



Gone to Gitmo

For the first time, the College of Medicine has an alumnus practicing at Cuba's Guantanamo Bay. **Andy Hogan** (M.D., '13) completed his residency training at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton this summer and now serves as one of the staff family medicine physicians at Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay.

"Andy really pushed for this assignment," said his wife, Alexa, the College of Medicine's former alumni relations coordinator. "We anticipate being here for 2 1/2 to 3 years."

She's so excited that she's even begun a blog called "Discover GTMO" (discovergtmo.wordpress.com), in which she plans on "sharing it all — the move, daily life, and the hidden gems about living on a military base, on a communist island, in the middle of the Caribbean."

The family of four includes son Luke, who turned 1 in June, and golden retriever Camilla.

Combining health care and IT

Never heard of "clinical informatics"? It's the use of data and information technology to deliver health care and assist patients in monitoring their own health — and it's the newest subspecialty approved by the ACGME, which accredits graduate medical education programs.

Now the College of Medicine has its first alum who's board-certified in clinical informatics:

Randa Perkins (M.D., '08).

She actually completed her residency in family medicine at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. This is how she describes herself on her LinkedIn page: "A techie Family Medicine Hospitalist who has fallen in love with informatics and its potential to improve health care." Perkins has been TMH's executive director of medical informatics since 2012, and at the College of Medicine she teaches a fourth-year elective on the same topic.

"We combine the best parts of IT with the best medical practices and work to improve both," Perkins said in an interview with Intel IT Peer Network. "When working to implement a new IT system into clinical situations, it is imperative to get the clinicians involved. They must have a voice and explain what they need and how they operate. If you don't understand the needs of the physicians, you run the risk of disturbing the doctor-patient relationship; the nurse-patient relationship. You can't afford to interrupt that bond. My main goal is to understand what I can do to deploy the technology and be supportive for a seamless transition."



Patrick honored as 'rising star'

Stephen Patrick (M.D., '07) was one of two Vanderbilt physicians honored this summer by the Tennessee chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Patrick, assistant professor of pediatrics and health policy in the Division of Neonatology with Vanderbilt's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, received the Early Career Physician of the Year Award.

"His passion, drive and determination are truly admirable," said his division director, Susan Guttentag.

Since leaving Florida State, Patrick has been at Harvard School of Public Health, among many other institutions, and has been a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar and a senior science policy advisor to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. He has focused his career on improving public health systems to optimize maternal and child health.

He's a health services researcher with a focus on Medicaid policy, eliminating health-care-associated infections, substance-exposed infants and neonatal abstinence syndrome. He joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 2013.

"Dr. Patrick is a true rising star in pediatrics," Guttentag told the Vanderbilt University Medical Center *Reporter*. "He has been able to focus media attention on the problem of drug exposure during pregnancy in a way that has mobilized communities and government in positive, not punitive, ways."