



Monday Memo – November 24, 2014

Chair's Corner

· **Department's Annual Report:** [Attached](#) is a copy of our Department's 2013-2014 Annual Report, touching on the highlights of the past year, covering the 12 month period that ended September 30, 2014. This is the second year that we have produced an abbreviated version, relying on our website for full program descriptions and listings of accomplishments. All of our Monday and Thursday morning memos are archived and can be viewed here: <http://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/mondaymemo>. The Annual Report will also be available on the website later today.

· **Behavioral Science in Fitchburg:** I am pleased to announce that Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Blount, who is the Department's Director of Behavioral Science and Director of the UMass Center for Integrated Primary Care, has agreed to take on the duties of Interim Director of Behavioral Science for the Fitchburg Family Medicine Residency Program. Sandy will be splitting split his time between the Fitchburg and Worcester campuses. Direction of behavioral science in Fitchburg was previously provided by Dr. Nicholas Apostoleris, who assumed leadership responsibility for our entire Fitchburg operation this past year. Please join me in thanking both Drs. Blount and Apostoleris for their dedication to our teaching programs.

Promotions

· **Jeff Baxter, MD** was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Baxter received his MD in 1996 from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and completed his family medicine residency in our Worcester Family Medicine program in 1999. He served as the Chief Resident for the program during his senior year and we were fortunate to be able to recruit him as a member of the faculty at the time, as an Assistant Professor. He had been a valued member of our residency based faculty at the Family Health Center of Worcester until he transitioned his work to focus solely on addiction medicine in 2010. Given his interest in addiction medicine he pursued further training and completed an Addiction Medicine Fellowship at the Boston Veteran's Administration Center in 2003.

Dr. Baxter has served as Medical Director for the Community HealthLink Adults and Adolescent Detoxification Program where he developed and oversaw a variety of outpatient programs. He has served as an Addiction Medicine Consultant to the University of Massachusetts Correctional

Health Division and was founding director of a variety of educational programs concerning buprenorphine treatment. Most recently he accepted the role as Chief Medical Officer for Spectrum Health Systems which involves supporting the methadone treatment services program and performing in a supervisory role for physicians and other providers serving 1,500 patients. Additionally he has developed curriculum entitled “Minimizing the Misuse of Prescription Opioids in the Management of Chronic Non-malignant Pain,” which has been accepted by the AAMC’s MedEdPORTAL and just recently the NIDA has published a second module that he has authored entitled “Knowing When to Say When: Transitioning Patients from Opioid Therapy.” He has also developed a successful partnership with Robin Clark, PhD developing a research area investigating the impact of substance abuse in mental health on costs and quality in medical care, and has served as Co-Investigator on multiple grants with Dr. Clark. He has also served as Principal Investigator for a research proposal funded at the R03 level by the NIDA. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in this area.

Presentations

· A number of department faculty presented at the recent American Public Health Association’s annual meeting which was held in New Orleans, LA from November 15-19, 2014.

Hackman H, Simpson-May G, **Monika Mitra**, Kang HJ, Pianka J, Ficks R and Li W. *Characteristics and Outcomes of Trauma in Patients with Developmental Disabilities in Massachusetts: 2008-2011*. (poster presentation)

Clifford C, **Alexandra Bonardi** and Holder M. *Year 2: Systematically Review Evidence of Interventions Addressing Disparities in Oral Health for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities versus the General Population*. (poster presentation)

Behl-Chadha B, Gagnon M, Lie PP, Bharel M, Hillerns C, **Judy Savageau** and **Ann Lawthers**. *Comparison of Patient Experience Between a Practice for the Homeless and Other Practices Engaged in a Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative*. (oral presentation)

Judy Savageau, **Linda Cragin**, Pernice J, **Warren Ferguson**, Bailey L and Sefton L. *Take II: Factors Related to Recruitment and Retention of Primary Care Physicians at Community Health Centers post Massachusetts Health Care Reform: Results from a 2013 and 2008 Statewide Physician Survey*. (oral presentation).

Linda Long-Belil, Kunte P, Henry A, Barton B, Zhang J and Northup M. *Impact of Individual Characteristics, Family Structure and Family Process on Educational Outcomes for Transition-age Youth with Disabilities with a History of Receiving SSI.* (oral presentation)

Monika Mitra, Zhang J and Clements K. *Oral Health Care During Pregnancy Among Women With and Without Disabilities.* (oral presentation)

Sai Cherala, Johnston J, Vallejos J, **Judy Steinberg** and **Christine Johnson**. *Using Quantitative Data to Focus Medical Home Facilitation Interventions in the Massachusetts Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative.* (oral presentation)

Robin Clark. *Duration of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction: Are New State Policies Helping or Hurting Medicaid Members?* (oral presentation)

Santosh Verma. *Innovative Use of Technology for Injury Prevention, Disaster and Emergency Response.* (panel moderator)

Santosh Verma, Zhao Z, Courtney TK, Chang WR, Lombardi DA, Huang E, Brennan MJ and Perry MJ. *Duration of Slip-Resistant Shoe Usage and the Rate of Slipping in Limited-Service Restaurant Workers: Results from a Prospective and Crossover Study.* (oral presentation)

· Herb Stevenson presented “Prevention of Ski Injuries” at the American College of Sports Medicine NE Annual Meeting held in Providence, RI, and was guest faculty and presented “Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound” at the recent American Medical Society of Sports Medicine Musculoskeletal Conference in Portland, ME.

· Bill Foley was one of the presenters for the annual Berkshire Osteopathic Study Group course in Pittsfield, MA this November. The course was a continuing studies course in the biodynamics of osteopathy sponsored by the Massachusetts Osteopathic Society and attracted DO's and MD's both nationally and internationally."

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!!

