Changing the way we schedule patients: Making appointments matter in our infusion centers

Our infusion centers will soon be changing the way we schedule appointments to help us reduce patient wait times. Appointment times will be more closely aligned with the start of actual treatment so patients spend less time here. The new scheduling system will ensure patients are given the right appointment at the right time based on our available resources. Talking points and other resources will be distributed to help applicable staff prepare for this new way of scheduling. Patients will not be able to drop in for treatment or come too early and expect to be worked in. Clinical Administrative Directors Brenda Brown, MSN, RN, OCN, NE-BC, Ambulatory Treatment Center (ATC), and Cheryl Fullmer, PhD, MBA, RN, NE, Clinical Center for Targeted Therapy (CCTT) and the Clinical & Translational Research Center (CTRC) have been working tirelessly with members of the Innovation Department to incorporate LeanTaaS iQueue scheduling software into Epic to optimize infusion scheduling in the ATC, CTRC, and Houston-area locations. The software will work in the background to optimize scheduling templates and maximize patient flows. Shown above left is an illustration of what a typical patient day looks like in the ATC, with high utilization during peak hours in the middle of the day; above right is the anticipated patient flow post-implementation with a
load-leveled schedule. CTRC go-live is scheduled for May 22, and ATC Main Campus is scheduled for June 1.

Professors elected to Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Four DoCM faculty were elected on March 28 to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The term for Executive Committee members begins June 1, 2017, and concludes on May 31, 2019. The new committee members are shown below. Faculty senators by department can be found here.

Borje Andersson, MD, PhD, professor of Stem Cell Transplantation

Isabella Glitza, MD, PhD, assistant professor of Melanoma Medical Oncology

Guillermo Garcia-Manero, MD, professor of Leukemia

David Menter, PhD, assistant professor of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology

Faculty award: Champlin recognized for scientific achievements

The 2017 DKMS Mechtild Harf Science Award was granted to SCT Chair Richard Champlin, MD, during this year’s EMBT congress that took place in Marseille, France, in April. Every year, the award recognizes outstanding scientific and research work in the stem cell transplantation field. Read more about it here.
Cheryl Fullmer, PhD, MBA, BSN, RN, NE, (left) clinical administrative director for the Clinical Center for Targeted Therapy and the Clinical & Translational Research Center, and Natalie Schuren, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, director, Palliative, Rehabilitation & Integrative Medicine, recently earned doctoral degrees. Fullmer earned a PhD from UT Health in Healthcare Management, Policy, and Community Health. Her dissertation was “Off-label use of monoclonal antibodies for cancer and the impact on patient out-of-pocket costs.” Schuren earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The poster created by nurses in the Ambulatory Treatment Center for this year’s Nurses Week (May 5-12) won first place – for the second year in a row! The poster depicts yoga’s Tree Pose, which improves concentration and brings balance to the mind, aligning with the 2017 Nurses Week theme of Balance of Mind, Body, and Spirit. The images surrounding the Tree Pose show how ATC nurses balance the mind, body, and spirit in order to take care of their patients. Shown left to right are Tora Ogunmakin, OCN, RN, Dianne Gatan, RN, Abigail Comple, RN, Ramon Galang, RN, Rayjel Raynaldo, OCN, RN, and Louisse Ong, RN. The prize was a trophy and cupcakes for all.
In addition to our own faculty, we recently hosted two visiting speakers:

- Jeffrey Engelman, MD, PhD, from Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, presented “Targeted Therapies and Resistance: Where Are We Going?” on April 11.
- Lorraine Gudas, MD, from Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, presented the Reuben Lotan Memorial Lecture “Nuclear Receptor Selective Agonists for the Prevention and Treatment of Cancer and Diabetes” on April 25.

View videos and read synopses [here](#).

DoCM Grand Rounds are held at 8 a.m. each Tuesday in Hickey Auditorium.

- **May 23:** Hematology/Oncology Fellows 2017 ASCO Presentation
- **May 30/June 6:** Cancelled
- **June 13:** Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellows Award Ceremony

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