Wellness Moment
Addressing both real and perceived concerns by medical students and residents about the implications of a mental health diagnoses or treatment, the American Medicine Association (AMA) adopted a new policy in June 2018. This new policy aims to help alleviate concerns about the presence and phrasing of questions on medical licensing applications related to a physician’s past health impairment. Currently, many states ask questions that both violate the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and one recent review found that just 53% of states ask questions limited to functional impairment and only 14% of state applications limited their inquiries to current problems (Gold et al., 2017). There are some exemplary states, for example in North Carolina, applicants now sign a statement acknowledging their responsibility to care for their own mental and physical health and any threats to patient safety. This new AMA policy encourages state licensing boards to require physicians only to disclose physical or mental health conditions that currently impair their judgment or would otherwise adversely affect their ability to practice medicine in a competent, ethical, and professional manner, or when the physician presents a public health danger. Additionally, the policy urges any state medical boards that wish to retain questions about the health of applicants on medical licensing applications to use the language recommended by the Federation of State Medical Boards. The proposed question reads: “Are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not appropriately being treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice medicine in a competent, ethical and professional manner? (Yes/No).” Click here to read more about this: https://www.ama-assn.org/about/proceedings-2018-annual-meeting-house-delegates.

Awards & Recognition
- Thanks from MassAHEC to the following for making the pilot session of Community Vital Signs and Primary Care & Community Health dinner on Day-3 of Orientation for 39 incoming medical students a success: Suzanne Cashman, Lorna Chiasson, Mary Philbin, and Warren Ferguson for their assistance in planning and delivery; Jennifer Bradford, Erik Garcia, HeatherLyn Haley, Susan Hogan, Mukti Kulkarni, Mary
Lindholm, Jim Ledwith, Val Pietry, Hugh Silk, Angela Beeler from Pediatrics, Jim Ryan from Merrimack Valley AHEC/Greater Lawrence FHC, Justin Ayala from Baystate-Franklin AHEC/Baystate Health Systems, Fran Anthes, CEO of Family Health Center of Worcester, Toni McGuire, CEO of Edward M. Kennedy Health Center, Debra Murphy from the MA League of Community Health Centers and the physicians recruited by the League, Miranda Balkin and Cynthia So-Armah. The student feedback includes: It was the highlight of Orientation! Thanks for a great event! I learned more about primary care in an hour than I ever have. It was amazing to learn from doctors so thoughtful and dedicated to their work. Please look for next year’s invite!

Presentations
- Kristina Gracey co-presented (alongside colleagues from Munson Family Medicine Residency, Ascension Providence and Thomas Jefferson) at the August 2 Emerging Leaders Fellowship meeting in Kansas City, on the topic of bridging generational gaps in academic medicine environments.

Publications
- Dr. Adler Creates Patient-Centered Cancer Screening Guide
  Throughout his more than 25 years practicing family medicine, Ronald Adler, MD, UMass Memorial Hahnemann Family Health Center, came to realize that patients are often overwhelmed by conflicting information about the value of cancer screening tests and deciding when, or if, they should have them. To help providers facilitate discussions about cancer screening and help patients weigh the personal advantages and disadvantages of screening, Dr. Adler has published "Cancer Screening Decisions: A Patient-Centered Approach." This book offers clear, colorful graphics to help guide patients through the decision-making process for breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancer screenings. Contact Dr. Adler to learn more.

Administrative FYI
- Training: Reminder about Crucial Accountability course available to caregivers on University Campus, August 23, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Registration deadline in E-Learning 4U: August 16

Save the Date for the Department’s Annual Retreat: Friday, October 26, 2018

REASON #3 to come to the Department Faculty Retreat: What Makes You Come Alive?

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” -Howard Thurman

In this era of political strife, health systems we can't control, and other personal hurdles, each of us still gets up and comes to work and generally likes what we do. How do we do it? How do you do it?

Come to this session at the Department Retreat and share "What makes you come alive!"

Prior to the session - send Hugh Silk (hugh.silk@umassmed.edu) your own work or the work of people you admire in the form of poems, photos, artwork, stories, essays, etc. During the session we will read aloud and view some of these documents and images - a shared session of
inspiration and motivation. Then we will take time to write, draw, sing on the same theme of coming alive and share our short inspired pieces (55 word stories, Haiku, etc) in a small group setting to keep the energy going.

Don't miss this change to bond with colleagues, learn from others, and raise your passion level up a notch.