

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

DIVISION OF

Internal Medicine News

FALL • 2010

New department, Emergency Medicine, launches in the Division of Internal Medicine

The Emergency Medicine department launched Sept. 1 as the ninth department in the Division of Internal Medicine, under the direction of Carmen Gonzalez, M.D., chair *ad interim*.

"The transition of cancer care from the inpatient to outpatient setting over the past 20 years has dramatically altered the need for emergency care at MD Anderson," says Internal Medicine Division Head Robert Gagel, M.D. In response to these changes, an Emergency Center was first established in the late 1980s. According to Gagel, "The first five dedicated emergency care physicians were hired in 1995, and since that time, there has been steady growth in patient volumes and growth in the faculty to 12 full-time physicians in the Emergency Medicine section in the General Internal Medicine department."

"The increasing complexity of emergency care, the need for research and education focused on specific types of oncologic emergencies and the need to include a broader spectrum of activities (pediatric, surgical, gynecologic, psychiatric, etc.) was an important component in the decision to create a separate Emergency Medicine department," Gagel adds.



- The department has 12 faculty members and one classified staff member. Recruitment is under way for a permanent department chair; *ad interim* leadership will be provided by
- Carmen Gonzalez, M.D., associate professor, above.

Emergency Medicine, continued on page 11

Internal Medicine sub-specialties ranked among best in the nation



US News and World Report's 2010 "America's Best Hospitals" survey once again ranked MD Anderson No. 1 in the nation for cancer care. Several MD Anderson subspecialties also were ranked, including two from the Division of Internal Medicine:

- Gastroenterology – No. 19 (Top rank in Texas)
- Diabetes & Endocrinology – No. 21 (Top rank in Texas)

These sub-specialties compete for a ranking among thousands of US hospitals.

"We are humbled by these awards and recognize they are a reflection of the superb contributions by a number of clinical departments, including Head and Neck Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Nuclear Medicine, Pathology, and basic science contributors, as well as many others who contribute to these programs," says Internal Medicine Division Head Robert Gagel, M.D.



Going ape over Cardiology

Kelly is an orangutan and a special patient for Jose Banchs, M.D., assistant professor, Cardiology, and Liza Sanchez, supervisor, Cardiovascular Laboratory, who were contacted by the Houston Zoo earlier this year about volunteering.

"It's amazing how similar an orangutan's heart is to a human's heart. This allows us to accurately perform echocardiograms and ultrasounds during the animal's annual checkup," says Banchs, an expert echocardiographer.



"Our echocardiogram revealed that Kelly has a healthy heart." According to Zoo veterinarian Lauren Howard, zoo vets have a general medical knowledge about a variety of animal species; however, don't typically have the advanced training required to perform complicated cardiology exams. "The cardiologist's expertise gives us security that we can get our animals on treatment before they get sick," Howard says. "Just like humans, great apes are living longer, and with that, comes heart problems similar to those experienced by elderly humans."

Kelly is one of four animals MD Anderson cardiologists have examined thus far. Another orangutan Banchs and Sanchez examined was found to have a heart abnormality that will require treatment.

"We can learn a lot from the imaging of these majestic animals," says Banchs, who hopes to have a long-term community-service partnership with the Zoo. "One of the things I love in life is learning – I'll never turn down an opportunity to learn and give back at the same time."

Pacemaker and Defibrillator Clinic moves to Cardiopulmonary Center

The Cardiopulmonary Center now houses the Pacemaker and Defibrillator Clinic. The move consolidates pacemaker services into one location. Previously, routine maintenance and checks for Cardiology patients were performed in the Cardiopulmonary Center, while Anesthesia performed evaluations for surgery in the Anesthesia Assessment Center. Both Cardiology and Anesthesia now offer their services in one convenient location for MD Anderson patients.

Services provided include:

- Pacemaker and defibrillator management
- Evaluation of patients undergoing surgery, invasive procedure, or new cancer treatment
- Evaluation of pacemaker patients undergoing radiotherapy or chemotherapy
- Routine cardiac device maintenance

To make an appointment, call 713-745-7223 (Ext. 5-PACE) or 713-792-4017. The Cardiopulmonary Center is located in the Main Building, Floor 6, near Elevator C. For more information, contact Jeremy Viles, clinical administrative director, Cardiopulmonary Center, 713-794-1987.

Thoracentesis Clinic coming soon

A new Thoracentesis Clinic has been developed in the Cardiopulmonary Center to expedite patient access and care.

"Many times patients have accumulated pleural fluid necessitating thoracentesis within a 48 hour period. This new service is designed to streamline the process of providing this service for non-emergent patients," explains Lara Bashoura, M.D., assistant professor in Pulmonary Medicine and associate director of the Cardiopulmonary Center.

Pulmonary Medicine's Emily Knochel, physician assistant, and Andrew Larson, advanced practice nurse, will serve as the points of contact for this service.

"The clinic also will serve to decrease the number of patients with pleural effusions requiring evaluation at the Emergency Center," Knochel says.

The Thoracentesis Clinic is intended for stable outpatients and is not appropriate for inpatients or emergencies.

The clinic opens in November 2010. Services will be offered Monday–Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Cardiopulmonary Center, Main Building, Floor 6, near Elevator C.



A FEW WORDS from Dr. Gagel

Internal Medicine Division Head

Over the last several months, we have begun to digest and analyze results from the Employee Opinion Survey. The results show that Division of Internal Medicine employees are committed and dedicated to their work and to providing important services to patients with cancer.

It also uncovered some unsettling trends. The first is a yearning for mentorship and the second is a lack of trust among employees. The second topic will be addressed in a future column.

Mentorship can be defined as a personal development relationship in which a mentor, a more experienced or knowledgeable person, helps guide the career development of a mentee, generally less experienced. This process is important and necessary, both for individual and institutional development.

Each of our divisional leaders credit one or more individuals who have been instrumental in their development. Sometimes these relationships are formal; other times they are unstructured. The important point is that a more senior and experienced individual takes a long-term interest in and provides insight for a mentee to help with career choices, specific management issues, or simple things such as balance between work and family.

I have had two mentors who influenced my life in important ways. These were two professors, one at Tufts Medical School and the other at Harvard Medical School, who provided me with thoughtful critiques of ongoing research and career development. Importantly, they were not just my mentors for the period of time that I was at these institutions. They made themselves available to provide ongoing career advice years and decades after I left to develop my own career.

Two faculty in the Division of Internal Medicine have been recognized this year for their mentoring skills. Dr. Maria Suarez-Almazor received the MD Anderson Distinguished Clinical Faculty Mentor Award and Dr. Steven Waguespack received the institutional Faculty Educator of the Month award. Both individuals have mentored by example; their efforts are recognized and applauded by their mentees.

Our goal in the Division of Internal Medicine is to encourage the development of such relationships across the broad spectrum of our employees. To this end, we have appointed Lisa Welsh-Skiffington, project director, Internal Medicine, as the Division of Internal Medicine mentoring champion. She will work with division leadership to develop a coordinated mentoring plan.

Each of us has something to contribute to someone who is less experienced. We should seek opportunities to share knowledge and be receptive to the growth and development needs of our less experienced colleagues and provide them with guidance and support.

The First International Conference on Cancer and the Heart

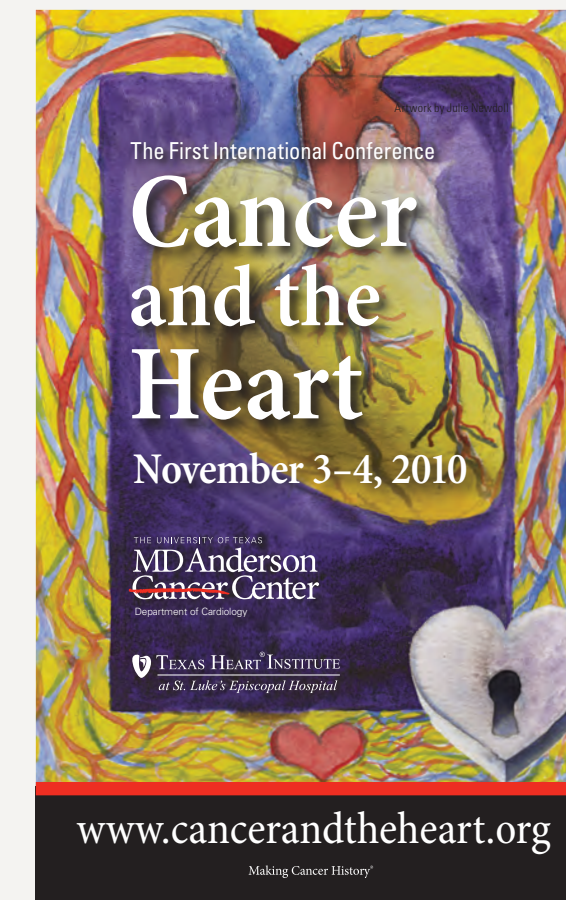
November 3-4, 2010

Organized by MD Anderson and the Texas Heart Institute

Cardiotoxicity of cancer therapy is an emerging field that requires close collaboration between the cardiovascular and oncologic community. The First International Conference on Cancer and the Heart will bring together international leaders in this field to advance our common goal through presentation of new discoveries, discussion of dilemmas in patient care and establishment of patient care guidelines.

The two-day conference will feature plenary lectures, panel discussions and a poster session. Basic research and clinical issues will be covered in this conference. Attendance will be limited to 150 participants.

For more information, contact Amy Heaton, project director, Internal Medicine, 713-745-6826.



www.cancerandtheheart.org

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New leadership

Loy Deloney was appointed division administrator *ad interim* on May 1.



Deloney joined MD Anderson in 2001 and has served as the fulltime department administrator in Pulmonary Medicine since 2007. Prior to that time, he served concurrently as administrator for the departments of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, Dermatology, and Pulmonary Medicine. He has more than 30 years of experience in the health care industry, with a primary focus on management and finance.

"I appreciate the opportunity to lead and serve, and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in the division," says Deloney, who enjoys working with people. "My goal is to help Dr. Gagel develop new programs that grow our clinical, research and educational goals. I also will work to facilitate the consideration and approval for all requests such as facilities asset requests and personnel action routing forms from the centers and the departments to maintain our momentum."

Most importantly, he's proud to represent Internal Medicine. "I love the mission of MD Anderson. I'm excited about our faculty, employees and trainees, and the difference we can make in the lives of our patients and colleagues," he says. "It takes us all pulling together."

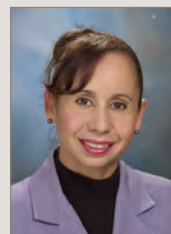
Steven Waguespack, M.D., is now the deputy chair of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders.

Waguespack says he looks forward to working closely with Department Chair Steven Sherman, M.D., to provide oversight of clinical affairs.

"I'll focus primarily on supporting our expanding clinical programs and operations," he says. "This will include our contributions to the multidisciplinary clinical effort in treating malignancies of the thyroid and other endocrine glands, our growing thyroid cancer survivorship efforts, and our inpatient and outpatient consultative activities in bone and mineral disorders, diabetes, and general endocrinology."

Waguespack came to MD Anderson in 2002 and holds a joint appointment in Pediatrics. His research contributions include bringing novel investigational therapies for pituitary tumors to our institution and leading a national effort in pediatric thyroid cancer.

Waguespack was honored with MD Anderson's Faculty Educator of the Month award for August 2010.



Carmen Gonzalez, M.D., was appointed chair *ad interim* for the newly created Emergency Medicine department.

(See page 1.)

Internal promotions for two department administrators



Rosi Gonzalez was promoted to medicine department administrator for Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health. She previously served as operations manager for the department since 2006 and has more than 20 years experience in operations management, human resource management, public relations and financial management.

"One of my primary goals is to develop the research component of our department and create a solid research infrastructure," says Gonzalez, who also serves on the institution's Diversity Council. "I have a passion for human resources, but what I enjoy most is the financial aspect, specifically the budgeting process."

Nyma Shah was promoted to medicine department administrator in Symptom Research. Prior to her promotion, Shah served as Symptom Research's program director. She has ten years experience in the health care industry, with a primary focus on medical product research and development.

"Quality of life for patients is our top priority. Our research focuses on alleviating and understanding the symptom trajectory during the course of therapy," says Shah, who leads the 30 employees in Symptom Research. "We're expanding to create a basic science lab where we can study symptoms associated with various treatments. Dr. Cleeland and I also would like to get the pharmaceutical industry more involved in our research. And, we hope to host a symposium where patients and patient advocates can speak directly about the symptoms they and their loved ones experience. This interaction will help our faculty understand the problems these patients experience, informing their research efforts."



Recent happenings

Bone Disease Program of Texas honored by National Osteoporosis Foundation

Bone Disease Program of Texas founders, Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence, were honored by the National Osteoporosis Foundation with an award for innovation in bone health awareness and osteoporosis prevention at its Silhouette Awards Dinner, held each May during National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month. "I am extremely grateful for the passionate care I received at MD Anderson," Lawrence says. "And I want more men to know they, too, are at risk, but that there is hope when it comes to reversing the crippling effects of osteoporosis."

The Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Bone Disease Program of Texas is a collaborative research, clinical and education program of MD Anderson and Baylor College of Medicine. The program was established in 2002 to improve basic and translational research of bone diseases and to convert basic science findings to more effective treatment and prevention options.



● Pictured above from L-R: Robert Gagel, M.D., division head, Internal Medicine and co-director of the Bone Disease Program; Berdon Lawrence, Bone Disease Program co-founder, Rolanette Lawrence Bone Disease Program co-founder, Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D., co-director of the Bone Disease Program, Baylor.

Gerald P. Bodey Sr., M.D., Distinguished Professor Lecture Series

The Gerald P. Bodey Sr., M.D., Distinguished Professor Lecture Series on March 26 featured Jean Klasterky, M.D., former head of the Department of Medicine at the Institut Jules Bordet in Brussels and Professor of Medicine, Medical Oncology and Physical Diagnosis at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles. He spoke on the topic of "Febrile Neutropenia: What we know today and what we still need to learn".

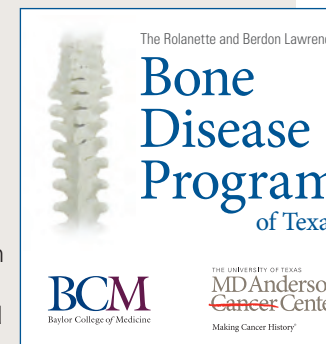
Pictured below from L-R: Issam Raad, M.D., professor and chair, Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health; Kenneth Rolston, M.D., professor, Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health; Jean Klasterky, M.D., Distinguished Professorship Award recipient; Gerald P. Bodey, Sr., M.D., professor emeritus, Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health; Nancy Bodey; and DahHsi Ho, Ph.D., professor emerita, Experimental Therapeutics



Bone Disease Program of Texas raises \$10 million for research

Berdon Lawrence and his wife, Rolanette, generously provided the first of two endowments for the Bone Disease Program of Texas in 2002. Donations for the program climbed to \$6 million over the last eight years. This year, additional gifts from donors and equipment grants from the Department of Health and Human Services helped the program meet its \$10 million fundraising goal.

The MD Anderson component of this funding is focused on bone health in patients with cancer and development of strategies to prevent the spread of cancer to bone.



Recent happenings

Record participation at annual Research Retreat

The 2010 Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat had a record 194 attendees and more than 90 abstracts were submitted.



Mark your calendar for next year's Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat Friday, May 20, 2011.

For the fourth year in a row, junior faculty members were eligible to compete for the annual Cyrus Scholar Awards. Out of 49 clinical and 40 basic/translational research abstracts submitted by junior faculty, one winner in each category was selected to receive \$5,000 annually for three years to support their research work. Distinguished judges included Raymond DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., provost and executive vice president; Robert Bast, M.D., vice president for Translational Research; Maurie Markman, M.D., former professor, Gynecologic Medical Oncology; Stanley Hamilton, M.D., division head, Pathology; and J. Gregory Fitz, M.D., dean, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

The recipient of the 2010 **Cyrus Scholar Award in Basic/Translational Research** was Scott Evans, M.D., assistant professor, Pulmonary Medicine. His work focuses on induced resistance to influenza A, which would harness the patient response to protect against pneumonia – a threat that seriously affects life expectancy in cancer patients.

The recipient of the 2010 **James S. and Suzanne Cyrus Scholar Award in Clinical Research** was Anne-Marie Chaftari, M.D., instructor, Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health. Her work focuses on novel approaches using antimicrobial catheters for catheter exchange in patients with catheter-related bacteremia, which would decrease mortality due to infection in cancer patients, decrease the rate of mechanical failure and therefore result in a better quality of care, and decrease health care cost.

The recipients of the American Federation for Medical Research Award for \$250 for the best poster by a fellow in each category are:

- Basic/Translational Research**
 John Manllo, M.D., Pulmonary Medicine, for his research, "Role of syntaxin-4 in mast exocytosis"
- Clinical Research**
 Kelechukwu Olejeme, M.D., for her research, "Prevalence of unsuspected venous thromboembolism on routine computed tomography scans in cancer patients"



J. Gregory Fitz, M.D., dean, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, gave the annual Mavis P. Kelsey Lecture. His presentation focused on "Re-thinking Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease." A portrait of Kelsey from his years working at MD Anderson was displayed.



Michael Cyrus spoke briefly on behalf of The Cyrus Endowment Fund, which gives two Cyrus Scholar Awards each year to promote development of basic/translational and clinical research skills in internal medicine.



Poster competition judges Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., professor and deputy chair, Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health, and Aarif Khakoo, M.D., assistant professor, Cardiology, discuss scientific posters with fellows competing for two awards sponsored by the American Federation for Medical Research.

A panel of distinguished judges selected three abstracts from junior faculty in each category (clinical and basic/translational) as finalists for the Cyrus Scholar Awards. Finalists pictured here (front row, L-R): Guilherme Oliveira, M.D., Cardiology; Juan Carlos Plana, M.D., Cardiology; Maria Cabanillas, M.D., Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders; Anne-Marie Chaftari, M.D., (winner) Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health; Scott Evans, M.D., (winner) Pulmonary Medicine; Shumei Song, M.D., Ph.D., Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; (back row, L-R): Seyed Javad Moghaddam, M.D., Pulmonary Medicine; Michael



Cyrus, founder of the Cyrus Endowment Fund; Robert Gagel, M.D., division head, Internal Medicine; Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., chair of the Internal Medicine Research Committee; Aarif Khakoo, M.D., vice-chair of the Internal Medicine Research Committee; Ketan Shah, Ph.D., director of research development and Research Retreat organizer.

Discovery Festival brings division together

Annual employee appreciation event and Anderson Award goal

The Discovery Festival on May 21 was the Division of Internal Medicine's annual employee recognition event. The event also was the major effort to help the division meet its fiscal year 2010 Anderson Award goal of encouraging improvement to employees' analytical and innovative thinking skills, as well as receptivity to change. Employees and faculty from all eight Internal Medicine academic departments and four clinical centers worked together to create booths with games, educational information, resources, prizes, food and more.

"Based on a career development survey distributed to the division, we learned that the skills our employees most want to improve are analytical and creative thinking skills. So, we designed the event to focus on those areas, as well as change management," explains Lisa Welsh-Skiffington, project director, Internal Medicine, and co-chair of the Discovery Festival.

More than 300 employees attended the event held in Rotary House. "What pure joy it was to see the smiles and hear the laughter of our colleagues at the Discovery Festival. I'm so proud to be associated with this group," says Kenneth Russell, accounting specialist, Cardiology, who donned an elephant costume at the event as part of the painting booth.

"One of my favorite parts about the festival each year is getting to collaborate with people from other departments within the division. Meeting colleagues that I might otherwise never have gotten to meet has been great fun—as has seeing our booths come to life and watching everyone enjoy the activities we planned," adds Jeanie Woodruff, coordinator of department publications, Symptom Research and Discovery Festival subcommittee chair.



Members of the "Analytical Thinking" area hosted a variety of brain-teasing games, such as scrabble, mazes and picture puzzles.



Employees tasted delicious creations at the cookie-making booth, part of the "Creative Thinking" area, which also included an art gallery and poetry corner.



Smoking cessation representatives shared information with festival attendees as part of the "Change Management" area, which included resources on how to deal with personal and work changes, as well as information on change at MD Anderson. The Wellness team also provided information on nutrition and fitness.

CARDIOLOGY

Jean-Bernard Durand, M.D., associate professor, Cardiology, was selected to serve as a Task Force Member for National Cancer Institute's Angiogenesis Task Force of Investigational Drug Steering Committee and was listed as a "Top Doctor in Houston" in H Magazine.

Aarif Khakoo, M.D., assistant professor, Cardiology, was named to the American Heart Association Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Council (Early Career Committee).

Susan Ray, senior financial analyst, Cardiology, completed her Masters of Business Administration degree.

Liza Sanchez, supervisor, Cardiovascular Lab, was chosen to serve on the American Society of Echocardiography's Guidelines and Standards Committee and also remains on the American Society of Echocardiography's Advanced Sonographer Taskforce.

Edward Yeh, M.D., professor and chair, Cardiology, was invited to present at the Joint Research Conference of the Institute for Advanced Studies, the Israel Science Foundation and the RUBICON-EU Ubiquitin Network of Excellence on: Biology of the Ubiquitin and the Ubiquitin-Like Systems. The title of his talk was, "SUMO-specific protease is essential for suppressing of polycomb group protein-mediated gene silencing during embryonic development."



Carmen Escalante, M.D., (center above) chair, General Internal Medicine, was nominated as an "Outstanding Alumna of Nicholls State University" in Thibodaux, LA. She was subsequently invited to deliver the commencement speech for the university in May 2010.

Asadullah Khan, M.D., (left above) renal fellow, was selected as the Nephrology Fellow of the Year, an honor which recognizes his contributions to patient care and scholarship. Pictured above from L-R: Khan, Carmen Escalante, M.D., professor and chair, General Internal Medicine; Abdulla Salahudeen, M.D., professor and chief, Section of Nephrology.

DERMATOLOGY

Sharon Hymes, M.D., professor, Dermatology, is now serving as vice president of the Texas Dermatology Society.

Rashid Rashid, M.D., resident, Dermatology, won third place for his oral presentation, "An unusual case of alopecia," at the Texas Dermatology Society 2010 Spring meeting.

Lisa Shiue, graduate research assistant, won second place in the abstract competition portion of MD Anderson's Trainee Research Day 2010. Her mentors are Xiao Ni, M.D., Ph.D. and Madeleine Duvic, M.D., also of Dermatology.

ENDOCRINE NEOPLASIA AND HORMONAL DISORDERS

Christina Michaelis, M.D., fellow, Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, won second place in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award competition for Clinical/Translational Research during MD Anderson's 2010 Trainee Research Day competition.

Anita Kuo Ying, M.D., assistant professor, Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, was accepted to the Association of American Medical Colleges Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar.

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE



Maria Suarez-Almazor, M.D., professor, General Internal Medicine, was selected as the first recipient of the MD Anderson Distinguished Clinical Faculty Mentor Award. She was chosen from more than 50 nominations from mentees. The prestigious award reflects MD Anderson's commitment to creating a culture of mentoring.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, INFECTION CONTROL AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH

At this year's National Influenza Vaccine Summit, MD Anderson won honorable mention in the health care personnel campaign category for the "Flu Fighter" employee influenza vaccination campaign. **Elizabeth Frenzel, M.D.**, director, Employee Health and Well-being, accepted the award. Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of participation and impact, collaboration, originality, overcoming challenges and opportunities.

INTERNAL MEDICINE CENTER

Internal Medicine Center nurses presented Evidence Based-Resource Unit Nurse (EB-RUN) posters as part of MD Anderson's annual Nurses Week.

Judy Keaveny, coordinator, diabetes education, and **Angela Leong**, outpatient clinical nurse, produced a poster on "Self Monitoring of Blood Sugar." **Linda Madison**, clinical nurse, submitted a poster presentation on the human papillomavirus, in collaboration with Gynecology.

Justina Omerhi, outpatient clinical nurse, and **Karen Bohannon-Johnson**, medical assistant, were accepted respectively to the RN-BSN cohort and MA-RN cohort programs, offered through Nursing's Workforce Development's Academic Nursing Cohort programs.

Marian Taylor, clinical nurse, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition (BSN) degree from The University of Texas at Arlington, as part of the RN-BSN cohort program.

GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY AND NUTRITION

Gottumukkala Raju, M.D., professor, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, was selected as chair of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy's Web Education Committee from June 2010 to 2014.

Spotlight on research

James Byrd, Ph.D., associate professor, Gastroenterology Research, was one of the first six recipients of MD Anderson's G.S. Hogan Gastrointestinal Cancer Research Fund grants for his work, "A circulating ligand for galectin-3 elevated in the serum of individuals with colorectal neoplasia: Prospective evaluation using a newly developed ELISA." The awards enable clinicians and basic scientists to conduct research in the field of gastrointestinal malignancies and allow investigators access to seed funds to develop pilot data that will enhance their ability to obtain additional funds from other peer-reviewed sources.

Vishnu Chintalgattu, Ph.D., M.D., research scientist, Cardiology, was selected for the New Investigator Travel Award at the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences 2010 Scientific Sessions – Technological and Conceptual Advances in Cardiovascular Disease. His abstract is titled, "The anti-cancer receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor sunitinib malate induces cardiac microvascular dysfunction and impairs the cardiac response to stress."



Arif Khakoo, MD., assistant professor, Cardiology, is principal investigator for a five-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) NHLBI R01 research grant. He received \$250,000 per year for his research, "Regulation of the paracrine angiogenic function of cardiac myocytes by cardiomyocyte PDGFR-β." Khakoo's

discovery has opened up a new line of scientific investigation to study how PDGFR activity in the heart muscle cells protects the heart under a variety of disease conditions and how activity of this receptor may be used to prevent and/or treat cancer-related and non-cancer related heart failure.

Khakoo also received a Clinical IRG Award for \$49,934 over a one-year period for his research proposal on "A microRNA signature to predict prognosis in patients with advanced heart failure."

In addition, **Khakoo's** application, "Dissecting the relationship between the development of hypertension and tumor response to anti-angiogenic cancer therapy," was selected for a \$150,000 Head and Neck SPORE Collaborative Development Research Program Award.



Burton Dickey, M.D., chair, Pulmonary Medicine, received a NIH U01 as co-principal investigator for his research, "Stimulated innate resistance of the lungs to bioterror pathogens," with a sub award for \$142,420 per year for five years.

As a co-principal investigator, **Dickey** received an NIH/NHLBI R01 for his research "Molecular pathways regulating airway goblet cell mucin secretion." The four-year award is approximately \$160,000 annually.

In addition, **Dickey** received a Multidisciplinary Research Program award from MD Anderson for his research, "Inducible innate resistance of the lung epithelium to infection." The award is \$250,000 over a three-year period and research will involve collaborations with The University of Texas Houston Medical School, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.

Dickey received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplement to a University of Houston R01 award. The award is for one year, effective July 1, 2010, with direct costs of \$215,586. The title of the research is "Mechanisms of beta-blocker induced improvements in asthma."



Madeleine Duvic, M.D., professor, Dermatology, and **Xiao Ni, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Dermatology, received a grant award for \$195,000 for two years from Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co. LTD for their work, "Effect of anti-CC chemokine receptor 4 (CCR4)

monoclonal antibody on regulatory T cells and natural killer cells in patients with aggressive/refractory CTCL."

Chris Evans, Ph.D., assistant professor, Pulmonary Medicine, received an award from the American Heart Association for two years for \$63,636 per year in direct costs. The title of his research is "Regulation of Muc5ac by HIF-1 during mucous metaplasia."

Sushovan Guha, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, as co-principal investigator, received a two-year NIH-NCI R21 research grant with \$25,000 per year for his research, "Biological and therapeutic significance of TG2 in pancreatic cancer."



Jessica Hwang, M.D., assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, was awarded a five-year National Cancer Institute K07 Career Development Award of \$130,000 for the first year for her work, "Hepatitis B reactivation among cancer patients receiving chemotherapy."

Vahid Afshar-Kharghan, M.D., associate professor, Benign Hematology received an award for \$50,000 from the Blanton-Davis Ovarian Cancer Research Program for his research "The complement system and ovarian cancer."



Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D., Sc.D., professor and deputy chair, Infectious Diseases, was awarded, as a co-principal investigator, a NIH/NIAID R21 grant in the amount of \$237,000 for, "Novel clinical diagnostic targets for detection of invasive mold aspergillosis." Other principal investigators are Wadih Arap, M.D., Ph.D., professor, Genitourinary Medical Oncology, and Renata Pasqualini, Ph.D., professor, Genitourinary Medical Oncology – Research.

Michael Migden, M.D., assistant professor, Dermatology, received a grant for \$206,000 from Genentech for his research, "GDC-0449 hedgehog signaling pathway therapy for patients with locally advanced or metastatic basal cell carcinoma."

Seyed Javad Moghaddam, M.D., assistant professor, Pulmonary Medicine – Research, was successful in competing for second-year funding of his ALA/LUNGevity Foundation Lung Cancer Discovery Award. The award is for \$100,000 effective July 1, 2010. The title of his research is "Inflammation-related lung cancer prevention by targeting the NF-κB pathway."

Kenneth Tsai, M.D., assistant professor, Dermatology, was awarded a NIH R03 grant for his work, "Modular model for studies of immunosurveillance in skin cancer," for \$150,000 in direct costs over three years.

Chunlei Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, Dermatology and, **Madeleine Duvic, M.D.**, professor, Dermatology, received, as co-principal investigators, an Investigator-Initiated Studies Program Grant from Allos Therapeutics for their research, "Exploration of potential combination therapies of pralatrexate with vorinostat and bexarotene in cutaneous T-cell lymphoma."



Emergency Medicine Department Continued from page 1

The new department will work closely with Emergency Services led by Paul Mansfield, M.D., professor, Surgical Oncology. Emergency Services was created to address the myriad factors (both within the center and across the institution) impacting care in the Emergency Center. "The creation of the Emergency Medicine department further emphasizes and facilitates the vital role our Emergency Center plays in the lives of so many MD Anderson patients. Together with outstanding nursing led by Marian Thomas, director of clinical nursing in the Emergency Center, and the leadership provided by Dr. Terry Rice, medical director Emergency Center, the new Emergency Medicine department will help us provide the best for our patients and set the standard of care for the cancer patient," Mansfield says.

"I'd like to express my appreciation to Dr. Carmen Escalante, Elsa Acevedo and faculty in the General Internal Medicine department who developed and functioned as an incubator for this group over the past 20 years and the department faculty who worked alongside the emergency physicians to provide 24/7 coverage of the Emergency Center," Gagel says.

The Emergency Medicine department academic offices are located in Pickens Academic Tower, Floor 13, and research space is located in the Texas A&M Institute for Biotechnology Building.

For more information, contact Elsa Acevedo, department administrator *ad interim* for Emergency Medicine and department administrator for General Internal Medicine, 713-563-4498.

- Pictured above from L-R: Prince Paul, advanced practice nurse;
- Patricia Brock, M.D., assistant professor, Maria Cruz Carreras, M.D.,
- assistant professor; Jerry Henderson, M.D., assistant professor

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Sarah Petrie, program manager, Internal Medicine

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Applauding our outstanding nurses



Anecita Fadol, Ph.D., advanced practice nurse, Cardiology, was accepted as a **Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing**. The prestigious program recognizes nurse practitioner leaders who have made outstanding contributions in health care through nurse practitioner clinical practice, research, education or policy. Fadol is the first fellow ever to be accepted from MD Anderson.

"I am humbled and proud to represent MD Anderson and its growing community of advanced practice nurses," Fadol says. "To be selected for this prestigious fellowship

is a milestone in my career, and it will inspire me to continue to work as hard as I can for the patients who need my colleagues and me."

Celia Levesque, advanced practice nurse, Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, was a finalist for the 2010 award for **Nursing Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing**. The award is given annually by the Division of Nursing and honors those nurses who go above and beyond the call of daily, direct patient care, and who exemplify excellence in nursing practice.

Two Internal Medicine Center clinical nurses, **Lillian "Ruth" Roach** and **Tamara De Lumban**, were finalists for awards given annually by the Division of Nursing, **Nursing Excellence in Clinical Practice – Outpatient Setting**.

Internal Medicine clinical staff and patients also nominated Roach for the 2010 Ethel Fleming Arceneaux Outstanding Nurse Oncologist Award, funded by the Brown Foundation, Inc. These nominations follow her work implementing infrastructure to support three new clinics within Internal Medicine – the General Internal Medicine Neutropenic Clinic, the Hepatitis C Clinic, and the Medical Nutrition Assessment Clinic.

"Ruth's management of her patient demographic is impeccable," praises Mark Tansiongco, nurse manager, Internal Medicine Center. "Her patients seek her by name and experience personalized care that is extremely sensitive to their specific needs. She will consistently go above and beyond their expectations, resulting in quality patient outcomes."

Promotions

Cardiology

- Susan Ray, senior financial analyst

Dermatology

- Frederick Silva, senior coordinator, research data

Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health

- Jennifer Nguyen, senior financial analyst
- Michelene Holmes, senior administrative assistant

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

- Tamara Tipps, senior coordinator, research data

General Internal Medicine

- Gloria Iliescu, M.D., assistant professor
- Viola Leal, coordinator, clinical studies
- Angeles Lopez-Olivio, M.D., Ph.D., instructor
- Sonia Rodriguez, supervisor, research data coordinator

Pulmonary Medicine

- Zoulikha Azzegagh, research assistant II

Symptom Research

- Araceli Garcia Gonzalez, senior coordinator, clinical studies
- Katherine Ramsey, senior coordinator, clinical studies
- Stella Rodriguez, coordinator, clinical studies
- Vanessa Zavaleta, senior clerk
- Nyma Shah, medicine department administrator
- Lori Williams, Ph.D., assistant professor