Message

Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents, and Friends,

Welcome to our first departmental newsletter of 2007! Though we got a little bit of a late start, like winter this year, we will be back on schedule every month, and are, as always, eager to receive any contributions, feedback, or other information that you would like to share with the rest of the Department. This issue highlights recent news from the Division of Behavioral Science (p.1), takes the pulse of Pulse (p.4), and introduces you to several new departmental faculty and staff. Please also note recent publications and presentations, and especially noteworthy in its scope and local impact, the collective representation of DFSM/RPSM work at the annual Davidoff Education Day held at AECOM on January 30. Of the over 30 poster presentations selected for inclusion in the poster session on that day, over one third were presented by faculty and fellows of our Department and its affiliated programs, an incredibly impressive showing that was evident to all who attended. Congratulations to all who helped make this happen, especially Janet Townsend, Alice Fornari and everyone in the Division of Education who coordinated this effort.

We hope you will take a moment to read about some of what you and your colleagues are doing, and we look forward to seeing you again in March. Please also don't be shy, and be sure to let us know about anything you want to include for next time! And in the meantime, stay warm...

Divisional highlights and more

Behavioral Science by Dr. Eliana Korin

WHAT’S NEW IN BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AT THE RPSM

We were happy to welcome two new psychologists, Drs. Joanna Dognin and Josephine Minardo, whose contributions are already a major asset for the implementation of the behavioral science curriculum in Family Medicine. Joanna and Josie join Luz Towns-Miranda, PhD, Larry Dyche, ACSW, Charles Schwarz, MD, a most talented and diverse faculty, who work closely with me in developing and delivering curriculum for the RPSM and the DFSM.

The implementation of the behavior change curriculum has been a prime focus of the Behavioral Science program since last year. This effort is supported by the HRSA grant awarded to Family Medicine and has generated many initiatives, some of them also extended to Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. In the Family Medicine Residency, behavior change became an organizing curricular theme both in resident training and faculty development.

Both in Family Medicine and Internal Medicine (led by Larry Dyche), our primary efforts continue to be focused on developing resident’s competencies in the areas of

Welcome and farewells

Welcome! To Ms. Galina Moskaleva (replacing Yan Chai), Ms. Moskaleva most recently has been working for the Office of Decision Support with Montefiore’s CMO, and the AIDS Research Program. Ms. Moskaleva has an MS in Electrical Engineering, is a Systems Manager and Analyst and experienced SAS programmer. She works with large databases, helps plan the development of data management protocols, and has collaborated with junior faculty and principal investigators in collecting, managing, and analyzing data. She has also co-authored articles with a number of investigators.

Editors at large

Peter Selwyn, MD, MPH
Becky Williams, MD, MHPE
Mark Polisar, MD
Tami Rivera

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interpersonal and communication skills, patient care and professionalism. Through didactic sessions, individual and group review observation of encounters and home visits (IM), residents are taught and evaluated systematically.

In compliance with the ACGME competency-based guidelines, we have been collaborating with Mary Duggan, MD, Family Medicine Residency Director, Alice Fornari, EdD, and other colleagues in the Education Division and Family Medicine Residency in integrating behavioral science related skills and knowledge into the general competency-based evaluation forms. We led an effort to develop the Interpersonal and Communication Skills evaluation form and contributed in the development of the Patient Care and Medical Knowledge form.

The Behavioral Science unit continues to play an important role in the implementation of the Social Medicine curriculum. Our main goal has been to bring a “social medicine” perspective to the clinical encounter and to examine the interface of the personal and social dimensions of the physician’s work.

The Health Psychology Extern/Internship Training program (Family Medicine) attracts a significant number of candidates from the AECOM Ferkauff School of Psychology. This year we have a psychology extern working collaboratively – under Dr. Luz Miranda’s supervision - with residents at our Williamsbridge practice.

Dr. Eliana Korin is currently engaging with the program directors in Social Pediatrics (Dr. Peter Sherman) and Social Internal Medicine (Dr. Hillary Kunins) on an exciting Title VII residency training grant proposal, which will support interdisciplinary initiatives in behavioral science training.

Our faculty (Korin, Dyche and Schwartz) continue to collaborate at AECOM with the teaching of medical students and participation in several committees. Charlie Schwartz has been involved in the leadership of an initiative to involve primary care physicians in the teaching of the first year anatomy course, through online responses to anatomy team reports. The Behavioral Science faculty initiated and collaborated in several projects resulting in presentations at national meetings and preparation or acceptance for publication. Congratulations to Larry Dyche whose paper on “Interpersonal skill: The essential partner of verbal communication” has been accepted by the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

### Personal happenings

**Congratulations!** To Sandra Braganza quoted in a Newsday article today on children being able to determine real from the fake, i.e. Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. Article claims children begin to "sort it out" by the time they are three years old.

**In the Heights!** An Off Broadway Musical, previewed on January 9th and officially opened on February 8th at the 37 Arts Theater on 37th Street. The lead actor, composer and lyricist, is Lin-Manuel Miranda, son of Dr. Luz Towns-Miranda.

**Congratulations!** To Dr. Iman Sharif, quoted on the iParenting web site, www.toddlerstoday.com, on Toddlers and Curiosity.

**Congratulations!** To Melissa Tesher featured in the February 4th edition of the New York Daily News on NY physicians making house calls. The article also features CHAM specialist Dr. Alex Okun, and social worker Erin Lauinger.

**Congratulations!** To Dr. Hal Strelnick, Director of the Division of Community Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine, commenting in a NY 1 broadcast segment on a Lehman College mapping study showing high rates of asthma in areas of the Bronx due to air pollution.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

Assemblyman Dinowitz celebrated at the Annual Street Fair of the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District. He is pictured here with Councilman Oliver Koppell, B.I.D. founder Alice Kulick, Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa, Mosholu Preservation Corporation President Dart Westphal, musician Ray Rivera, community leader Gladys Valdivieso, and B.I.D. Executive Director Roberto Garcia.

It is our pleasure to announce that we have recruited Dr. Hillary Kunins to be the new Program Director for the Social Internal Medicine/Primary Care Residency Program, which we administer jointly with the Department of Internal Medicine. We are excited about the successful conclusion to our search process, and believe that Dr. Kunins is an outstanding candidate to take over the leadership of the program from the able and seasoned hands of Dr. Jerry Paccione. Dr. Kunins is a graduate of Swarthmore College, and received both her M.D. and M.P.H. degrees from Columbia University. She completed her residency training in primary care/internal medicine at Montefiore, staying on as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine, and then completed a fellowship in substance abuse at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She has worked since 2000 as Director of Women's Health Services in the Division of Substance at AECOM, and for the past several years has also been a research faculty member of the Division of General Internal Medicine, working closely with Dr. Julia Arnsten and other faculty in that group. She brings great energy, expertise, and experience in the areas of primary care, substance abuse, and women's health issues, and has also had considerable experience in the areas of health advocacy, activism, and policy. We are thrilled that Dr. Kunins will be joining us to help maintain, strengthen, and enhance our teaching programs, including developing the academic and research agendas in social internal medicine/primary care, and contributing to our efforts to promote cross-track integration and collaboration which are already underway. Dr. Kunins will be starting full-time in April, and will be involved in recruitment and other time-dependent activities well in advance of that time. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kunins to our department and residency programs.
Family Medicine

To the Montefiore/Pulse Community,

“Pulse” is delighted to ring in the New Year by welcoming its two new Poetry Editors, Cortney Davis and Johanna Shapiro, and by announcing that Jack Coulehan has also joined “Pulse” as its Senior Poetry Consultant.

Cortney Davis, our East Coast Poetry Editor, is a nurse practitioner and poet who resides in Redding, CT. Her books include “I Knew a Woman: The Experience of the Female Body” and two collections of poetry, “Details of Flesh” and “Leopold’s Maneuvers,” winner of the 2003 Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry. She is also co-editor, with Judy Schaefer, of two anthologies of poetry and prose by nurses, “Between the Heartbeats” and “Intensive Care.”

Johanna Shapiro, our West Coast Poetry Editor, is a psychologist and poet who is Director of the Program in Medical Humanities and Arts at the University of California, Irvine, College of Medicine. In addition to publishing widely as a poet, researcher and educator, she edits the column Uses of Literature and Arts in Medical Education in the journal “Family Medicine,” and is Poetry Editor for the journal “Families, Systems and Health.”

Jack Coulehan, our Senior Poetry Consultant, is an acclaimed physician-poet who is Director of the Institute for Medicine in Contemporary Society at Stony Brook University School of Medicine in New York. His books of poetry include “Medicine Stone,” “The Heavenly Ladder,” “First Photographs of Heaven,” and “The Knitted Glove.” In addition, he is co-editor with Angela Belli of two anthologies of poetry by physicians, “Blood and Bone” and “Primary Care.”

For those of you who have already submitted poetry to “Pulse,” our new Poetry Editors will soon be on the case and getting back to you. For those of

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Farewell! To Ms. Taneka Banks, who after being with the Department of Family and Social Medicine for the past 6 years has decided to expand her knowledge and experience and try a new venture in the Department of Dentistry. We wish her the very best in her new job!

For those who didn't know, Ms. Banks is a prolific poet, see below for her most recent poem:

“Let Me Take You There”
by Taneka Banks

Scarf tied on tight
Lip-gloss shining
Shoe Laces Hang-in
Jeans Fitted Just Right

Where Am I?
Hey Papi, may I get a honey turkey & cheese on a roll with a little mayo
— Oh… and don’t forget the light & sweet coffee and make it to go!

Where Am I?
Yo my Man, My man! Let me get a pack of extra large latex- lubricated ribbed condoms.
And gimme a box of Phillies with the chilly cherry flavor.
Hit me with a quick pick for a dollar and dream.
I’m about to make some one holla.

Where Am I?
Mister, Mister. Can I get bag of Lays Potato chips, a sour pickle and a pack of spearmint chewing gum with 2 Newport loosies please?

Damn. My Scarf is tied on too tight
Lip-gloss shining
Shoe Laces Hang-in
Jeans Fitted Just Right

Where Am I?
I’m on the corner at the Bodega …on your Block
And it is called
The Urban Under Served Community.
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you who are thinking of submitting poetry--or prose--please do! (See the two attachments for more details.)

One more piece of news: after considering many possible formats for “Pulse,” we are now leaning towards an e-newsletter containing one story and/or one poem mailed every week or two. These newsletters would be archived in a “Pulse” web site, along with other essays, responses to published pieces, and a blog.

We are working out the details, including the finances, of this undertaking. Please be in touch if you have ideas or suggestions.

For more information please contact Paul Gross at (718) 430-2900 or via e-mail at pgross@montefiore.org.

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**Funding Opportunity**

The Hispanic Center of Excellence through the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation announces the availability of funds to support two Pilot Projects. In November 2001 the Albert Einstein College of Medicine became the first Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) in New York State with a federal grant from the Division of Health Professions Diversity and Development. HCOE objectives include the promotion of research in Hispanic health and academic success for junior faculty interested in Hispanic health, especially members of under-represented minority groups.

Pilot Project grants are available for up to $10,000 (total costs) for the duration of one year; meritorious projects may qualify for a second year of funding based upon progress, productivity, and interaction with existing Center programs.

The pilot study project proposal should be no more then one to two pages long. (Proposals over five pages will not be considered.) Please structure the proposal as follows: Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, Method& design. Please include a biosketch professional (2 page limit).

Preference for awards will be given to applicants with research experience, those who have demonstrated an interest in health disparities, and those from under-represented minority groups (but not exclusive).

For more information and an application please contact Hope Spano (718) 430-2792 or via e-mail at hcoe@aecom.yu.edu.

Application Deadline in April 1, 2007.

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**Scheduled Highlights**

**Bronx Center to Reduce & Eliminate Ethnic & Racial Health Disparities (Bronx CREED)**

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Cordially invites you to a forum on Policies to Reduce Disparities in Child Health, being presented by Anne C. Beal, MD, MPH, Senior Program Officer, Quality of Care for Underserved Population at The Commonwealth Fund:

Date: Friday, February 16th, 2007
Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Place: Dean's Conference Room Belfer 303

Refreshments will be served
Please RSVP to BxCreed@aecom.yu.edu

**Save the Date! August 23-26, 2007**

Minority Women's Health Summit
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington DC