



Monday Memo – November 2, 2015

Presentations

- The Department was well represented at this past weekend's Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) Conference (10/30-11/1) in Danvers, MA. Presenters were so numerous we will postpone acknowledging everyone until next week.

- Frank Domino presented at the Updates in Internal Medicine course on "Motivational Interviewing and Vitamin D: Myth or Miracle" in Santa Fe the week of October 19.

- Ron Adler and Sandy Blount presented a workshop called "Foundational Routines of Patient Centered Care" at The Collaborative Family Healthcare Association conference in Portland, OR.

- Barry Saver presented on behalf of a department project team, and our colleagues from Interpreter Services, at NAPCRG the week of October 24 in Cancun, Mexico: Barry Saver, Warren Ferguson, Judy Savageau, Connie Camelo, Damon Timm, Timothy Clark. ["Empowering Inpatients With Limited English Proficiency to Access Qualified Medical interpreters: A Pilot Study"](#)

- Hugh Silk gave a presentation on October 24th at the 2015 Annual CME Conference of the Massachusetts Association of Physician Assistants on the topic: "How to Manage Oral Health Problems in Your Patients".

- Alan Ehrlich presented at a combined Family Medicine/Internal Medicine Grand rounds at Cambridge Hospital on "Updates on Uses of Cannabinoids" on October 7 (our apologies -we incorrectly attributed this to Len Levin last week)

Media

Phil Bolduc is highlighted in a Telegram and Gazette article about the Newton Hill Fitness Course, a project that he spearheaded over the past several months as a Friends of Newton Hill volunteer board member (<http://www.telegram.com/article/20151021/NEWS/151029806>).

Chair's Corner

Success stories: Across our practices and programs, our faculty and residents have implemented a host of creative ideas. Throughout the year, I'd like to highlight some of our success stories. This week's example comes from the Barre Family Health Center, and is submitted by Dr. Cynthia Jeremiah (who presented the project, joined by residents Kimberly Sikule and Ivonne McLean at a terrific Grand Rounds on the 14th).

A 2014 needs assessment conducted by medical students on their Population Health Clerkship at the Barre Family Health Center found that parents and teens wanted their physicians involved in sex education, especially given a lack of sex education at Quabbin Regional High School. In response, in February, 2015, the Health Center initiated "**Girl Talk**," a 12-week peer-led program for adolescent girls where they learned about healthy relationships, effective communication, and building self-confidence. The pilot program, modeled after programs at Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and at Plumley Village, had twelve 13-year old girls participate in a curriculum addressing anatomy & physiology, sexual myths, teen pregnancy, abstinence, sex and social media, relationship violence, STDs & birth control. The 2 hour weekly sessions included role playing and values voting exercises, and were conducted by physician faculty, physician assistants, and residents, who developed their facilitation skills and learned more about the population than they ever would have learned in 15 minute physicals. The classes achieved their goal of fostering discussion between parents and teens! The project is entering into its second round this year, with additional content related to substance abuse, self harm behaviors, and eating disorders, as suggested by the first cohort.

Do you have a success story that needs to be shared? Please send me a note!

Dan Lasser