**Jill Tirabassi, MD** was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Tirabassi graduated with her medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY (2012), and went on to complete a Family Medicine residency program at the University of Colorado in Denver (2015) where she served as Chief Resident. Post residency, Dr. Tirabassi continued her training with a 1-year Fellowship at South Bend-Notre Dame Primary Care Sports Medicine. We recently recruited Dr. Tirabassi to be a member of our core residency faculty at the HealthAlliance Fitchburg Family Practice Residency. Dr. Tirabassi will be precepting residents and medical students as well as seeing patients at the Fitchburg location, and will provide sports medicine services at various clinical sites in our system, including the sports medicine clinic on the Hahnemann campus, at Health Alliance on the Burbank campus, and at two new sites in Northborough and Leominster. She is well prepared for a career in academic Family Medicine, having engaged in various teaching activities prior to joining our faculty and presenting her work nationally, regionally and locally.

**WELLNESS MOMENTS**
Walk Slowly (Danna Faulds)

It only takes a reminder to breathe, a moment to be still, and just like that, something in me settles, softens, makes space for imperfection. The harsh voice of judgment drops to a whisper and I remember again that life isn't a relay race; that we will all cross the finish line; that waking up to life is what we were born for.

As many times as I forget, catch myself charging forward without even knowing where I'm going, that many times I can make the choice to stop, to breathe, and be, and walk slowly into the mystery.

Mid-Day Stress Reliever … For You … For Your Patients

4-7-8 Breathing Technique: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRPh_GaiL8s