Chair’s corner: I’m pleased to officially announce three new leadership appointments:

• As the result of a national search, Dr. Mary Lindholm has been appointed as Medical Director for our Benedict Family Medicine Practice. An Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, Mary joined our faculty in 2000 after serving for eight years as an attending physician for the Geisinger Health Group in Bellefonte, PA. As a faculty member with years of service in our Benedict practice, she has also served in a variety of academic roles, including directing our third year Clerkship, leading and teaching in the Teachers of Tomorrow faculty development program, and co-leading the Worcester residency’s Balint Group. She has been serving as Interim Medical Director for the practice since the departure of Dr. Joe DiFranza. Congratulations!

• As the result of a national search, Dr. Pankaj Ksheersagar has been appointed as Medical Director of our Family Medicine Hospitalist service. A 2009 graduate of Creighton University’s Family Medicine residency, Pankaj joined our Hospital Medicine service in 2014. He was called to active duty, serving as a primary care physician and hospitalist at Fort Stewart, GA and as a Battalion Surgeon in Turkey and subsequently in Iraq and Syria. Since last year’s departure Dr. Beth Koester, Dr. Patricia Seymour has served admirably in an interim leadership role. Congratulations and welcome home to Pankaj, and thanks to Trish for her interim leadership!

• We are pleased to announce that effective September 3, Dr. Mary Flynn has joined the medical staff at Community HealthLink, where she has agreed to serve in an interim capacity as Medical Director for CHL’s Primary Care services. She joins Drs. Erik Garcia, Hugh Silk, and Jennifer Bradford, and Nurse Practitioners Stephanie Connors and Jane Whelen Banks in providing primary care integrated into programs that support adults, children, and families to recover from the effects of mental illness, substance use, and homelessness through CHL’s Wellness Program and at the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program (HOAP). Most recently she served as Medical Director for Plumley Village Health Services sponsored by UMass Memorial Medical Center. Welcome!

Wellness
We are pleased to announce the launch of a new website https://umassmed.edu/wellbeing. The site is designed to make it simpler to access counseling, mental health treatment and on-line resources for residents, fellows and medical staff dealing with emotional and psychological concerns. Confidential and discrete, it can link you to the next step with a click or help guide you with some straightforward on-line tools. We hope our colleagues and those of us who are concerned about them will find it helpful--please check it out and feedback welcome.

Awards & Recognition

Hugh Silk was awarded 1st place – for the Poetry category by a panel of reviewers for the Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) Creative Writing Competition for his submission Friday, late afternoon. This award will be given out during the 2018 FMEC Annual Meeting November 9th – 11th at the Hilton Westchester Hotel in Rye Brook, New York on Saturday morning prior to the Plenary presentation.

Presentations

- Ron Adler presented “De-Implementing Unconsidered Cancer Screening: Shifting the Paradigm” at the Preventing Overdiagnosis Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark on August 22, 2018.

- Hugh Silk gave the Keynote Address on September 18 at the White Coat Ceremony for the incoming students of the Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Worcester, MA. His talk was entitled: “Welcome to Dental Hygiene - A Team Sport!”

- Heather-Lyn Haley presented a “Worcester 101” community health session highlighting the Worcester community, social determinants of health and the Community Health Improvement Plan to the interprofessional Palliative Care team on September 19.

Publications


Administration Announcements

Need a new headshot for the website? Employed physicians who need to create or update their profile images for the online Find a Physician directory are encouraged to attend photography sessions on
Research Study Design and Analysis Series

**Session I: Design, Conduct, and Analysis of Observational Studies**
In this first session, attendees will learn about the design, conduct, and analysis of case-control (retrospective) and longitudinal (prospective) studies that are commonly utilized in clinical and public health research. This two hour session will cover various topics that pertain to these non-randomized observational studies including when to use which observational design approach, development of study hypotheses, comparison groups to be studied, sample size/power calculations, data collection activities, and data analysis and interpretation.

Date: October 9, 2018, Time: 3:00 – 5:00 PM Location: Albert Sherman Building, 6th Floor, AS6-2072

**Session II: Design, Conduct, and Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials**
In this second session, attendees will learn about the design, conduct, and analysis of randomized controlled clinical trials (RCTs). This two hour session will cover various topics that pertain to RCTs including the development of study hypotheses, trial design (including sample size/power estimation), patient recruitment and enrollment, reasons for randomization and common randomization approaches, data collection activities, data analysis (including interim and final analyses), and presentation.

Date: October 16, 2018, Time: 3:00 – 5:00 PM Location: Albert Sherman Building, 6th Floor, AS6-2072

**Register NOW for the Department’s Annual Retreat: Friday, October 26, 2018 (Registration closes October 12th)**
ANOTHER REASON to come to the Department Faculty Retreat: Most of us are familiar with the terrific “Top Ten” summary of the current medical literature that Frank Domino develops each year for the AAFP annual meeting. For our retreat, we’ve asked Frank to develop a companion summary of the top approaches suggested in the literature as ways to make a primary care practice work better. His plenary, *The Top Things I Learned This Year to Make Practices Work Better*, will start off our morning session at the International in Bolton.