



GW Medicine Notes

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September 2020

Here we go again...

Fellowship interviews are well underway and all of course by Zoom or WebEx. You know what this means - no lunches with food laying around for days, no tours with the occasional applicant getting lost, and no watching bored applicants sitting and waiting for their next interview (where the faculty member is probably late). All those historic activities are gone.

This may be one of the good things resulting from the pandemic. I always wanted an easier and less expensive way of conducting house staff interviews for fellowship and student interviews for internship and here it is. It was impossible to be the only Department to do this but now everyone is forced to do the same thing.

Are the applicants at a disadvantage by not visiting all the places they are applying to? Possibly, but with today's internet virtual visits may be as good or better.

If you have time go on to the Department's website at <https://smhs.gwu.edu/medicine/> and take a look at some of the video's and virtual tours our Divisions have created such as this one that says a lot without saying much.

<https://smhs.gwu.edu/medicine/divisions/kidney-diseases-hypertension/nephrology-fellowship>

I think every division has done a terrific job and can only hope that this way of selecting candidates continues after the pandemic has passed.

From the Chairman

I hate writing month after month about COVID-19, but not writing about COVID would be like ignoring the fact that there is a Presidential election this year. I don't want to hear any more about it; I want it to be over; and I want to be immune from the results.

One of our Grand Rounds presentations in August was by our *second best* Chief Resident ever who discussed the ICU experience during the COVID surge in March thru May. The part of the lecture that stood out to me wasn't her learning curve with ventilators, nor her quick realization of the worthlessness of hydroxychloroquine, nor the use of every modality possible to try and save patients. What stood out was one comment: "I feel safer in the ICU than I do when I go to the supermarket." (And yes, I did tell her how to become #1.)

Now there are a few caveats. I don't go to the supermarket (I don't know if anyone still calls it a supermarket), but I have to imagine there is a significant difference between Mom's, Whole Foods, Giant, Safeway, and Walmart (in order of decreasing ability to purchase plant based products). I would also imagine that this list is in decreasing order of likelihood that people are all wearing face masks. Only one physician in the ICU over this time became COVID + and that is with 20 or more ventilators going at one time, patients coughing and being intubated. I have no data, but I doubt the record for turning positive is as good at Walmart.

I made my feelings about wearing masks quite clear in my last newsletter, but now we have additional data. Seven days after Arizona made wearing a face mask in public mandatory their number of COVID + cases started to drop and have continued to do so. Must be a coincidence, although that is the same way most European, Asian and other North American countries controlled their outbreaks. Do you think if people in this country had the common sense to wear masks most other countries would have banned Americans from entering their country? Even though in most, tourism is a large part of their economy, they still don't want us. Hell, New Jersey doesn't want us.

But if you still insist on not wearing a mask you can always take the advice of the "My Pillow Guy" (MPG) who is touting oleandrin as a drug to cure COVID. MPG helped Phoenix Biotechnology (of which he is a part owner) land an Oval Office meeting in July to pitch this drug, with the help of Ben Carson, that great infectious disease expert who called this the "real deal." Ben Carson, the original "sleepy," has to crawl out now after 4 years. (Why is it that anyone who becomes Secretary of HUD basically disappears?)

Oleandrin is derived from the oleander plant, which is toxic and can have seriously negative effects on the human heart. There are no studies proving it is safe to ingest or does anything to counter infection with COVID. It is what it is. Anderson Cooper interviewed MPG and called him a "snake oil salesman," which he took as a compliment, and then Cooper asked him this question: "How do you sleep at night?" You don't ask that question to the Pillow Guy unless it is a lead in to a commercial message. There are some people for which words are just not enough.

Alan G. Wasserman, M.D.

Department of Medicine September 2020 Grand Rounds

WEBEX LINK

Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 Meeting number: 160 293 7989
or [https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?](https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?MTID=m888d29fea5823e8418cfc7e4b175d2c3)
[MTID=m888d29fea5823e8418cfc7e4b175d2c3](https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?MTID=m888d29fea5823e8418cfc7e4b175d2c3)
Password: DOMGrandRounds

- September 3** "Primary Aldosteronism: A Silent Epidemic" "
Irene Tamagna Lecture
Dr. William F. Young
Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Tyson Family Endocrinology Clinical Professor
Mayo Clinic
- September 10** "Medicine Dermatology Pathology Overlap "
Dr. Karl Saardi
Assistant Professor of Dermatology
GW MFA
- September 17** "Common Sports Injuries "
Dr. Teresa Doerre
Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
GW MFA
- September 24** "MIS in NSGV"
Dr. Fabio Roberti
Director of the H. Ammerman Microsurgical Laboratory
Clinical Professor of Neurological Surgery
GW MFA

The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. GWUMC designates this continuing medical education activity on an hour-for-hour basis in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. (AMA).

Medicine Team Contacts

Need to find a Resident on an inpatient team?

Please use Tiger text to reach the appropriate physician. Go to gwu.medhub.com/paging; password: GWUPublicCall; Select Internal Medicine.

Alternatively

GWUH Defining Medicine Intranet: Go to Applications \ Inactive-Non-Production \ Directory Contact System

GWUH Citrix Portal—<https://gwportal.gwu-hospital.com/vpn/index.html>

MFA URL— <http://192.168.254.132/miTeamWebWA/Home> (Logon) -
<http://192.168.254.132/miTeamWebAL/Home> (View Only)

If you have trouble with your MedHub account, please contact Anna Sufczynski at asufczynski@mfa.gwu.edu.

Cardiology Grand Rounds

WEBEX LINK:

[https://shanekeweerakoon.my.webex.com/shanekeweerakoon.my/j.php?](https://shanekeweerakoon.my.webex.com/shanekeweerakoon.my/j.php?MTID=ma05dd6da846285f4251171496d680b35)
[MTID=ma05dd6da846285f4251171496d680b35](https://shanekeweerakoon.my.webex.com/shanekeweerakoon.my/j.php?MTID=ma05dd6da846285f4251171496d680b35)

Meeting number (access code): 126 501 5555 Meeting password: zTG3TyRkB23 (98438975 from phones and video systems)

- September 9** Fellow M&M
- September 16** "Covid-19 and Cardiovascular Disease"
Dr. Cynthia Tracy
Professor and Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology
GW MFA
- September 23** "Pulmonary Hypertension and Left Heart Disease"
Dr. Raymond Benza
Professor and Director Division of Cardiovascular Diseases
Bob and Corrine Fick Endowed Chair of Heart Failure
Ohio State U Wexner Medical Center
- September 30** "Global CVD"
Dr. Raj Vedanthan
NYU Langone Health



Resident Lecture Series September 2020 Noon Conferences

All Faculty Invited to Attend

In an effort to practice social distancing we will host Chairman's Rounds, Patient Safety Conferences and Clinical Pathology Conferences via WebEx.

Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 Access code: 739 912 912 or <https://mfa.webex.com/mfa/j.php?MTID=m0a9fcb5540f4a6dc3ea0918af35b9b7d>
Meeting password: PeaceLoveCOVID

- September 1** Journal Club
- September 2** "Pulmonary Hypertension"
Dr. Mardi Gomberg-Maitland
Professor of Medicine
GW MFA
- September 4** Case Based Conference
- September 7** Primary Care Case Conference
- September 8** Patient Safety Conference
- September 9** Risk Management Conference
- September 11** Case Based Conference
- September 14** Primary Care Case Conference
- September 15** Clinical Pathology Conference
- September 16** "Chronic Pancreatitis"
Dr. Kathryn Humes
Assistant Professor of Medicine
GW MFA
- September 18** Case Based Conference
- September 21** Primary Care Case Conference
- September 22** Chairman's Rounds
- September 25** Case Based Conference
- September 28** Primary Care Case Conference
- September 29** Chairman's Rounds
- September 30** "Intro to Transplant"
Dr. Rohan Paul
Assistant Professor of Medicine
GW MFA

American College of Gastroenterology Virtual Conference

There were 16 abstracts accepted for the American College of Gastroenterology Virtual Conference in October 2020. There were 13 internal medicine residents, 4 fellows, 2 NPs, and 13 faculty members involved in the projects. Congratulations! Thank you Dr. Borum for your great leadership!

Residents:

1. Praphopphat (Art) Adhatamsoontra
2. Francis Carro Cruz
3. Karan Chawla
4. Joseph Cioffi
5. Jenny Dave
6. Victoria Garland
7. Kathryn Humes (chief resident)
8. Abdalla Khouqeer
9. Danielle Kirelik
10. Katrina Naik
11. Leen Raddaoui
12. Hayley Rogers
13. Sumedha Singh

Fellows:

1. Bedoor Alabbas
2. Talal Alzahrani (Cardiology)
3. Kerian Dodds
4. Matthew Tick

GI Nurse Practitioners

1. Sally Balkovic
2. Fitore Vula

Faculty:

1. Satyanisth Agrawal
2. Waseem Aziz
3. Matthew Chandler
4. Nabil Fallouh (Hospital Medicine)
5. Eric Heinz (Anesthesia/Critical Care; provided COVID data)
6. Farida Izzi (Hospital Medicine)
7. Samuel Kallus
8. Anita Kumar
9. Juan Reyes (Hospital Medicine)
10. Renu Regunathan-Shenk (Nephrology)
11. Antoinette Saddler
12. David Yamane (Critical Care/Emergency Medicine; provided COVID data)
13. Steven Zeddun

"Trading Covid-19 Jokes with Dr. Fauci before rounds"

Galvin Truong (PGY2) red sweater, Hayley Rogers (PGY2) to the right of Dr. Fauci; Mohammad Alarfaj (PGY2) behind Hayley



Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newest Addition to the Department of Medicine

Kirti Johal, MD joins us as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Division of Allergy and Immunology.

Dr. Johal earned her B.S. in Neuroscience from Duke University and her M.D. from the Georgetown University School of Medicine, where she was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at Northwestern University McGaw Medical Center, where she won numerous teaching accolades, including the Gerald Grumet teaching award. She completed her fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Johns Hopkins University Asthma and Allergy Center. Dr. Johal is board certified in Internal Medicine and board-eligible in Allergy and Immunology.

Dr. Johal treats patients with a wide variety of allergic, asthmatic, and immunologic conditions. Her clinical interests include hives, atopic dermatitis, environmental allergies, food allergy, anaphylaxis, immunotherapy, drug allergy and asthma. She has conducted research on allergic and immunologic skin disorders, including chronic spontaneous urticaria.

Supria Batra, MD joins the Department of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology.

Dr. Batra attended Medical School at Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in Huntington WV, and then completed her Internal Medicine Internship and Residency at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA. She went on to complete general cardiology fellowship at Beth Israel-Lahey Health in Burlington, MA, followed by a sub-specialty fellowship in Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York Presbyterian in New York, NY.

Dr. Batra is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease, Echocardiography Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology; pending board certification in Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology. She is licensed in the District of Columbia.

Her clinical interests include Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies, Valvular Heart Disease, Pulmonary Hypertension, Invasive Hemodynamics and evaluation of patients for advanced therapies including cardiac transplantation and mechanical circulatory support.

Khalil Diab, MD, ATSF joins the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine as an Associate Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Diab completed his B.S. in Chemistry at the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. He then obtained his medical degree from the American University of Beirut in 2002. Dr. Diab completed 1 year of internal medicine internship at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, followed by an internship and residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He completed his pulmonary and critical care fellowship at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 2009.

Dr. Diab was on faculty at the Indiana University School of Medicine where he worked as an interventional pulmonologist in the multidisciplinary lung cancer program, and where he was medical director of the intensive care unit at Indiana University Hospital. Dr. Diab is currently Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

In January 2019, Dr. Diab moved back to his home country of Lebanon where he joined the Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury Lebanese American University School of Medicine as Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine. Dr. Diab is board certified in pulmonary medicine, critical care medicine, and interventional pulmonology.

Internal Medicine Residency Program Intern Retreat

This year the Intern Retreat was held virtually. Interns participated in a series of workshops and were then sent on a scavenger hunt throughout the National Mall. Kudos to Julia Boland's group for creating the initials 'MLK' with their bodies.
 From left to right: Christopher Walker, Julia Boland, Haitham AlAithan, & Eison DeGuzman.



Team Names Changing for the Medicine Inpatient Consult Services

As of September 3, 2020, we are changing the naming schema for medicine inpatient teams. This is due to patient and provider preference and to more easily allow for any potential future expansions or structural changes.

- MED1 Team** will be the PA service (currently called orange team).
- MED2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Teams** will be the current gen med teaching teams (currently bronze, purple, green, yellow, silver, teal not necessarily in that order).
- Med Night Team** will be the temporary name for patients admitted overnight by nightfloats/ moonlighters until they are assigned a team the next morning (currently called pink team).
- Pulm Team** will be the pulmonology inpatient service (currently called blue team).
- Heart Team** will be the cardiology inpatient service (currently called gold team).
- Heme/Onc Team** will be the heme/onc inpatient service (currently called red team).

IT will be making the appropriate changes in Cerner, CORES, and other locations on September 3. Please note that for a few hours that morning, team patient lists in Cerner may look a little confusing while the actual changeover occurs.

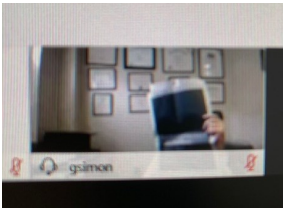
Kudos & Congratulations

Kudos...to **Dr. Jillian Catalanotti, Kristen Fulbright and Anna Sufczynski** (IM Residency Program), on a comment from Dr. Harold Frazier: "WOW! This year's ACGME submission for Internal Medicine is one of the best WebADS that I have seen in my current role as DIO...There is no such thing as a 'perfect' program, but your residency is as good as we have here at GWU on so many levels."

Kudos...to **Dr. John Gracely** (IM Resident PGY2), on a patient letter commenting on his outstanding patient care: "Dr. Gracely demonstrated all the traits of the best doctors I have observed in my several decades of being a patient."

Kudos...to **Melissa Winter** (Director of Patient Experience), on a comment for one of our faculty members "a great patient advocate."

Kudos...to **Dr. Danielle Davison** (ICU), on a comment from one of our faculty members regarding her grand rounds presentation last month: "That was a truly magnificent Grand Rounds. Fascinating, terrifying and inspiring at the same time."



Dr. Simon was also very intrigued by Dr. Davison's presentation.

Kudos...to **Dr. Adrienne Poon** (Hospital Medicine), on a comment in the listening post: "Dr. Adrienne Poon is an excellent attending. She provides evidence-based, compassionate patient care, while also remaining dedicated and effective at teaching medical students in a comfortable and humane environment."

Kudos...to **Dr. Andrew Choi** (Cardiology), on a comment from one of our faculty members regarding his grand rounds presentation last month "Your Grand Rounds today was one of the best presentations I have ever heard."

Congratulations...Drs. **Shant Ayanian, Juan Reyes, Lei Lynn & Karolyn Teufel** (Hospital Medicine) for their article "The association between biomarkers and clinical outcomes in novel coronavirus pneumonia. in a US cohort" Which is one of the most quoted articles from the journal Biomarkers of Medicine, also highlighted by Fox News and receiving a lot of attention in India. Read more <https://www.foxnews.com/health/blood-test-coronavirus-patient-risk-illness-death-study>

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