



Monday Memo – December 1, 2014

Publications

- Herb Stevenson was a co-author on a recent publication: "A resting state functional magnetic resonance imaging study of concussion in collegiate athletes" in the Journal of Brain Imaging and Behavior. This was a collaborative study with the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Sports Medicine.
- Hugh Silk was featured in the Fall edition of the MassHealth Digest with an article entitled: "Medical-Dental Integration – Coming Full Circle."

Presentations

- Judy Savageau gave an invited presentation at the Institute for Behavioral Health at the Heller School of Brandeis University on Monday, November 24. Her presentation was entitled: "Universal Behavioral Health Screening in Massachusetts Children on Medicaid" based on a project she recently completed in her role at the Center for Health Policy and Research.
- Linda Weinreb and Carole Upshur presented "Integrated Care Model for Homeless Mothers with Depression -The Healthy Moms Project", funded by NIMH #R34 MH085881 at the 42nd Annual Meeting, National American Primary Care Research Group on Saturday, November 22.

Faculty Appointments

- Congratulations to the following faculty with recently completed academic appointments and promotions:

Harmony Caton, MD was recently appointed as an Instructor in the Department. Dr. Caton is a 2010 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Medicine where she completed her medical degree. She went on to complete a Med-Peds Residency program (2013) at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Prior to medical school Dr. Caton received her MPH degree from Boston University School of Public Health (1998); her studies focused on epidemiology and biostatistics. She recently joined the faculty at Family Health Center of Worcester, where she can meet her National Health Service Corps service obligations, and care for underserved individuals in the Worcester community. Additionally, Dr. Caton is collaborating with another FHCW faculty physician to assume responsibility for the health center's suboxone/chronic pain programs.

Margret Chang, MD was recently appointed as an Instructor in the Department. Dr. Chang is a 2010 graduate of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and a 2013 graduate of a Med-Peds Residency program offered through the same institution in conjunction with Rhode Island Hospital. Prior to medical school Dr. Chang was a Research Fellow (2004-2006) with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Diabetes Education Program. She recently joined the faculty at Family Health Center of Worcester where she will be responsible for patients seen in the ADHD clinic and supervising clinic activities within the school based health centers. Dr. Chang will be teaching a variety of learners rotating through the health center on topics relevant to pediatrics, and she will be assisting in starting up a specialized Pediatric Obesity clinic at FHCW. She will be working to develop curricula related to this work as well as the dissemination of clinical guidelines as they are developed.

Debra Lang, MS was recently appointed as an Instructor in the Department. Ms. Lang received her Masters of Science degree in Educational Administration & Leadership from Wheelock College, Boston in 1990. She joined UMass Medical School in 2009 with the Center for Health Policy & Research, a division of Commonwealth Medicine, initially serving as the Project Director for the Research and Evaluation Unit and currently as Training and Evaluation Manager for the MassAHEC Network. Ms. Lang's work focuses on community outreach efforts and assisting individuals in getting enrolled in health insurance, improving patient access to primary care and encouraging patient engagement as they navigate through a complex health care system. She recently had an article published in the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved and has presented nationally at the National Area Health Education Center Organization and the American Evaluation Association. Ms. Lang has co-facilitated a small group for the Preventive Medicine residency, as well as a team for the Population Health Clerkship and will continue her involvement in the educational activities on behalf of the Department.

Heather Alker, MD was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Alker is a 1993 graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine and a 1997 Tufts University Obstetrics & Gynecology residency graduate. She is also a graduate of our Master in Public Health program; a collaborative program between UMass Amherst and UMass Worcester. Dr. Alker recently graduated from the Preventive Medicine where she served as Chief Resident. As of September 1 she will become a member of our core preventive medicine residency faculty. In this role, she will devote 10% of her time teaching preventive medicine residents, presenting seminars, serving as a resident advisor and will additionally teach up to three courses in the MPH program. Dr. Alker is also involved in professional organizations and is developing her scholarship skills. She is an active member of professional groups such as the American Public Health Association, American College of Preventive Medicine and others. She has pursued a variety of research activities and has presented her work locally, nationally and regionally. She was second author on a peer-reviewed article which appeared in the American Journal of Public Health entitled, *Healthy Homes: In-Home Environmental Asthma Intervention in a Diverse Community*. We look forward to her continued professional and academic growth; she is a welcomed addition to our Department.

Marcy Boucher, MD was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Boucher received her medical degree from UMass Medical School in 2011. She went on to graduate from the Worcester Family Medicine Residency program, with her training based at the Barre Family Health Center. We were pleased to recruit her for a faculty position based at the health center. As a resident she served on the Curriculum and Executive committees for the residency and was very involved in a variety of projects within the health center. She has presented and contributed to recent publications..

Pamela Senesac, MS, PhD, RN was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department. Dr. Senesac holds two Master of Science degrees, one in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing from Boston University and the other in Health Services Administration from Harvard University, and in 2004 she completed her PhD in Nursing from Boston College. Since 2010 she has served as the Senior Director, Performance Improvement for the Center for Health Policy & Research based in Commonwealth Medicine. Dr. Senesac has played a role in both student and resident education including small group facilitation on quality improvement educational interventions through her service as a Capstone advisor for medical students. She is a nationally recognized presenter with regard to organizational change and quality improvement.

Carolyn Langer, MD, JD, MPH, CPE was recently appointed as an Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Langer received her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia in 1988 and went on to complete an Occupational Medicine Residency Program with the Harvard School of Public Health. A former Harvard Medical School Fellow in Medical Ethics, she also completed a Master of Public Health (1992) and Juris Doctor degree (1992) from the same institution. Prior to coming to UMass she has served in medical director roles for a number of prestigious organizations, including BlueCross BlueShield of Massachusetts (2002), Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare (2003 and 2008-2013), Tufts Health Care Institute (2004), and the Fallon Community Health Plan (2005).

Dr. Langer is currently the Director of the Office of Clinical Affairs for the UMass/Commonwealth Medicine and serves as the Chief Medical Officer of MassHealth. She has served on numerous committees and is a champion for a variety of functions throughout the northeast. Additionally she sits on advisory boards supporting the Boston University School of Public Health and the Harvard School of Public Health, as well as serving as an Occupational Medicine Consultant to national corporations including Liberty Mutual, General Electric, and Bristol-Myers Squibb. Dr. Langer has presented at multiple international conferences and authored a variety of book chapters on issues concerning occupational health prior to changing her career to focus on quality and medical management. She has both regional and national influence on health policy development and in particular around the purview of MassHealth and payment reform. For over 21 years Dr. Langer has contributed to educating learners at Harvard School of Public Health, serving as both a course director and instructor for the occupational medicine courses. She has also served as the Medical Director for the Office of Continuing Education for Tufts University. Additionally, she has been a frequent presenter at continuing education courses throughout New England. As an editor and author for a board examination review resource she has provided a high focus on preventive and occupational medicine.