

MEDICINE MATTERS

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CARDIOLOGY • CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY & CUTANEOUS SCIENCE • DIGESTIVE CARE & ENDOSCOPY • ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM •
GENERAL MEDICINE • GERIATRIC MEDICINE • HEMATOLOGY • INFECTIOUS DISEASES • MEDICAL ONCOLOGY • NEPHROLOGY •
NEUROLOGY • PALLIATIVE MEDICINE • PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION • RESPIROLOGY • RHEUMATOLOGY

DEPARTMENT HEAD MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

I recently completed a two-week rotation on the MTU and a three-day site visit in New Brunswick. Both were great opportunities. I am very pleased that the changes made on the MTU lead by Simon Jackson and David Simpson in collaboration with Capital Health have positively impacted teaching, learning and clinical experiences for residents and faculty alike. I am particularly impressed with our senior residents' abilities to manage large clinical teams and patients, and as a result, the clinical care delivery is exceptional. Of note, I saw the PATH and INSPIRE programs in action and the benefits these programs provide patients and their families. The nursing and health professional staff on the MTU are first rate. We're getting there with the MTU but there are opportunities for improvement and Simon and David would value all input to help make this service even better.

While in New Brunswick, I visited the Departments of Medicine at the Saint John Regional, Dr. Everett Chalmers, and The Moncton City hospitals. It is evident that the teaching and research activities in all three institutions are increasing in part because of the medical school's heightened presence via Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB). These are exciting times for academic medicine in New Brunswick. With the next CaRMS Match, the number of Saint John based internal medicine residents will be up one to 4. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Dr. Eric Grant who leads the postgraduate program in New Brunswick and Dr. Tony Reiman, Associate Dean of Research, DMNB for their parts in building positive changes. There is also very strong leadership at the Department Head level at the three institutions with Dr. Angie McGibbon (Fredericton), Dr. Paul Sohi (Saint John) and Dr. Peter Docherty (Moncton) and my thanks to these individuals for their many contributions.

In November, I also attended the Department of Medicine Research Evening and Medicine Matters 2013: Working Together. The two events were exceptional and quite well-attended. I would like to thank Dr. John Hanly and Kathryn Nelson for pulling together the research evening, and Dr. Des Leddin and the Medicine Matters planning committee for championing our first department-sanctioned, inter-

division education event in more than 10 years. If you missed this year's event, the planning committee is already preparing for next year so be sure to keep it in mind and plan to attend when the time comes.

As the holidays fast approach and we look forward to 2014, I want to wish all department members and their families a wonderful holiday season. Be sure to take the time to make special memories. Enjoy.

David R. Anderson, MD, FRCPC, FACP

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IS THERE A BETTER WAY?

EXPLORING DUTY CALL HOURS AND FATIGUE MANAGEMENT

A landmark ruling by a Quebec arbitrator in 2011 put an end to 24-hour call for residents in that province. A national steering committee on resident duty hours released a report in June 2013 detailing Canada's first cross-jurisdictional effort to find consensus on the critical health and safety issue of resident duty hours. The issues aren't new but they are definitely top of mind among residents, faculty, academic health districts and resident associations.

Dr. James Michael, PGY-3, is leading a resident taskforce in the Department of Medicine charged with exploring duty call hours and fatigue management. The work is in anticipation of potential regulatory changes to duty call hours on a national or provincial level, resulting mainly from the Quebec ruling and national steering committee recommendations.

"Potential changes to duty hours have been on our radar for some time because of the Quebec ruling and national steering committee, but also because of the Royal College's push toward competency based education. The residency training committee felt it prudent to call on residents to review the duty hours and provide recommendations as a proactive measure – not necessarily to make changes in the short term," says Dr. Ian Epstein, Director, Postgraduate Education, Department of Medicine.

The taskforce was asked to first review the 24-hour call model at the HI Site and put forward recommendations for call models that employed fewer than 24 consecutive hours. “In taking a fatigue management approach, we started with tackling what many residents view as the most fatigue-inducing call schedule and responsibilities. And we took a broad view, looking at many issues, which is in keeping with national work in this area. It isn’t nor can it be only about reducing consecutive call hours,” says Dr. Michael.

The taskforce recently submitted recommendations for different call models for senior residents at the HI Site to chief residents, Drs. Andrew Moeller and Jordan Webber, for their consideration and potential implementation on a trial basis.

“There are likely to be significant short- and long-term implications to whatever changes are made to call schedules. We are proposing that new models be trialed and evaluated,” notes Dr. Michael. The group will next review the call model at the VG site, to which Dr. Michael does not see making significant, if any, changes in the near future because most residents don’t feel the call schedule induces the degree of fatigue that warrants changes.

The longer term goal is to also review call models for junior residents, a process that is likely to be more intensive. In the meantime, the task force will make a presentation to the residency training committee in March on its work to date.

You can find more information about work underway nationally on resident duty hours and fatigue management at <http://www.residentdutyhours.ca>

MEDICINE MATTERS 2013

With a successful Medicine Matters 2013: Working Together, we are well on our way to establishing the CME event as an annual, not-to-be-missed meeting for all clinical members of the Department of Medicine.

Here’s a rundown of this year’s event:	
Registrants	72
Attendees	62
Speakers	16
Case discussions	18

- Cases:
- Chest pain in a 45 year old male with diabetes and hyperlipidemia
 - Exacerbation of dyspnea in a 60 year old with COPD
 - Unilateral weakness and slurred speech in a 75 year old
 - Abdominal pain and anemia and a rash in a 30 year old female
 - A 40 year old male with obesity, hypertension, diabetes hyperlipidemia and an elevated creatinine
 - A 45 year old male with bony metastases of unknown primary

MATCH RESULTS

2014-2015 SUBSPECIALTY CARMS MATCH RESULTS (FOR JULY 1, 2014 ENTRY)

The Subspecialty CarMS match yielded excellent recruits for each of the Department’s fourteen positions that were part of the match. Two of those positions were earmarked for general internal medicine. Here are the results:

Cardiology
 Drs. Adam Howes (MUN), Andrew Moeller (Dal) and Jordan Webber (Dal)

Endocrinology & Metabolism
 Dr. Vicki Xu (Dal)

Digestive Care & Endoscopy
 Dr. Arman Khorasani-zadeh (SUNY Upstate Medical)

General Internal Medicine
 Drs. Wendy House (Dal), Joffre Munro (Dal) and Nahba Shetty (Western)

*Drs. Islam Eissa and Magnus McLeod will also join the program in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Geriatric Medicine
 Dr. Kim Babb (Dal)

Hematology
 Dr. Katherine MacInnes (Queen’s)

Infectious Diseases
 Dr. Paul Bonnar (Dal)

Medical Oncology
 Drs. Amy Groom (Dal) and James Michael (Dal)

Nephrology
 Dr. Amanda Miller (Dal)

Respirology
 Dr. Alexander Nelson (Sask)

*Note, Dermatology, Neurology & PM&R all have PGY1 entry positions for their respective training programs.

ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The Department of Medicine 2013 Progress & Profiles is now available. This year’s report features the department’s strategic plan, its implementation to date, and those leading the charge. The report also has a new look. Copies will be distributed to all department members but you can also take a peek at: <http://dom.medicine.dal.ca/publications/annualreports.htm>



