



DoIM NEWS

SUMMER 2004, VOL. 1

Information Exchange from the Division of Internal Medicine

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Outstanding Inventor of the Year Award for 2004 to Dr. Issam I. Raad

Dr. Raad is only the 2nd physician in history to receive this distinguished award from the Houston Intellectual Property Law Association.

The Houston Intellectual Property Law Association (HIPLA) has selected Dr. Issam I. Raad of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center as the winner of its Outstanding Inventor of the Year Award for 2004.



Dr. Raad is being honored for his significant contributions to the development of technologies for the prevention of vascular catheter-related infection. His efforts have led to the issuance of approximately 11 U.S. patents and to the advancement of medical care throughout the world. The only other medical doctor who received such a high honor since 1983 is Dr. Denton Cooley who pioneered the innovative work of heart transplantation and modern heart surgery. In recognition for him receiving this award, the governor of Texas, Rick Perry, commissioned him as an Admiral in the Texas Navy with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto.

Dr. Raad is ad interim Chairman and Professor of Medicine in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Employee Health at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Raad has been internationally recognized for his work on catheter-related infections, multi-drug resistant microbial organisms and bloodstream

infections. For example, he was awarded in 1998 the Young Investigator Award by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America for outstanding career contributions to infection control, healthcare and epidemiology. He was also selected to serve on several prestigious panels addressing device-related infections. In the years 2002, 2003, and 2004 he was named as one of the Best Doctors in Houston.

Dr. Raad has done outstanding work on the prevention of bloodstream infections in hospitalized patients through his innovative work reflected through 11 issued patents on the prevention of catheter and

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER
Making Cancer History®

A Few Words from Dr. Gagel

The Division of Internal Medicine will soon celebrate its 4th birthday. The last four years have been a period of intense excitement and change for members of the Division. We have grown from 257 employees at the time the Division was started in 2001 to a current number of 395.

This is the inaugural edition of the Division of Internal Medicine Newsletter. The goal of the DoIM Newsletter is to provide a forum for sharing with members of the Division and others throughout the institution the exciting programmatic development within the Division. Several times a year, we will provide an overview of important new programs in the Division of Internal Medicine, a summary of achievements, and news of general interest to our patients and employees. Our goal is to provide a lively and interesting overview. We welcome your suggestions for improving this newsletter. If you have material to contribute, please contact Carol Van Gorder at 2-8677 or through Lotus Notes.

Thank you, Dr. Robert F. Gagel



Division Picnic

Want a Day in the Country?

The Division of Internal Medicine invites you to share a very special day at **Buckhorn Ranch & Lake** **Saturday, October 23, 2004** **Open 11:00 - 5:00 pm, Lunch served 12:30 - 2:30 pm**



Get ready for fun! There is something for all ages at the Buckhorn Ranch & Lake. Enjoy the beautiful relaxing view of the lake as you enjoy a delicious ranch style menu of smoked Bar-B-Q with all the mouth-watering extras. Kick back and delight in over 120 acres overlooking a beautiful spring fed, 77 acre fishing lake. Try your luck at "getting the one that got away". The Buckhorn Lake is stocked with bass, catfish, and perch. Why not hop a train with your family for an adventurous two-mile ride around the lake. Relax and enjoy some fun in the sun in a pedal boat with a snow cone on the lake. **Oh to feel like a kid again.** Just jump on the Merry-go-round, a beautiful, nostalgic classic carousel and ride to your hearts content. Additional fun attractions at Buckhorn Ranch are Hayride, Moonwalk, Viewing/Petting Zoo, Fishing, Swimming, and Activity Game Room Center. **You won't want to go home.** www.buckhornranch.com



DoIM Picnic Planning Committee Members: Dia Swain, Gerianne Huffman, John Skora, Donna Shotwell, Lutisha Alexander, Carol Coats, Denise Jackson, Kiana Shepherd, Phillip Abraham, Latasha Williams, Bernice Pines, Ivone Bruno, Ruth Green, Amy Shiu, Ruth Simpson, Amy Heaton, Kimberly Jenkins, Delores Feller, Jeanie Woodruff, Beth Johnson, LeNora Curry

Outstanding Inventor of the Year Award for 2004 to Dr. Issam I. Raad

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device-related infections. He is, therefore, considered a world authority on device-related infections in the prevention of bloodstream infections.

The patent recognized by HIPLA this year is U.S. Patent No. 5,217,493 entitled "Antibacterial Coated Implants," which issued June 8, 1993. The patented technology, which was jointly invented by Drs. Raad and Darouiche, is directed to bonding techniques for impregnating catheters and other medical devices with antibiotics.

Earlier efforts to coat catheters with antibiotics had been largely unsuccessful because the durability of antimicrobial activity was fleeting. Dr. Raad subsequently demonstrated that catheters impregnated by their patented techniques were effective for preventing catheter colonization and catheter-related infection in in vitro experiments and in animal model tests. These observations led to a controlled, multi-center clinical study, which demonstrated that central venous catheters impregnated with minocycline and rifampin prevented catheter colonization and catheter-related bloodstream infection in critically ill patients. The success of these efforts led to an additional trial involving 843 patients in 12 centers. This large trial demonstrated that central venous catheters impregnated with the same combination of minocycline and rifampin are 12-fold more effective than antiseptic-impregnated central venous catheters in preventing catheter-related bloodstream infection.

What's New In The Centers?

The Emergency Center is hard at work developing plans for new space in the Luthern Building for 2006. Stay tuned for future developments.



The Internal Medicine and Cardiopulmonary Centers were busy this year introducing new procedures and care initiatives. Pleuroscopy and rigid bronchoscopies formerly done only in the OR are now being done in the Cardiopulmonary Center. The Internal Medicine Center has introduced a successful Anticoagulation clinic and has worked intensely on formalizing plans to pilot a Preoperative Program.

The Business Center serving both Centers was deployed in April and has had cash collections averaging \$100,000 a month. **WOW!**

Both Centers have been actively engaged in finalizing plans for occupying our satellite center in the ACB.

“If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?”

Best Doctors Inc., a company dedicated to keeping consumers informed about the best medical care available asked more than 35,000 physicians this question. Survey results named 142 faculty from M. D. Anderson among the top specialists in their respective fields in the United States.

Among 142 Specialists, 10 are from the DoIM:

Robert F. Gagel, Endocrine Neoplasia & HD

Steven I. Sherman, Endocrine Neoplasia & HD

Rena V. Sellin, Endocrine Neoplasia & HD

Ronald Rapini, Dermatology

Madeline Duvic, Dermatology

Patrick Michael Lynch, GI Medicine & Nutrition

John Stroehlein, GI Medicine & Nutrition

Issam I. Raad,
Infectious Diseases

Kenneth V.I. Rolston,
Infectious Diseases

Rodolfo Morice,
Pulmonary Medicine



Faculty Awards

Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, M.D.

Associate Professor
Dept. of Infectious Diseases
Faculty Scholar Award, effective
September 1, 2004

The Faculty Scholar Award established in 1998, recognizes junior faculty who exhibit outstanding ability and excellence in research, education, patient care, or prevention.



Michail S. Lionakis, M.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow
Dept. of Infectious Diseases
1st Place winner of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/Translational Research for his abstract titled “Drosophila Melanogaster: A Mini-Host in Vivo Model to Study Aspergillus Virulence and the Efficacy of Antifungals in Invasive Aspergillosis.”



John Patlan, M.D.

Recent National Award Winner of the Community-Based Physician Recognition Award. Only 147 physicians in Texas have received this award since it was established in August 2000. The award is given by the American College of Physicians (ACP) to recognize community-based teaching physicians who have been active in office-based teaching for at least two years in a three-year period.

DoIM's Create Solutions Team III

Employees in the Division of Internal Medicine have voiced a desire to give more feedback and input on how things are done in the departments, and we are answering the call. The Division of Internal Medicine's Create Solutions Team III has been meeting for the past few months and is in the implementation phase of increasing opportunities for employees to give feedback. The team members are Amy Chiu (Cardiology), Betty Spears (Dermatology), Barbara Gay (DoIM), Dia Swain (DoIM), Salli Saxton (Infectious Disease), Vinny Nguyen (Endocrinology), Karen Anderson (GI Medicine & Nutrition), Patricia Horace (GIM, AT & EC), Latasha Williams (GIM, AT & EC), and Christine Vedomey (Pulmonary).

Making a Difference in the Fight Against Bone Disease

The Bone Disease Program of Texas is a collaborative research and clinical program of Baylor College of Medicine and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

It will concentrate on improving basic and translational research of bone diseases to convert basic science findings to more effective treatment and prevention options.

In the United States today, 10 million individuals are suffering from various bone diseases, mostly osteoporosis (low bone mass disease) and bone metastases. Moreover, almost 34 million more are estimated to have low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis.

Bone metastasis, which occurs most often when cancer cells spread to bones, is the primary cause of death in prostate cancer. It's also one of the most frequent causes of pain in breast, lung, kidney and thyroid cancers. To date, these diseases have no effective treatment.

This program aims to foster collaborations between basic researchers and clinicians at both institutions, and establish the Texas Medical Center as a competitive center in the field of bone biology and disease.

Robert F. Gagel, M.D., Ph.D.
Director and Clinical Director

Gerard Karsenty, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Director and Scientific Director

The Bone Disease Program of Texas



Suspicion of Cancer Program Places Emphasis on Risk Assessment and Early Detection of Cancer

The Suspicion of Cancer Program was created to enable M. D. Anderson to meet an emerging cancer service demand. Evaluation of patients with cancer symptoms whose referring physicians suspect they have cancer and patients who self-refer because they have been told they have a possible diagnosis of cancer will benefit from this program.

The Suspicion of Cancer Program, in the Department of General Internal Medicine will enhance detection of disease at an earlier and more curable stage by providing timely and accurate cancer diagnosis and aggressive treatment.

Employee of the Month

Kirk Nealy

Recognized by Internal Medicine-Administration as the recipient of the 4th quarter Performance Reward and Recognition Program. Congratulations Kirk!



DoIM Welcomes

New Faculty:

- Naifa Busaidy, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Endocrine Neoplasia
- Christopher Evans, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Pulmonary Medicine
- Jeffrey H. Lee, M.D.**, Assoc. Professor, Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Jennifer Nash, M.D.**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dermatology
- Amir Onn, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Pulmonary Medicine
- John Patlan, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Emergency Room
- Kavita Patel, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Emergency Room
- Michael Tuvim, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Pulmonary Medicine

New Employees:

- Philip Abraham**, DOM Office Manager, Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Ramey Benfield**, Mgr. Clinical Protocol Admin., Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Joyce E. Brown**, RN, BS, Research Nurse, Infectious Disease
- Demetric Burton**, EKG Tech, Cardiology Lab
- Teodora Carrion**, Coord. Research Data, Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Dervy Castor**, EKG Tech, Cardiology Lab
- Debra Cole**, Physician Asst., Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Carmen D'Amico**, RN, Advanced Practice Nurse; GIM, AT and EC
- Joseph R. Davis**, Coordinator Research Data, Cardiology
- William Evans**, MHA, Department Administrator, Dermatology
- Tamara Jackson**, EKG Tech, Cardiology Lab
- Joy Kunishige, M.D.**, Clinical Research Fellow, Dermatology
- Lori Landin**, RN, Research Nurse, Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Menchu Mante**, MSN, Advanced Practice Nurse, GIM, AT and EC
- Nora Martinez**, Sr. Secretary, Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Debbie L. Miller**, BSN, Research Nurse, Gastrointestinal Medicine & Nutrition Department
- Rebecca Miranda**, Patient Services Coordinator, Internal Medicine Center
- Joyce Osei**, MHA, Research Assistant I, Dermatology
- Luis Renderos**, Clerical, Dermatology
- Roberto Reyes**, MBA, BS Mgr, Systems Analysts Svc., Division of Internal Medicine

DoIM NEWS

Newsletter Committee

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Allied Health Highlights

Way to go APN's!

(Advanced Practical Nurses)

Veronica Smith:

- 4/2002 - Poster presentation ONS Congress Anaheim, Ca
- 6/2004 - Poster presentation AANP National conference, New Orleans, La

Vi Ho:

- 1/2004 - Award - AANP (American Academy on Nurse Practitioner) Doctoral scholarship award
- 4/2004 - conducted a workshop on "Breast and Cervical Cancer in Vietnamese American Women in Industrial workplace" Houston Texas
- 5/2004 - lecture - "Health and Cancer Disparity" - Houston Texas
- 5/2004 - Named official M D Anderson Cancer Ambassador for cancer education.
- 6/2004 - Poster Presentation to AANP - "Atypical Antifungal Infection: a multidisciplinary process" New Orleans, La

Rosalie Valdres:

- Promoted to APN Coordinator Position for GIM 4/2004
- 4/2004 - Poster Presentation 2004 ONS Congress Anaheim CA "Prevalence of CRF in the Emergency Center"
- 4/2004 - Award - Winner of the 2004 FIRE Excellence Award, Anaheim, Ca
- 5/2004 - Finalist MDACC Ethel Flemming Award
- 6/2004 - Poster - ASCO in New Orleans La; "Clinical Predictors of Fatigue in Solid Tumor patients Seeking Acute Care"

Events

Internal Medicine and the Cancer Patient

September 10th-11th, 2004

Houston Marriott Medical Center Hotel, Houston, TX
Chairperson: Ellen Manzullo, M.D.
U.T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
(713) 745-4516

M. D. Anderson Grand Rounds

September 11, 2004

"Molecular Pathogenesis of Hyperparathyroidism"
Chairperson: Dr. Binte

8th Annual Interdisciplinary Approach to Palliative Medicine in Cancer Care

October 29-31, 2004

Intercontinental Hotel - 2222 West Loop South,
Houston, TX

Thyroid Cancer Survivors Conference

October 22-24, 2004

Chicago, IL
www.thyca.org