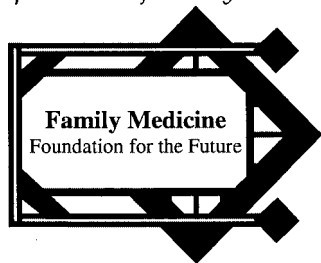


Family Ties

A Newsletter from the Department of Family Medicine



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The Family Practice Advising Program Expands to 22 Teams



(L-R) Feresthe Khavari, M.D. (PGY3), Barberton Citizens Hospital, and Jaime Hartung (M2), matched in 1999, begin their second year as a mentoring team.



(L-R) Deborah Sauder (M1) and Elizabeth George, M.D. (PGY2), St. Elizabeth Health Center, were matched in December 1999.

As the saying goes, "A picture's worth a thousand words." NEOUCOM students and resident family physicians are participating in a recently developed activity of the Family Practice Pathway Office – the Family Practice Advising Program (FPAP). Supported by federal grant funds from the Department of Health and Human Services, the FPAP was piloted in February 1999. Eight PGY2 resident family physicians and eight M1 or M2 students were matched to form one-on-one mentoring teams. The second year of the program expanded to 22 mentoring teams and began with a Dec. 9 orientation dinner. Each year, new residents complete a mentoring training workshop, presented by Bonnie Fox, Ph.D., of Columbus, Ohio. This year's mentoring workshop, held on Feb. 16 in collaboration with our Office of Faculty Development, expanded to include faculty members in the family practice centers and communities and offered CME credit.

Residents and students strengthen their relationships through e-mail messages, shadowing experiences at the residency programs, FMIG events or casual dinners to discuss residency training and career opportunities. At the end of the academic year, Delese Wear, Ph.D., associate director, Office of Human Values in Medicine, conducts focus group meetings for students and residents independently to help plan future activities.

A complete list of FPAP mentoring teams can be found on page 4 (Pathway Update). If you would like more information about the FPAP, contact Laurie Zupp, program coordinator, at (330) 325-6764, or e-mail lz@neuocom.edu.



Department News

Judges for the Health Promotion Committee voted Family Medicine as “best department decoration” during the October Harvest mini-picnic celebration. The staff very cleverly turned their new office into a “pumpkin patch” that housed many appropriate characters. Sue Goodyear and Darsita Weber received individual costume awards for their “scarecrow” and “witch” costumes respectively.



Kneeling (l-r): Laurie Zupp (bat person); Ellen Wagner and LuAnne Stockton (patch pumpkins). Standing (l-r) are Sue Goodyear (scarecrow); Susan Labuda Schrop (ghost #1); Dinah Fedyna, M.D. (devil); Sherry Harrison (ghost #2), Darsita Weber (witch); Joanne Fabick (ghost #3); and Carol McQuown (alien). Ghost #4 in the background refused to be identified.

Presentations and Publications

Ellen J. Wagner, M.S., LuAnne Stockton, and Carol McQuown, R.N., M.Ed., presented “A Comparison of ICM Faculty with Other Raters of a Clinical Skills Assessment,” at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Predoctoral Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 27-30.

On Friday, March 24, several members of the family medicine staff attended the 12th Annual Faculty Development Workshop co-sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) and the Case Western Reserve University Department of Family Medicine. Following the workshop, the OAFP sponsored the Resident/Student Retreat Saturday and Sunday, March 25-26. Laurie Zupp, program coordinator, and NEOUCOM students Lisa Schroeder and James Borchers (M4); and Lauren Giammar and Jaime Hartung (M2) attended the retreat. The workshop and retreat were held at the Wyndham Dublin Hotel in Columbus. Faculty Development presenters included:

- Susan Labuda Schrop, M.S., and Ellen Whiting, “Longitudinal Faculty Development Programs to Enhance Knowledge, Skills and Relationships: You Can Offer One”
- Dinah M. Fedyna, M.D., and Ellen Wagner, M.S., “Completing the Education Loop Using a Sophomore Assessment”

Valerie Gilchrist, M.D., recently authored a chapter, “Abuse of Women,” in *Twenty Common Problems in Women’s Health Care*.

Research Review

The Office of Research is nearing the end of its initial year of the evidence-based medicine (EBM) curriculum, which is required of all PGY2 family practice residents in the consortium. Participants in the curriculum presented critically appraised topics (CATs) in an afternoon workshop at NEOUCOM on Wednesday, March 22, 2000. CATs are an analysis of the scientific evidence available for a particular clinical question concerning an aspect of patient care. During the workshop, residents attended a pharmaceutical lecture presented by Timothy Brown, Pharm.D., Akron General Medical Center, and participated in a discussion concerning EBM barriers.

The Department of Family Medicine received funding from NEOUCOM to host a number of summer fellowships this year. The fellowship projects, coordinators and project descriptions are:

“Physician Activities During Time Out of the Examination Room,” coordinated by Bill Smucker, M.D. (Summa), Ken McCormick, M.D. (Barberton), Keith Werstler, M.D. (Aultman), Bridget King, M.D. (AGMC), Brian Selius, D.O. (St. Elizabeth), and David Nickerson, D.O. (Forum Health), through direct observation will examine physicians’ behaviors in their offices outside of direct patient contact. The activities have important patient care and economic implications.

“Decisional Balance in Smokers Attending Clinics for the Underserved,” will be coordinated by Susan Labuda Schrop, M.S., and Karen Gil, Ph.D. The study will examine patients in underserved populations and their willingness to change behavior and evaluate the pros and cons of cigarette smoking.

“End-of-Life Issues Among Family Practice Patients,” part of a larger study to determine if discussion of advanced directives can be increased through an intervention aimed at physicians, will be coordinated by B. Adam Shames, M.D. (PGY2, St. Elizabeth). The study is designed to determine the baseline rate of advanced directives among patients 65 and older.

Fellowship inquiries should be directed to Pat McCarter in the Office of Academic Services. The NEOUCOM Summer Fellowship Poster Day is scheduled for Sept. 6, 2000.

Help on research questions and projects at the family practice centers should be directed to the faculty research representative at each center: Bill Smucker, M.D., Summa; Bridget King, M.D., AGMC; Allison Oprandi, M.D., Aultman; Ken McCormick, M.D., Barberton; David Nickerson, D.O., Forum Health; and Brian Selius, D.O., St. Elizabeth. Issues concerning the Office of Research can be directed to Gary McCord, M.A., or Valerie Gilchrist, M.D., at the NEOUCOM Department of Family Medicine. We always are looking for good research ideas. If you have an idea, please send it our way. You can e-mail Gary McCord at gmccord@neoucom.edu, Valerie Gilchrist at vgil@neoucom.edu or call the department at (330) 325-6772.



Chair's Corner

"There are three areas of information management in which all physicians, but especially primary care physicians and most importantly family physicians, are masterful."

Valerie Gilchrist, M.D.
Chair, Department of Family Medicine

Struggles for the Millennium

As I write this column for the first issue of *Family Ties* in the year 2000 I am inspired to reflect about both our position as physicians and most importantly, as family physicians.

Family medicine is both new and old — the "old time" family doc took care of everything, but family medicine also is one of the youngest specialties in the United States. Looking back at our departmental history, Susan Labuda Schrop and I had the occasion to review the past chairs of this department. I thought you would be interested in seeing the list.

Edward J. Shahady, M.D.	Charter Chairperson	1974-75
John P. Schlemmer, M.D.	Chairperson	1976-79
David L. Hoff, M.D.	Acting Chairperson	1979-80
Chris D. Marquart, M.D.	Chairperson	1980-84
Robert A. McArtor, M.D.	Chairperson	1984-92
Jay C. Williamson, M.D.	Acting Chairperson	1992-94
Anthony J. Costa, M.D.	Acting Chairperson	1994-96
Mark A. Penn, M.D., M.B.A.	Acting Chairperson	1996-97
Valerie J. Gilchrist, M.D.	Chairperson	1997-present

I have known these people, and I don't think our focus has changed much over the years. NEOUCOM was born of a need for medical care in northeastern Ohio. The pioneers wanted to provide family physicians for everyone. This remains a department goal.

But what is the role of the family physician in the coming millennium? It sometimes seems that the day-to-day care of peoples' problems is much less glamorous than being the "expert." (It certainly is not as well compensated.) However, as information systems become integral to patient care, our talents as communicators and our ability to manage information on behalf of our patients will ensure our pivotal position in the health care system.

What do I mean by managing information? There are three areas of information management in which all physicians, but especially primary care physicians and most importantly family physicians, are masterful.

The first area is the ability to gather information from and about the patient. This includes what might traditionally be called history taking skills and physical examination skills. Gathering information also includes a wealth of testing and investigation tools. Choosing those tests wisely with concern for patient risk – physical, psychological and financial – will be aided by expert systems but will be made in the context of our personal knowledge of that patient.

The second area of information management involves working with others on behalf of our patient. Most family doctors now practice in partnerships or groups. Family doctors are now no longer solo. We advocate and coordinate care for patients in complex systems. We must be able to ask for help from and equally disagree with the "experts" if it is not in the patient's best interest or not what the patient wants.

The third area of information management is translational. It is our ability to apply general information to a specific patient at a specific time in his/her life. This is where we become the experts. This is when the value of continuity becomes evident. Our context is the life of our patient, not the cancer or the diabetes.

Tom Schwenk, chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Michigan State University, summarized this nicely in a recent editorial:

I frequently see patients who describe vague symptoms and immediately ask for a referral to a specialist, often when they tell me so little that choosing a specialist would be impossible. Patients need me to sort out their health care needs, to clarify what is vague, to treat what is common, to diagnose what is serious, to look past the obvious to the hidden and subtle. They need me to understand their values about health care matters, to present and negotiate priorities regarding potentially serious diagnostic and treatment plans, to explain that the explosion of medical knowledge and technology is not always perfect, to predict the cascade of unintended consequences, to answer the questions that they forgot to ask others, to try simple things first because complex solutions can be unnecessarily dangerous.

So the next years, I believe, will reaffirm our patient-oriented values. Information systems will be another stethoscope making the broad medical basis of care more audible and accessible. It will allow us to enjoy even more the the unique personal melodies of our patients.



What's Up Predoc?

Pathway Update

We are excited about the second year of the Family Practice Advising Program (FPAP) as we watch the number of mentoring teams increase from eight teams to 22. Resident family physicians from each of our six consortium family practice residency programs are matched with medical students (see cover story). The mentoring teams are:

Barberton Citizens Hospital

Carrie Cannato (M2)/Cindi Croft, D.O. (PGY3)
Jaime Hartung (M2)/Feresthe Khavari, M.D. (PGY3)
Janine Zinz (M3)/Anu Munshi (M1)/Michael Sevilla, M.D. (PGY2)
Eugene Lee (M2)/Ashwin Pai-Dhungat, M.D. (PGY3)
Corrilynn Olesky (M1)/Adam Bihl, M.D. (PGY3)

Aultman Hospital

Darlene Eckert (M3)/Jessica Falvo-Lang, M.D. (PGY3)
Nadia Bajwa (M3)/David Mallamaci, M.D. (PGY3)
Emily Kimble (M1)/Vesna Tomovich, M.D. (PGY2)
Jill Parrish (M1)/Ron Quang, M.D. (PGY2)
Stacy Kim (M1)/Mihir Modi, D.O. (PGY2)
Kemmely Hernandez (M1)/Patrick Furness, M.D. (PGY2)
Melody Hu (M1)/Diana Wack, M.D. (PGY2)

Summa Health System

Margaret Tsai (M2)/David Dulle, M.D. (PGY2)

Forum Health

Pete Varlas (M3)/Medford Mashburn, M.D. (PGY3)
James Kravec (M2)/Glenn Ray, M.D. (PGY3)
Mark Rea (M2)/Adrian Ieraci, D.O. (PGY2)

St. Elizabeth Health Center

Thomas Macabobby (M2)/Asheesh Pai-Dhungat, M.D. (PGY3)
Bruce Arthur (M1)/B. Adam Shanes, M.D. (PGY2)
Maggie McDaniel (M2)/Alexandra Christodoulou, M.D. (PGY2)
Deborah Sauder (M1)/Elizabeth George, M.D. (PGY2)

Most recently, the FMIG hosted its 6th Annual "International Night" festival on Feb. 23. More than 100 people attended and nearly 40 students participated in the program. With a theme of "A Flight Around the World," the program included the traditional fashion show, a presentation by students who traveled to Hungary as part of the University of Pécs exchange program, guitar performances and a variety of native dances and readings. Jaime Hartung (M2), FMIG treasurer, chaired the event and spent many hours organizing the festival, and Lisa Schroeder (M4), FMIG president, emceed the program. Many thanks to the faculty, staff and students who supported the program.



The Pathway Office sponsored a trip for seven NEOUCOM students to attend the Northeast Regional Meeting of the STFM, Oct. 8-10, in Syracuse, NY. Alan Anthony, Vic Patel, Sandeep Sheth, Ali Merchant, JoAnn Kathy Lee, Jaime Hartung and Deborah Sauder attended the conference.

The FMIG hosted two events in October – a brown bag discussion on "Medical Hypnosis," facilitated by Daniel Zellig, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., A.A.M.H., and a "Family Health Month" panel presentation by Anthony Costa, M.D., Allison Oprandi, M.D., and Janice Spalding, M.D.



The weather in San Antonio was quite unseasonably cold for DOFM program coordinators who traveled to Texas for the STFM Predoctoral Conference Jan. 27-30. Pictured are Ellen Wagner (l), Laurie Zupp (r) and LuAnne Stockton (top) wearing parkas that fortunately accompanied them to Texas.

Calendar

April 13	NEOUCOM Family Practice Residency Fair
April 25, 27	ICM Clinical Skills Assessment
May 2	
May 3-7	STFM Annual Spring Conference, Orlando
May 12-13	FAME: Session Four (Aurora Woodlands)
May 19	NEOUCOM Senior Class Day
May 20	Commencement, Class of 2000
May 24	11th Annual Family Practice Scholarship Day
June 29	Clerkship Director EBM Session



For Your Professional Development

September 1999

ICM seminar leaders attended a half-day session to improve group facilitation skills and student evaluation of medical interviews. They appreciated the opportunity to watch student videotapes and compare ratings with other seminar leaders.

Five faculty are this year's 21st Century Thinking Fellows: Robert Brophy, M.D., Barbara Freshley, M.D., Laura Novak, M.D., Janice Spalding, M.D., and David Wakulchik, M.D. Six sessions – December to May 2000 – were planned to present topics related to faculty goals and dilemmas including effective teaching skills, managing institutional change, longitudinal residency curricula, behavioral change and prioritization skills. Dona Harris, Ph.D., East Carolina University, has served as an outside resource and mentor. During the last session, she will provide feedback on presentation abstracts and discuss scholarly progress.



Robert Brophy, M.D. (l), models effective teaching skills to Janice Spalding, M.D. (r), as she learns guitar chords during 21st Century Thinking in December.

Members of the Faculty Development Outcomes Group (FOG) include family medicine faculty Anthony Costa, M.D., Dinah Fedyna, M.D., Valerie Gilchrist, M.D., Susan Mercer, M.D., Allison Oprandi, M.D., William Smucker, M.D., Lonnie Hammond, Ph.D., and Sebastian Diaz, Ph.D., director of academic services. The group has generated a list of skills that family physicians in our consortium consider to be essential for academic effectiveness. Rebecca Henry, Ph.D., Michigan State University, provided her expertise to the group. Costa and Mercer will pilot the assessment tool with their faculty to help them identify needs and set a personal faculty development plan.

October 1999

The first of four Fellowship in Academic Medicine (FAME) weekends was held at the Aurora Woodlands Hotel. Seven participants began their fellowship by composing educational philosophies and projects. During the first session they learned about feedback and evaluation, cross-cultural awareness and instructional theory from local and visiting faculty.



Frank Stritter, Ph.D. (center), FAME consultant, offers guidance to Teresa Wurst, M.D. (l), and Paul LeCat, M.D. (r), as they practice precepting skills.

February 2000

In conjunction with the Family Practice Advising Program, Bonnie Fox, Ph.D., was the invited speaker to present key qualities and skills for effective mentoring to residents and faculty on Feb. 16.



Ellen Whiting (l), program coordinator, and Susan Schrop, director of DOFM's Office of Faculty Development, were recognized for 20 years of service at NEOUCOM's Employee Recognition Day on Jan 19. Schrop also received the Community Service Award as part of the NEOUCOM employee recognition events.



From Around the Consortium

Several faculty from the **Aultman Hospital Family Practice Residency Program** are enrolled in faculty development programs. The faculty and programs (with expected completion dates of June 2000) are:

- Kevin Dieter, M.D., Keith Werstler, M.D., and Teresa Wurst, M.D. (NEOUCOM, Department of Family Medicine, FAME Educational Track)
- Robert Brophy, M.D. (NEOUCOM, Department of Family Medicine, 21st Century Thinking)
- Leigh Withnell, M.D. (Faculty Development Fellowship, Chapel Hill, North Carolina)

News to report from the **Barberton Citizens Hospital Family Practice Residency Program**:

- Congratulations to Ashwin Pai Dhungat (PGY-3) who was appointed to the AAFP Committee of Chapter Affairs for a one-year term. This position is one of 10 such appointments given to residents nationwide. This is truly a significant accomplishment by Pai Dhungat.
- The annual residency weekend retreat was held at the Mohican State Park Lodge Feb. 11-13 and included focused meetings on program issues as well as fun activities and games. Faculty, residents and families attended.

- J. Randall Richard, M.D., associate director, Laura Novak, M.D., assistant director, and Jon Elias, M.D., assistant director, each published a section in the *2000 Griffith's Five-Minute Clinical Consult*.



It is with great sadness that we report the untimely death of Bonnie Wilkoff Grossman, 49, wife of Steven D. Grossman, M.D., assistant director of predoctoral education in the Department of Family Medicine, and mother of two sons, Joshua, a student at Syracuse University, and Jeffrey of the home. Her death occurred on April 1, 2000, following a brief illness. Condolences may be sent to the Grossman family at 4570 Logan Arms Drive, Youngstown, Ohio 44505, or contact the Department of Family Medicine at (330) 325-6772 for further information.



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