



Monday Memo – May 5, 2014

Special Events

Ten Department faculty volunteered at this year's Boston Marathon. Stacy Potts, Matt Collins and Greg Murphy (sports medicine fellow), together with Christina Hernon from the ED led care in tents on the course, with the others based in the finish area at Copley Square, including Jay Broadhurst, Pierre Rouzier, Christie Langenberg (fellow), Tina Runyan, Jeff Wang (Fitchburg resident) and Chad Beattie, Jennifer Rosenberg and Laura Fralich (past sports medicine fellows).

Among runners in the event we understand Barbara Weinstein ran and finished the race. Any others?

Medical Student Education

The Senior Scholars Program, supported by the Office of Undergraduate Medical Education and directed by Judy Savageau, had its annual 'Senior Scholars Presentation Day' on Wednesday, April 30th with a formal poster presentation of 31 Senior Scholars projects and a keynote address by Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga from the Department of Pediatrics. While none of this year's Senior Scholars were mentored by a dept faculty member, several of our faculty served as judges for the evaluation component of the poster presentations. These faculty included: Jack Gettens, Monica Mitra, Sai Cherala, Santosh Verma, Bill Shaw, Barry Saver and Judy Nordberg.

If any of you would like to mentor an upcoming Senior Scholar and have a project that could easily incorporate a student for 2-3 months of full-time research activity, please contact Judy Savageau. She can help to recruit a student who might have similar research interests to you!

Presentations

- Tina Runyan along with the two behavioral health fellows, Jeanna Spanning and Joan Fleishman, delivered an invited presentation on April 30th to 75 primary care practices in the Hudson Valley/Capital Regions of NY. These practices are part of the Comprehensive Primary Care Collaborative project, a five year pilot funded by CMS to test a new service delivery and payment model in primary care. One of the key milestones in 2014 is for these practices to enhance their care management strategies with a behavioral health focus.

- Bill Foley was in faculty for the annual AS-SSG course held April 26-27 in Great Barrington, MA. The organization has been putting on affordable osteopathic courses for beginner and advanced physicians since 1995. This years course focused on the lymphatic system. Dr. Foley's lecture was on the occipito-atlantal release.

Publications

- Steve Martin is author of a Letter to the Editor: *Primary care is first-contact care*, in J Fam Pract. 2014 May;63(5):244.
<http://www.jfponline.com/the-publication/issue-single-view/primary-care-is-first-contact-care/84158b383f00b58551b740de0a16aa84.html>

- An article that Jeff Baxter and Robin Clark published last fall was cited this week in a New England Journal of Medicine perspective on opioid abuse treatment jointly authored by the Directors of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and the Chief Medical Officer for Medicaid at CMS.

Appointments and Promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty with recently completed academic promotions:

Ron Adler, MD, FAAFP was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Adler has devoted his career to service in several key academic leadership positions at the medical school and within our clinical system. After completing his Family Medicine residency at the Hahnemann Family Health Center, he joined his HFHC colleagues as an Assistant Professor in 1992. Over the years he has served as Medical Director (2004-08) and as the Education Director for HFHC (1998-2008). In 2008 he assumed the role of Director for Primary Care Practice Improvement in the newly-established Center for the Advancement of Primary Care (CAPC). Since 1992 he has also served as a Medical Consultant for Health Awareness Services, Family Planning Agency and Medical Director for the UMassMemorial Reach Out and Read Program. Additionally his clinical community outreach has included college health as well as his work as a physician at Plumley Village Health Services (1992-2004). Dr. Adler has gained regional and national recognition by establishing himself as a content expert in the area of practice transformation and patient centered medical homes.

Felix Chang, MD was recently promoted to Clinical Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Chang trained in internal medicine (1986-7) at Rural Medicine Daule Hospital, general surgery (1987-91) at Hospital Luis Vernaza in Ecuador and surgical oncology (1991-4) at Fundacao Antonio Pudente in Sao Paulo Brazil. In 1994 he completed a Surgery Fellowship with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. In 2006 he completed training in Family Medicine in our Fitchburg Family Medicine Residency program, where he was Chief Resident. He was recruited to join the faculty as an Assistant Professor and Director of the Inpatient Service for the Fitchburg residency program at UMassMemorial HealthAlliance Hospital in Leominster. Dr. Chang also assumed the role of Associate Medical Director for Leominster Community Health Connections Family Health Center in 2008. He has completed additional training programs, including in acupuncture. He is a highly valued educator within the Fitchburg residency. He has presented and published within our discipline, often mentoring students and residents as co-authors.

Christine Johnson, PhD was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Johnson was recruited in 2012 as the Director of Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Transformation & Quality Improvement for Commonwealth Medicine. In her current role, she provides leadership to efforts to foster the transformation of 46 primary care practices across the state involved in the Commonwealth's Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative. She also serves as a consultant to the multi-payer PCMH project taking place in Rhode Island. She is recognized as a leader in the directing and facilitating of primary care redesign. As one of three original medical home facilitators in the National Demonstration Project (NDP) sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), she devoted several years to working with practices around the country on practice improvement.