



Monday Memo – May 18, 2015

Presentations

- Alan Ehrlich presented “Medical Marijuana: What the Evidence Says” at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center 2015 Primary Care Summit on May 2.
- Erik Garcia presented at the National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference this past week: “Intimate Partner Violence and Homelessness: The Dilemma of Providing services to the Couple in Conflict”.
- Warren Ferguson was the invited keynote speaker at Commonwealth Medical College’s Research Forum on Friday, May 8th in Scranton, PA. The title of his talk was: *Facing Our Worst Health Disparity: Impact of Health Services Research in Criminal Justice Health*.

Publications

- Nathan Cardoos, one of Sports Medicine Fellows, recently had an article, “Overtraining Syndrome”, published in Current Sports Medicine Reports.
- Hugh Silk had a book review published in the May edition of Family Medicine on the book “Living in the Land of Limbo - Fiction and Poetry About Family Caregiving”. It can be read at: <http://www.stfm.org/FamilyMedicine/Vol47Issue5/Silk405>.

Community Education

- “Girl Talk” at the Barre Family Health Center was a success! A Big Shout Out to Cynthia Jeremiah, MD, Jillian Joseph, PA-C, Kristin Wickstrom, PA-C, Ivonne McLean, MD-PGY-1, and Kimberly Sikule, MD-PGY-2 who initiated a 12-week peer-led program for adolescent girls where they could learn about healthy relationships, effective communication and building self-confidence. This established program has previously run in Jamaica Plain and Plumley Village. The program started with the facilitators meeting with the parents to review the curriculum and discuss their goals and concerns. The parents asked that substance abuse and self harm behaviors be added to the curriculum, which was done. The pilot program had twelve 13-year old girls participate in a curriculum that addressed topics of anatomy & physiology, sexual myths, teen pregnancy, abstinence, sex and social media, relationship violence, STDs & birth control. The classes achieved their goal of fostering discussion between parents and teens. The group leaders learned a lot and piqued the interest of other UMass residency sites about their program. The topic of eating disorders will be added to the next block, which is set to start in August 2015.

Professional Service

- Nic Apostoleris in his role as President of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council greeted and met with Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell and HRSA Administrator James MacRae in Washington DC last week. Nic was pleased to see that Secretary Burwell was well versed on the benefits of integrated primary care, and she was impressed to learn that he was trained as a primary care psychologist a full 15 years ago (as our Department's first fellow).

Awards and Recognition

- HealthAlliance Fitchburg Family Practice won a "Champions of Excellence Award" for the integration of multiple UMass components to create and develop the practice host for the Fitchburg Family Medicine Residency Program. The award was presented by HealthAlliance CEO Deborah Weymouth to Nic Apostoleris, Jim Ledwith, and several HealthAlliance Hospital managers who were key contributors to the start-up.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions

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

Paul Kirby, MA was recently appointed as an Instructor in the Department. He is currently the Senior Research Policy Analyst at the Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA) for the Center for Health Policy and Research, a division of Commonwealth Medicine based within the Commonwealth's MassHealth program. Mr. Kirby is a graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington, receiving a Master of Arts degree in Political Science (2004). He is a seasoned project manager and research analyst with experience working on a variety of clinical health policy initiatives. As a result of his professional work he has been highly effective in developing collaborative relationships resulting in grant opportunities and has had success in disseminating his research within his realm of expertise and presents and publishes his work regionally and nationally. Mr. Kirby and his colleagues in the OCA have developed a new health policy rotation which will expose UMMS students and residents to policy development related to clinical and pharmaceutical issues, utilization management, program measurement and analysis. He also recently agreed to serve as a project mentor for a medical student as part of the new Capstone Scholarship & Discovery course.

Paul Jeffrey, PharmD was recently appointed as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Jeffrey completed a Hospital (Clinical) Pharmacy Residency at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh (1979-80) and subsequently received his Pharmacy Doctorate degree from Duquesne University (1982). In 2001 Dr. Jeffrey was appointed as the Director of Pharmacy for MassHealth and the Pharmacy Director for the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA); he previously held the roles of Deputy Director (2004-08) and Senior Director (2008-09, 2009-11). Additionally in 2012 he assumed the role of Director, Accountable Rx for UMMS/Commonwealth Medicine. Prior to joining UMass he held

numerous leadership positions for the University of Maryland Medical System and Boston University Medical Center. Over his 40 year career, his efforts have earned him a number of local and state awards recognizing not only his work but also the work produced by various teams under his leadership. Outside of his professional role within Commonwealth Medicine, Dr. Jeffery has been actively engaged in numerous committees for organizations such as the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health as well as serving on councils and committees for local health systems, many times in the role as Chairman or Vice Chair. He actively serves on half a dozen professional committees including the Eastern Medicaid Pharmacy Administrators Association, American Association of Medicaid Pharmacy Administrators since, Academy of Managed Care, Massachusetts Pharmacists Association, Academy Health and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Dr. Jeffery is the Founder and Contributor to *Pharmacy Facts*, Mass Health Pharmacy Program for MA EOHHS. A former Pharmacy Residency Program Director, Dr. Jeffery has been involved in numerous noteworthy educational activities including mentoring junior staff and clinical pharmacy services residents on a variety of projects. He is involved in the new health policy rotation which will expose UMMS students and residents to policy development related to clinical and pharmaceutical issues, utilization management, program measurement and analysis and has agreed to serve as a project mentor as part of the new Capstone Scholarship & Discovery course. He has also served as faculty for the Preventive Medicine Residency Program in our Department. Dr. Jeffery has collaborated with medical students and researchers in the design, development, and execution of a variety of research projects that have resulted in a number of clinical publications in peer reviewed journals. His other notable contributions in this area are his work on the development, implementation, and evaluation of regional guidelines for medication utilization within the Medicaid population, both in Massachusetts and across the northeast. Most recently, in 2013 he was Co-Investigator on a UMMS Commonwealth Medicine mini-grant focused on the *Impact of Pharmacist Delivered Medication Therapy Management Program in Hospital Readmissions of Medicaid Patients with Congestive Heart Failure*. He has also been the recipient for an NIH funded grant totaling \$750,000, having served as a Co-Investigator.

David Polakoff, MD, MSc was recently appointed as a Professor in the Department. The career path that brought Dr. Polakoff to UMass Medical School is based in years of experience in academic medicine, in the private sector and in state government. Across these venues, he has established a national reputation in medical management and leadership. His early career centered in Geriatrics, with a focus on quality measurement, standards of care, and innovations in health policy, particularly focused on care for the frail elderly. After several years in the private sector and as a consultant, he came to assume a series of leadership roles in Massachusetts state government and here at the medical school, where he is now responsible for the contract and research enterprise within Commonwealth Medicine. Dr. Polakoff is a graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and trained in Internal Medicine at Boston University Hospital. He continued his clinical training as a research and clinical fellow in Geriatric Medicine at the Bedford Massachusetts VA, Boston University School of Medicine. Upon graduation, he devoted 12 years within the structure of the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center at the Bedford VA (associated with Boston University), and then the West Roxbury VA (associated with Harvard Medical School). These Centers served as focal points for clinical services and training in academic geriatrics at selected institutions around the

country. At the latter site, he was quickly promoted from Clinical Director to Associate Director to Acting Director. During these years, he became recognized as one of the national leaders in the development of evaluation procedures for frail elderly. He served as the site director for a multisite evaluation of the effectiveness of this process. He also became known for his expertise in the use of evaluation methodologies applied in outpatient settings for frail elderly patients.

During the next stage of his career, he worked as a consultant, where his expertise in Geriatrics focused on systems of care. He served as a consultant for commercial insurance plans in the development of the first Medicare Managed Care programs, and he was the lead clinical consultant and contributor to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as it developed its Massachusetts Senior Care Options (SCO) Program. He then worked for Mariner Healthcare, a large post-acute healthcare system, where as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, he oversaw a system that included nursing homes in over 20 states, scores of rehabilitation clinics, and home health agencies. While he started with direct responsibility for clinical care, over time he took on responsibility for pharmacy services, and took on increasing corporate responsibility for the corporation. Dr. Polakoff came to government service, combined with a position with the Medical School, as Chief Medical Officer for the Commonwealth's MassHealth Program, and as Director of the Office of Clinical Affairs. In this high profile leadership position, he had direct responsibility for the clinical quality of the state's Medicaid Program. He then moved into his current positions as Chief Medical Officer, Medical Director of the Center for Health Policy and Research, and Chief Medical Officer and Associate Dean for Commonwealth Medicine.