Earlier this month, Sarasota Memorial leaders, city officials and community partners broke ground for a new internal medicine practice that will offer comprehensive, coordinated care to the Newtown community. The new internal medicine practice in Newtown was made possible thanks to the support of philanthropic and community partners.

-excerpt from SMH MESSENGER Newsletter

Breaking Ground with Newtown

Dr. Karen Hamad, associate director of the SMH-FSU Internal Medicine Residency Program; Karen’s mother, Renee Hamad, who donated to the new practice; Dr. Joan Meek, associate dean at the FSU College of Medicine; Dr. Wilhelmine Wiese-Rometsch, director of the residency program; SMH CEO David Verinder; Sarasota County Public Hospital Board Chairman Greg Carter; Sarasota Mayor Willie Shaw; and donor Robert P. Martin, chief operating officer of Boar’s Head Brand.

Accepted for Fellowship

Internal Medicine Residency Program at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

Congratulations to Vishal Dahya, M.D., (PGY-3/Co-Chief Resident) pictured with Program Director Dr. Greg Todd, at left. Dr. Dahya matched into the cardiovascular disease fellowship at Summa Health in Akron, Ohio.

Congratulations to Tomonori Oyadomari, M.D., (PGY-3) pictured with Program Director Dr. Greg Todd. Dr. Oyadomari matched into the nephrology fellowship at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon, New Hampshire.
Official Fellow, American College of Surgeons

Dr. Alexander Ramirez Valderrama was inducted as an ACOS Fellow at the Convocation Ceremony in October. The event was held to confer Fellowship upon those surgeons who have successfully met ACS requirements to provide optimal care to the surgical patient. Dr. Ramirez Valderrama’s specialty is general surgery and he is currently serving as Director of Simulation for our General Surgery Residency located at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

Recruiting at Global Missions

Family medicine residents Drs. Lee Coghill and Olevia Metry (pictured with Program Director Dr. Gary Goforth) did an excellent job recruiting at the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Nov. 10-12. Program representatives met several medical students with an interest in the program due to its focus on global health issues.

About the Zika Virus

Family medicine residency Drs. Christy Cavanagh and graduate Sherry Farag (far left) did a terrific job with a presentation on the Zika virus at Healthy Life Center at Coconut Point on Oct. 24. Their presentation was very informative, and they did well answering questions from the audience. Thanks to them for representing our program in this community service event.

Internal Medicine Residents

Drs. Christopher Selleck and Sachin Patel both presented posters at the American Medical Associate Conference in Orlando on Nov. 11-12. Dr. Brittany Clark (quality improvement faculty member) attended to provide support.
Caring People, Caring for People

My grandfather was a great man by anyone’s standards. The son of a farmer in rural Kentucky, he moved to Northwest Indiana with his bride and started a new life there with little to his name. He worked the same job in the steel mills for 39 years until he retired. He was married to my grandmother for 62 years. He was the rock of our family. His steadfastness allowed my mother to become the first in her family to go to college; she ultimately became a nurse, and helped to inspire my path to become a physician. So, I guess you could say my adventure as a millennial in medicine was ultimately rooted in my grandfather’s long life of selfless, servant-hearted sacrifice.

Just days prior to writing this article, I spoke at his funeral. The room was packed with family members and friends. As I recounted his life and tried my best to articulate the gravity of his legacy, I realized how blessed we have been. Yet, I also realized how uniquely we as physicians understand and experience the journey from life to death. I realized that for all the advances in medicine that we have seen in our lifetimes, death is something that we all must experience. We physicians, though we often strive to steel ourselves to it, are not immune to the pain of death nor are we immune to the human experience of grief. And sometimes in the performance of our duties, we will experience things that hit close to home.

During my grandfather’s last month, he suffered from cerebral hyponatremia. Concurrently, I was caring for a patient with the same condition. During the day, I would ponder the condition of my patient, but I found myself pondering the condition of my grandfather as well. Day by day, I found that my prayers for each were blending together. The first was a prayer undergirded by my daily efforts to “do something” and to intervene as a physician. The second spoke to a place of helplessness and desperation, and arose from the perspective of a concerned family member. The parallelism between my personal and professional experiences was profound, and I found myself approaching various patients’ families with a renewed sense of intentionality. I would ask questions like “How are you doing with all of this?” whenever I saw a family member sitting by a patient’s bedside. Their responses echoed how I felt myself - “I’m doing the best that I can; I’m taking it one day at a time.”

Beyond an overwhelming sense of empathy for my patients and their families, I also experienced a revelatory clarity of the purpose of achieving excellence in family medicine: We are treating someone’s family. When my grandfather was in the hospital, my mother’s old nursing instincts kicked in. She stayed by his bedside for weeks, along with other family members. She watched every treatment, listened to every progress update. She asked questions, observed the level of interdisciplinary communication and the degree of professionalism of the various members of the clinical staff. It was all important to her, because this was her daddy.

As physicians, especially as millennial physicians, we need to appreciate the gravity - and the privilege - of our calling. We are not just our brother’s keeper, we are the keepers of someone else’s loved one. If they were able, no doubt they would manage their family’s medical care themselves; for no one can love and care for another as can a mother or father, a son or daughter. Yet that responsibility falls upon us and it beckons us to consider it and to count the cost. To provide excellent, caring, compassionate care is not always convenient, but it’s always the right thing to do. It’s not always emotionally easy, but our noble profession was never about what is easy. The best way I can honor my grandfather’s memory is to care for others as he cared for us - and here at Lee Health, I know that’s what we are all about. Caring people, caring for people. Let’s never forget why.

Internal Medicine Welcomes Baby

Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Joshua Hickman on the Sept. 25 birth of Kieran Joshua Hickman.
Coordinator’s Corner

Dr. Jon Appelbaum, Inez Hudlow, Dr. Ingrid Jones-Ince and Dr. Greg Todd

Inez Hudlow, coordinator, internal medicine residency, along with associate program directors from Boston School of Medicine and Penn State University, presented How to Handle Lapses in Professionalism ~ It Is Not a “Me, Myself, and I” Kind of Job at Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), Oct. 22 in National Harbor, Maryland.

General surgery residents at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare celebrated Dr. Justin Lee’s birthday on Dec. 5 with cupcakes provided by Ashley Richie, TMH trauma administrative coordinator. Front row: Drs. Aaron Hayson and Emmanuela Alvarenga; back row: Drs. Paul Clark, Silvana Rolong, Shea Aupont, Justin Lee, and Ms. Richie.

Surgeons Make Time for Celebrations

General surgery residents, faculty and staff enjoyed a time of food, fun and fellowship at a recent holiday party.

Internal Medicine Residency at Sarasota visited the Orlando Regional Campus. Pictured are: Cynthia Porter, Campus Administrator; Judith Schwartz, Campus Clinical Coordinator; Dr. Wiese-Rometsch, Founding Program Director, FSU Internal Medicine Residency Program at Sarasota Memorial; Samantha Feliciani, Campus Administrative Support Assistant; Katie Axiotis, Coordinator, FSU Internal Medicine Residency Program at Sarasota Memorial.
Resident Dr. Tarek Shaath and a handful of other providers, including family and emergency medicine physicians and midlevel providers, traveled to the Dominican Republic for one week to provide medical care to the indigent people of Dajabon, a small market town on the border of the DR and Haiti. A total of 1,092 patients were treated at an elementary school, a school for the deaf, a local clinic, and a banana plantation.

Residents Drs. Christopher Wolfe and Shaath attended the Florida Society of Dermatologic Surgery conference in Tampa, where they learned about advances in dermatologic surgery. They also attended the Introduction to Cutaneous Biology course at Indiana University; the course entailed a broad spectrum of disciplines including cutaneous structure and function, pharmacology, photobiology, molecular biology, immunodermatology, and surgery. Most recently Drs. Wolfe and Shaath attended the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery conference in New Orleans. The conference educated residents on general dermatology, dermatological surgery, reconstruction, skin cancer & mohs surgery, cosmetics and practice management.

The following were published in Dermatologic Surgery, Dermatologic Clinics and the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology:


Events & Presentations

Dermatology Residency and Micrography Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Fellowship located at Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee:

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Kudos

Family medicine resident Dr. Eileen Callaway and her husband, Charlie, did a terrific job at Military Appreciation Day on Nov. 7 in Fort Myers. Program Director Dr. Goforth received a nice message from Therese Everly, secretary for the Lee Health Board of Directors, who expressed these words of thanks for the Callaways’ service:

“I attended the Lee Health Military Appreciation day last Saturday. Dr. Callaway was there volunteering her time to perform health screenings for our local veterans. I was present when one of them presented in some mild distress; Dr. Callaway triaged and then activated 911 for an EMS transport to Lee Memorial Hospital.

“I was thrilled when she advised me she fell in love with SWFL and is planning to work for Lee Health. To witness her commitment to our local community was truly appreciated. Her husband was also volunteering, helping people sign Christmas cards for soldiers overseas.”

Family Medicine Residency Drs. Shane Drahos, Alim Karim and Gary Goforth did great work in teaching 30 first- and second-year students at the College of Medicine to apply short arm casts. Drs. Dan Van Durme (above, right) and Christy Alexander from the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health helped out as well. The students had a great time, had many questions after a presentation about our program, and left with a new clinical skill.

Library Tidbits

Just a reminder: For off-campus access to our library resources, you must use your FSUID. The FSUID is usually your first initial and last name (dresident). Your FSUID is not your College of Medicine username, which is firstname.lastname. Try out your access – read the latest issue of the Journal of Graduate Medical Education. If you have any problems or questions about accessing library resources, please contact the Maguire Medical Library:

Call: 850-644-3883
Email: medlibrary@med.fsu.edu
Text: 850-724-4987

We will respond as soon as possible during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Internal medicine resident Dr. Eugene Bednov prepares to enjoy a BIG piece of holiday cookie. He did share with the physicians and staff.

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Dermatology Grand Rounds

Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Fellowship Program Director Dr. Armand Cognetta hosted a Grand Rounds at Dermatology Associates of Tallahassee. The presentation by Dr. Siedsel Arnsang Pedersen from Denmark was on hydrochlorothiazide role in squamous cell cancer. Research was also conducted by Dr. Morr, resident Dr. Christopher Wolfe and other staff members on “Retrospective Chart Review to Study Association between Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) and Number and Complexity of Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a Mohs Surgery Practice.” The Grand Rounds event was attended by FSU College of Medicine Dean John Fogarty, Dr. Alma Littles and other local providers.
A Message from our DIO

Dr. Joan Y. Meek,
Associate Dean / Designated Institutional Official

The Family Medicine Residency at Lee Health had an accreditation site visit in Aug. 2016 and achieved continued accreditation. In addition, the Review Committee for family medicine approved an increase in resident complement from six residents to eight residents per year, so the program will match eight residents this year. The Family Medicine Residency is now in its fourth year of operation. Currently, the program boasts a 100% board passage rate.

The Dermatology Residency at Dermatology Associates (DA) of Tallahassee received continued accreditation after their site visit, which occurred in Nov. This was only four months into operation in the first year of training residents. In addition, the Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Fellowship at DA and the Internal Medicine Residency at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare received continued accreditation. Congratulations to all program directors, faculty, residents, and institutions for attention to detail in maintaining the high quality of all of the programs.

Dr. Christy Cavanagh, family medicine residency faculty, spoke at the 33rd Annual Colin J. Condron, M.D. Care of the Sick Child Conference sponsored by the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children/Orlando Health, in conjunction with the FSU College of Medicine and UF Health. Dr. Cavanagh presented information on long acting reversible contraception and guided participants in a hands-on workshop on IUD placement.

The groundbreaking for the Newtown Clinic in Sarasota took place in Nov. (also see front cover). The clinic will house the Internal Medicine Continuity Clinic, but will incorporate other community resources to address nutrition and access to prescription medications. The model emphasizes community health and aims to decrease utilization of emergency services for non-emergent problems. The Internal Medicine Program at Sarasota Memorial moved into their new administrative offices in the fall. Residents will begin training in July.

Several of the residency program directors and faculty are planning the Residency Preparation Boot Camp for the FSU College of Medicine fourth year students in April and May. Residents from the program will contribute to the intern/resident panel discussions, and residency faculty are developing curricula to ensure that the medical students are equipped for residency. Sessions and self-directed learning activities will address a wide range of topics including patient care skills, patient safety, research principles, transitions and handoffs, medico-legal issues, professionalism, use of social media, dealing with the difficult patient, end of life care, and resident work-life balance and wellness. Students will enhance their abilities to access appropriate medical literature to improve clinical decision-making.

Recruitment activities have been in full gear for all of the residency programs, with record numbers of applicants. As interviews have wound down, programs will be preparing rank order lists.

The Family Medicine Program at Lee Health and the Internal Medicine Program at Sarasota Memorial host “Welcome Back Weekends” for top candidates to take a second look at the programs and surrounding communities in February. We are anxious for Match Day 2017 to see which new residents will be joining our GME programs.