

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

DIVISION OF
Internal Medicine
News 
SUMMER • 2011

Two division groups rank high in US News and World Report Survey

US News and World Report's 2011 "America's Best Hospitals" survey ranked MD Anderson as No. 1 in the nation for cancer care for the third year in a row. Two departments within the Division of Internal Medicine received recognition. Gastroenterology ranked No. 22 and Diabetes and Endocrinology ranked No. 28 in their respective areas.

"Our dramatic and continual recognition in the top 25% reflects our outstanding clinical and research expertise in colon cancer and liver cancer prevention and treatment," says Lopa Mishra, M.D., chair, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

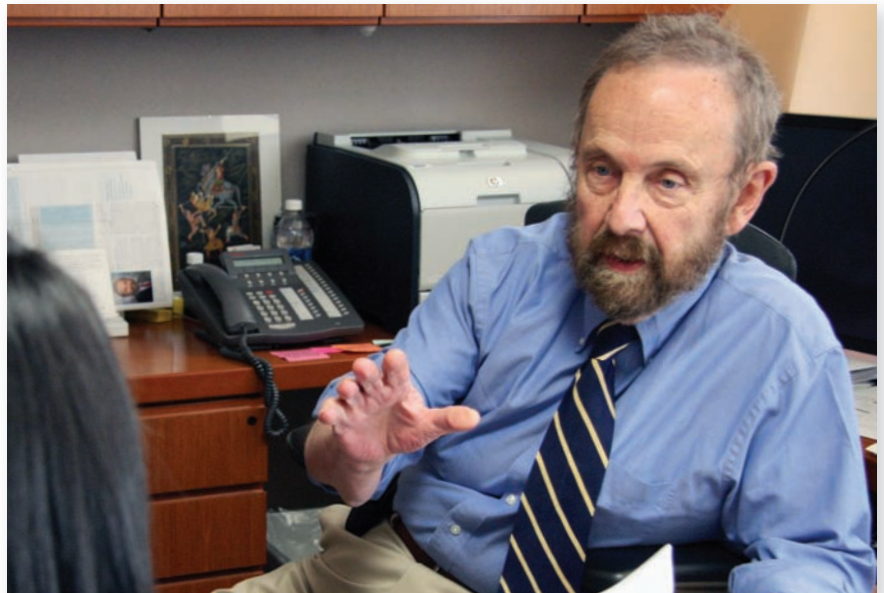
Steven Sherman, M.D., chair, Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, says endocrine malignancies in the U.S. are among the fastest-growing cancers being diagnosed. "Our aim remains to deliver research-driven diagnostic and treatment services to improve the lives of these patients here and around the world."

Geriatrics, Nephrology and Pulmonology were recognized as "high performing" in the survey. Although the groups were not in the top 25% of their respective areas, they met survey requirements for excellence.

According to Division Head Robert Gagel, M.D., "This recognition provides tangible evidence that our patients will not only receive excellent oncologic care, but also a high level of general subspecialty medical care – further improving their chances for a successful cancer outcome.

Cleeland leads effort to tackle toxicity from cancer treatments

Charles Cleeland has a passion for people who experience horrific side effects from their cancer treatment. He realized long ago that "the cure," although of paramount importance, is not the only relevant issue in treating patients with cancer.



As a result, Cleeland has devoted his career searching for ways to quantify the severity of cancer symptoms and understanding how both disease and treatment cause them. Patients often express a rather fatalistic belief that unpleasant symptoms are an inevitable part of cancer treatment, but Cleeland most definitely does not share this view.

"The type of integrated science that produces new pathways to treat cancer also can be employed to understand the toxicities and symptoms of cancer treatment," explains Cleeland, Ph.D., professor and chair of Symptom Research. "If we understood the mechanisms underlying these side effects, symptom management and even prevention would be possible."

It's only natural, then, that the toxicities produced by treatment have become an area of focus for Cleeland and his team, who collaborate extensively with other departments and divisions across MD Anderson and beyond. Their goal is to characterize the symptom burdens experienced by patients with cancer.

Cleeland, continued on page 2





The burdens that trouble them

Along the way, they've learned that fatigue, neuropathy, pain, mood changes, cognitive deficits, and organ damage are the main immediate and late-effect symptoms and toxicities of cancer treatment.

These symptoms and toxicities cause great distress to patients, limit their functioning both during and after treatment, cause premature treatment termination or dose reduction, and limit the development of new treatment options. At least one-third of cancer survivors have significant residual post-treatment symptoms.

"Better control of nausea and vomiting makes possible the use of cancer treatments that in the past were simply intolerable. We need to expand this control to the other toxicities and symptoms that lead our doctors and patients to reduce or stop treatments that would otherwise have a chance of curing, or at least controlling, cancer," Cleeland says.

More attention needed to improve outcomes

Cleeland is driven by the relative lack of recognition given to the severe symptoms experienced by large numbers of patients and survivors. He notes that, in contrast to the rapid progress in curative therapies, currently little systematic research is conducted on the mechanisms that cause treatment-related symptoms. Other efforts are needed to address the issue:

- development of preclinical animal models of symptoms
- phase I and II studies of symptom prevention and management
- creation of an evidence base for new and existing symptom-focused interventions through the clinical trials groups

Also, pharmaceutical industry interest in developing and testing agents that can address these problems is insufficient, says Cleeland, and Federal and foundation research support has been haphazard.

"The regulatory approval pathway for evaluating symptom benefit is evolving, and symptom benefit is being recognized by funding review panels," Cleeland says. "However, it is ill-defined and hard to demonstrate."

Colloquium creates synergy

To address some of these structural impediments to effective symptom and toxicity research, Cleeland recently convened a colloquium of high-level stakeholders in cancer research. They discussed ways to improve the prioritization of research in managing the symptoms and toxicities of cancer treatment.

Co-sponsored by The Friends of Cancer Research, a Washington-based policy think tank, the panel – oncologists, pharmaceutical and regulatory agency representatives, advocacy groups, and even patients themselves – identified the challenges that prevent progress toward reducing treatment-related symptom burden.

They developed a list of strategic steps to meet these challenges and are in the early stages of preparing a white paper to identify how to implement them.

Briefly, the panel identified these needs:

- Characterizing the cost-effectiveness of symptom management (a positive "business model")
- Quantifying the acute and long-term impacts of toxicities
- Developing new metrics and methods of analyzing existing data sources
- Monitoring patients beyond their participation in clinical trials (long-term data)
- Improving our understanding of the mechanisms of symptom production
- Supporting the efforts of patient advocacy groups with improved knowledge about treatment-related toxicities
- Connecting oncologists with the broader medical community to solve treatment toxicities, possibly including a new internal medicine subspecialty
- Identifying and advocating for new research funding streams

One panel member characterized the suffering patients endure from toxicities and symptoms related to cancer therapy as "an embarrassing failure." Creating the sea-change necessary to address the systemic issues identified above will require coordinated, dogged effort.

Cleeland hopes that he and his colleagues have made a start.



The Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence
Bone Disease Program
 of Texas

BCM
 Baylor College of Medicine

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Investigators and physician-scientists attend Bone Disease Program of Texas retreat

More than 100 investigators and physician-scientists gathered to discuss their research activities during the Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Bone Disease Program of Texas annual scientific retreat Friday, May 6, at the Marriott Medical Center Hotel.

Also, five finalists competed for the Lawrence Research Awards. This is the first year the program, a partnership between MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine, opened the competition to include program members from other academic institutions in the Texas Medical Center.

According to Dr. Robert Gagel, the program's co-director, the inclusion of other TMC scientists "energized the competition and resulted in many outstanding submissions."

Three winners, two from Baylor College of Medicine and one from The University of Texas Institute of Molecular Medicine, each received \$45,000 for their winning presentations.

MD Anderson's Chun-Do Oh, a postdoctoral fellow in Genetics, won second place in the Poster Awards.



A FEW WORDS from Dr. Gagel

Internal Medicine Division Head

2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the Division of Internal Medicine.

A decade ago, there was considerable deliberation about the necessity and wisdom of creating a separate Division of Internal Medicine. There also were vigorous debates about the necessity of creating a higher quality division focused on non-oncologic internal medicine.

At the end of a long and energetic discussion, MD Anderson President John Mendelsohn, M.D., made the decision to move forward with our creation. Since then, there has been an explosion of growth in all of the internal medicine subspecialties, making it possible for the division to provide outstanding quality of care across a broad spectrum of medicine.

“The excitement in the division has been palpable.”

In addition, the division has developed robust research programs with steady, consistent growth in research funding during the past ten years. To put it succinctly, we have become a more interesting and complex division.

The excitement in the division has been palpable. At least 10 new clinical programs have been developed over the past decade, providing a higher quality of care for our patient population than the institution previously offered. In addition, our burgeoning research programs are focusing on issues that are vital to patients with cancer.

Dr. Mendelsohn, we want to thank you for your trust and support. We have worked enthusiastically to grow and develop. We want you to know that we could not have done it without your support and help. Everyone in our division wishes you all the best in your new position, and hope you will view us with the same joy and pride we have experienced the past ten years.

Clinical research coordinators team up to collect symptom data

Efforts provide valuable clues to aid toxicity issues

Stella Rodriguez strolls down the long corridor to the General Oncology Clinic at Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) General Hospital. As she does, Rodriguez passes rows of clinic counters to her left and streams of faces to her right. The waiting areas, bulging with people, resemble an airline gate teeming with passengers ready to board an aircraft. LBJ, among the busiest hospitals in Houston, offers treatment to the city’s underinsured residents.

As Rodriguez scans the crowd, familiar faces bring her back home. She grew up near the hospital and is extremely grateful to be in a position to give back to the community.

“I feel so fortunate to have a stable job and a wonderful place to work that offers affordable health care,” says Rodriguez, a clinical studies coordinator in Symptom Research, who visits LBJ three times a week.



Lucy Balderas
and
Stella Rodriguez

Numbers game, personal touch

Rodriguez gives back by collecting data for toxicity studies. Currently, she and colleague Lucy Balderas have their arms wrapped around three distinct studies: one for prostate patients, another for sleep disorders and a third for those who experience depression.

Their first job is to enroll patients, some who readily want to participate and others who don’t.

“Those who enroll in the studies see it as a good thing and one that will help others in the future,” says Balderas, who also is a clinical research coordinator. Others, understandably, have plenty to deal with as they face their diagnoses and question their outcomes, she says.

Once a patient agrees to enroll in the study, Rodriguez or Balderas conducts a formal symptom assessment and then chats with the patient, asking:

- How do your symptoms affect your day-to-day routine?
- What advice could you offer to other patients going through this?
- What’s the best way to give information to patients?

Eventually, Rodriguez and Balderas will send the results to analysts, who dissect the information, prepare a report, and send it to the principal investigator. The end result will be a published article, which will clarify the data and, hopefully, offer suggestions to primary care physicians and fellows that could alter some of the patients’ most debilitating challenges.

“I find it a privilege to work with these patients, to listen and be part of their lives as they go through this difficult time,” Balderas says.

Recent happenings



Mendelsohn presents Kelsey Lecture at 2011 Research Retreat

Six finalists compete for Cyrus Scholar Awards



MD Anderson President John Mendelsohn, M.D., delivered the Mavis P. Kelsey Lecture to more than 200 attendees at the Division of Internal Medicine 2011 Research Retreat, Friday, May 20, in the Main Building, Anderson Conference Hall.

During his talk, “Personalized Cancer Treatment – The MD Anderson Experience,” Mendelsohn described targeted therapy over the past 100 years, from its inception in 1908 to more modern-day successes. This was among his final presentations as president of the institution.

Mendelsohn will be relinquishing his leadership role to Ronald DePinho, M.D., and will become co-director of the new Institute for Personalized Cancer Therapy, alongside Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D., who also chairs Systems Biology.

Research for the present and future

For the fifth year, junior faculty members competed for the annual Cyrus Scholar Awards. Of the 34 basic/translational and 48 clinical research abstracts submitted, three semi-finalists from each category, were selected to present their work at the retreat. The two winners, one from each category, will receive \$5,000 annually for three years to support their research work.

The recipient of the **2011 Cyrus Scholar Award in Basic/Translational Research** was **Shumei Song, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, Gastroenterology Research**. Her research is in the field of gastrointestinal cancers, which include hepatocellular carcinoma with a major emphasis on unraveling molecular mechanisms and targets that drive the initiation and progression of gastrointestinal cancer tumors.

“Detailed knowledge in molecular mechanisms of tumor progression and discovery of novel targets will enable us to develop novel strategies for early detection and management of this deadly disease,” Song explains.

Before Mendelsohn delivered his message, Robert Gagel, M.D., division head, Internal Medicine, presented a toast to him for his 15 years of service to the institution and his establishment of the Division of Internal Medicine ten years ago.



The recipient of the **2011 James S. and Suzanne Cyrus Scholar Award in Clinical Research** was **Jessica Hwang, M.D., assistant professor, General Internal Medicine**. Her work focuses on screening for hepatitis B infection in patients with cancer to prevent reactivation after chemotherapy.

“Patients with hepatitis B infection need to be identified in order to start preventative oral antiviral medication, which can prevent reactivation,” Hwang says. “However, patients at risk for hepatitis B are not being screened, and because of that, preventable reactivation occurs.”

The 2012 Research Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, and Friday, May 24.

Festival focuses on openness and trust sprinkled with fun

Angela Leong coached her blindfolded colleague Tina Bartie-Perkins as she fumbled for the correct block to construct a tower during the division's Building Trust Festival Friday, May 6, in the Rotary House. Child's play you say? Well, not exactly.

Members of the division administration office showed a colorful tower design to Leong, a clinical nurse in the Internal Medicine Center. Her job was to guide Bartie-Perkins, coordinator, Lead Services, Internal Medicine Center, to build the tower in three minutes or less. The message behind the madness was to encourage the importance of communicating clearly.

"You don't realize how important your choice of words, instruction or form of communication can be when working with others," Leong says. "When you're pushed for time, as we were in the game, it really added stress. I had to think quickly before speaking so that my instructions came out clearly."

Antics part of division's Anderson Award

More than 200 employees visited this booth and six others created by members of all nine academic departments and four clinical centers. The festival was the division's major effort to meet its 2011 Anderson Award of improving trust and openness in the workplace.

According to event co-chair Jeremy Viles, clinical administrative director, Cardio-pulmonary Center, division leadership decided to focus on these two areas on the basis of results from the recent employee opinion survey.

Viles and his Cardipulmonary team zeroed in on the goal with the Sharing Booth, in which employees shared unique insights about themselves. "For example, Dr. (Knox) Todd shared details about his musical background that were a complete surprise to those around the booth," Viles said.

Stay out of communication "dog house"

In another booth, employees representing Emergency Medicine, Cardiology, Dermatology and Pulmonary Medicine displayed a "Spot On Recognition" theme. This peer-to-peer recognition program is designed to increase employee engagement, encourage healthy competition and yield greater performance from employees. Oh, yes, mascot Spot the Dog held down the fort, or rather, dog house.

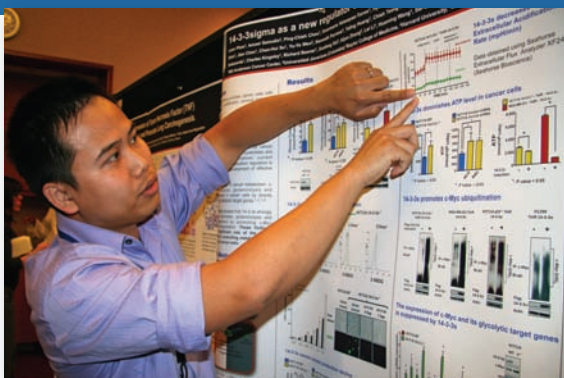
Plenty of other prizes were offered at each booth as takeaway items, along with the overall goal of presenting ideas to teach trust and openness.



Shumei Song, M.D., Ph.D.



Jessica Hwang, M.D.



The remaining 76 junior faculty members competed in the Best Poster Session, Thursday, May 19. Four winners, two in Basic/Translational Research and two in Clinical Research, each received \$500:

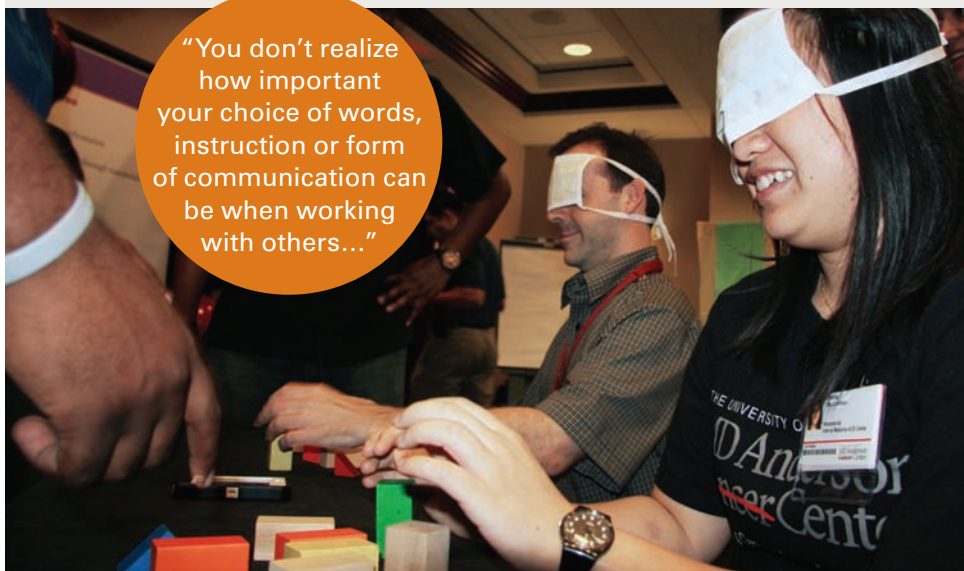
- **Basic/Translational Research**

Cesar Ochoa, postdoctoral fellow, Pulmonary Medicine, and Samuel Shelburne, M.D., assistant professor, Infectious Diseases

- **Clinical Research**

Holly Holmes, M.D., assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, and Xin Shelley Wang, M.D., associate professor, Symptom Research.

"You don't realize how important your choice of words, instruction or form of communication can be when working with others..."



New Leadership

Kontoyiannis new deputy division head



Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., professor, Infectious Diseases, has been named to the position of deputy division head in the Division of Internal Medicine. Kontoyiannis holds a Master of Medical Science from Harvard Medical School in Boston, and a Doctor of Science from the University of Crete in Greece. He completed a research fellowship at MD Anderson and a residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of

Medicine in Houston, where he also was chief resident.

In addition, Kontoyiannis completed a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, a research fellowship in Yeast Genetics at the Whitehead Institute at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston and a fellowship in the Clinical Investigation Training Program at Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology.

In his position as a faculty member in Infectious Diseases, Kontoyiannis has worked on translational research involving fungal infections. In addition, he has created novel experimental models to study fungal disease and conducted clinical trials on therapy of fungal disease in immune-compromised patients.

"This broad experience will provide Dr. Kontoyiannis with the appropriate background to pursue his new role as deputy division head," says Division Head Robert Gagel, M.D., "where he'll focus on development of basic, translational and clinical research. We are excited he has agreed to tackle this important effort."

Helmke and Evans temporarily take on dual roles



Joel Helmke was appointed division administrator ad interim on May 23. Helmke, division administrator in Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences since Jan. 1, 2009, joined MD Anderson in 2000.

Before his appointment as division administrator in Cancer Prevention, he served as department administrator in Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology. He's also worked as ad interim program director and clinical business manager at MD Anderson, the University of Texas Medical Branch and

The Methodist Hospital.

Since taking over the ad interim position, Helmke has met with division leadership and overseen the development of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget to ensure the division is fiscally fit.

"This is a terrific division full of great people doing exceptional work for cancer patients," Helmke says. "I consider it a privilege to be able to assist Dr. Gagel in the interim."



William Evans has assumed the role of medicine department administrator ad interim of Emergency Medicine, pending the hiring of a full time administrator. Evans, medicine department administrator in Dermatology since 2004, has also served as ad interim administrator for Symptom Research and Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. Evans joined MD Anderson in 1999 as a management analyst in Business Development.

He quickly moved to a managerial role in Finance, specifically overseeing the Physicians Referral Service.

With more than 25 years experience in health care administration/management, Evans is eager to provide guidance to Knox Todd, M.D., chair of Emergency Medicine, which became the ninth department in the division in September 2010.

Team Dermatology accepts BeFit pedometer challenge

Team Dermatology stepped out to accept the BeFit Walk Well Departmental Pedometer Challenge and stepped ahead of more than 160 other teams throughout the institution, placing among the top 20.

The goal of the challenge was for teams to double their averages the last two weeks of the contest, which ran from May 23–June 17. Team Dermatology met the challenge, accruing more than 1.2 million steps.

"We have a small department compared to others, and it was wonderful having as many team members volunteer as we did," says captain Betty Spears, program coordinator.

Joining Spears in the effort were Rakshandra Talpur, senior research scientist; Meg Goswami, research assistant I; Elena Vess, senior administrative assistant; Rose Balderas, senior administrative assistant; Lotika Singh, rotating resident; Christine Yu, senior financial analyst; Susan Chon, M.D., assistant professor; Madeleine Duvic, M.D., professor and deputy chair; Carol Drucker, M.D., associate professor; and Chad Tremont, research assistant I.



Promotions

Cardiology

- Mohammed Bari, clinical business manager, Cardiopulmonary Center
- Terri Garza, senior administrative assistant
- Linval Henry, coordinator, Patient Services, Cardiopulmonary Center

Dermatology

- Carol Drucker, M.D., professor
- Michael Migden, M.D. associate professor

Emergency Medicine

- Joel Ackerknecht, executive assistant

Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders

- Michal Mullins, coordinator, Research Data

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

- Judith Ellett, grant program manager, Gastroenterology Research
- Lurtese Sherrell, senior administrative assistant
- Theda Williams, executive assistant

General Internal Medicine

- Nadia Mosqueda, senior administrative assistant

Internal Medicine

- Kirk Nealy, office manager, Division Administration

Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health

- Margo Meave, senior administrative assistant

Pulmonary Medicine

- Gloria Torres, executive assistant

Spotlight on Research



Cardiology

Edward T. H. Yeh, M.D., chair, Cardiology, was awarded a \$1.84 million research grant over five years from the Cancer Prevention Institute of Texas (CPRIT). Yeh's research will focus on discovering the mechanisms by which chemotherapy damages the heart.

Dermatology

Madeleine Duvic, M.D., professor and deputy chair, Dermatology, is part of a multidisciplinary tumor cell (T-cell) group working to improve the cure rate of patients with peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL).

Sophia Rangwala, a Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) medical student and research intern in Dermatology, received two Medical Student Grants from the American Skin Association (ASA) and the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society for translational studies of HDAC inhibitors in cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (CTCL).

Emergency Medicine

Knox H. Todd, M.D., professor and chair, Emergency Medicine, completed a study which examined interventions to improve emergency department-based palliative care at three sites in New York City. Results of this study will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.

Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders

Robert Gagel, M.D., division head and endocrinologist, was a national investigator, and **Mimi Hu, M.D.**, assistant professor in Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, a local investigator, for the Phase III study of vandetanib, the first drug approved for the treatment of medullary thyroid cancer. In December 2010, Gagel presented the results of the international trial to the FDA Advisory Panel, which subsequently approved the drug in April.

Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health

Javier Adachi, M.D., associate professor, Infectious Diseases, received a research grant from Global Academic Programs' Sister Institution Network Fund. His prospective translational research proposal is looking for microbiota (complete bacterial population) changes in the gastrointestinal microbiomes of leukemia patients, developing a novel area of research in cancer patients.



Samuel Shelburne, M.D., assistant professor, Infectious Diseases, was awarded a five-year, \$1 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Health. Shelburne's work will aim to fully characterize how a protein called catabolite control protein A affects the ability of group A *Streptococcus* to cause infection. This protein could serve as a target for the development of novel antibiotics.

Pulmonary Medicine

Roberto Adachi, M.D., associate professor, Pulmonary Medicine, received a five-year, \$1.28 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for his work, "Mechanism and Patho-Physiological Significance of Mast Cell Regulated Exocytosis."

Burton Dickey, M.D., chair and professor, Pulmonary Medicine, received a sub award on a one-year Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for "Rapidly Boosting Innate Immunity in the Lungs to Protect against Pneumonia."

Seyed Javad Moghaddam, M.D., assistant professor, Pulmonary Medicine – Research, received a four-year, \$750,000 American Cancer Society Award, effective July 1. The title of the project, "Dissecting the Role of Airway Inflammation in Lung Cancer Promotion," focuses on airway inflammation and its role in airway epithelial carcinogenesis.



David Ost, M.D., associate professor, Pulmonary Medicine, was awarded a two-year, \$50,000 MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant for his patient-oriented research, "Comparative Effectiveness of Bronchoscopic Interventions for Malignant Airway Obstruction."

Ost also has received a two-year, \$60,000 University of Texas (UT) System Grant for a collaborative effort with University of Texas San Antonio and the UT Health Science Center Houston for the development of a bronchoscopy registry.

Symptom Research

Javier Valenzuela, Ph.D., instructor, Symptom Research, recently was awarded a two-year, \$50,000 Cancer Survivorship Research Grant Award for his grant application, "The Role of Tryptophan Metabolism in the Chronic Fatigue Experienced by Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) Survivors."



Using baseline data from the American Cancer Society (ACS) Study of Cancer Survivors-I, **Qiuling Shi, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Symptom Research, examined cancer survivors with high symptom burden and identified risk factors associated with it. According to the study, 92% of survivors reported symptoms related to their cancer and/or treatments. The results were recently published in the journal *Cancer*.

Charles Cleeland, Ph.D., chair of Symptom Research, led a study that reported that lung cancer patients in public hospitals, which typically serve the poor and disadvantaged, are less likely to receive adequate treatment for pain and other symptoms than patients treated at a cancer center. Results of the study were reported in *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and *Reuters Health*.

Division of Internal Medicine News



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Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., deputy division head,
Internal Medicine; and Joel Helmke, division
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Milestones and achievements

Benign Hematology

The **Section of Benign Hematology** was named the 2011 Teaching Team of the Year by MD Anderson's fellows in hematology-oncology. This honor was given to Benign Hematology's three physicians – Vahid Afshar-Kharghan, M.D., associate professor, Michael Kroll, M.D., professor, and Thein Oo, M.D., associate professor, – for their outstanding dedication, commitment and leadership in cancer education.

Cardiology

Edward T.H. Yeh, M.D., chair, Cardiology, and his wife, Hui-Ming Chang, M.D., were selected 2011 Medical Honorees for the American Heart Association Heart Ball, Saturday, Feb. 5.



Jose Banchs, M.D., assistant professor, Cardiology, has been elected to the board of the Greater Houston Society of Echocardiography for 2011-2013. He also was named Faculty Member of the Year award by the UT Medical School Cardiology Fellows in their appreciation of his assistance in preparing them for their echocardiography boards.

Banch, director of the **Echocardiography Laboratory**, received word that the

lab attained comprehensive and commended accreditation by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories.

Elie Mouhayar, M.D., assistant professor, Cardiology, and medical director of **The Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory** received word the lab was granted accreditation in Carotid and Peripheral Arterial Testing from the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL).

Anecita Fadol, Ph.D., advanced practice nurse, spoke at two seminars, April 25-27, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: the International Critical Care Conference and the Critical Care Nursing Conference.

Emergency Medicine

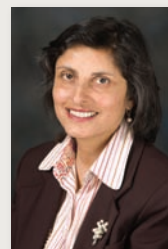
Knox H. Todd, M.D., professor and chair, Emergency Medicine, led the Clinical Centers of Excellence (CCOE) award selection process for the American Pain Society. Five pain management programs received the coveted CCOE award at the society's annual meeting in May.

Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders

Steven Sherman, M.D., chair, Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders assumed the leadership of the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) at a meeting last May in Baltimore, Md.

Montserrat Ayala, M.D., postdoctoral fellow in Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, was named among the recipients of Women in Endocrinology Young Investigator Award.

Victor R. Lavis, M.D., professor, Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, was named Physician of the Year by the Houston chapter of the American Diabetes Association.



Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Lopa Mishra, M.D., chair of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, led a breakout session during the annual Global Academic Program Conference, Wednesday, June 1. **Patrick Lynch, J.D., M.D.**, professor, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, also was among the speakers.

General Internal Medicine

Carmen Escalante, M.D., chair, General Internal Medicine, received an Alice Hamilton Awards Honorable Mention for her evaluation of the effects of exposure to anti-neoplastic drugs on health care workers at three U.S. university-based cancer centers.

Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health

Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., deputy division head and professor, Infectious Diseases, was keynote speaker for the 50th anniversary of the Deutschsprachige Mykologische Gesellschaft (German Speaking Mycological Society), June 17, in Essen, Germany.

Kontoyiannis will also deliver a lecture at Massachusetts General Hospital in September as part of a series of Grand Rounds celebrating the 200th anniversary of that institution.