Dear Faculty, Staff, and Friends:

Happy 2014! Our department is entering its 165th year of existence, and she has grown into one of the most vibrant and comprehensive entities, not only at the University of Michigan, but also among our competitor institutions. I am constantly reminded how special our department is – whether it is in philanthropy to honor a donor and a faculty member, the education of medical students on service, the recruitment of a faculty member, or forging the building blocks of one of our junior faculty’s career – all beautiful examples of what we do best! We do make new leaders, and are the best at it! There are several shining examples in this current newsletter.

Despite the external challenges we face, our department is moving forward on a number of exciting initiatives in 2014. You will find our renovated clinics on the 3rd floor of Taubman a refreshed welcome for our patients. The department’s support of both the microbiome and protein folding FastForward initiatives has commenced. We will name a new Associate Chair that focuses on Quality and Innovation to move our department up a notch in this arena, and we anticipate a successful launch and participation in the inpatient MiChart roll out. We will populate new clinical space at Northville in July 2015 in badly-needed additional ambulatory space. The department has set goals for the newly launched Capital Campaign to help improve and solidify support for our faculty’s research and resident education tracks, and we hope to complete searches for chiefs for two of our divisions. The year 2014 will be busy, but I anticipate it will be highly fruitful.

I continue to welcome your input and feedback, as well as your support for these initiatives. I think you will like the end results of these projects that will continue to strengthen our ability to provide patient care, to educate, and to discover new knowledge. Again, Happy New Year!

John M. Carethers, MD
John G. Searle Professor and Chair
Department of Internal Medicine

FY 14 Major Initiatives

Primary Care restructuring
Associate Chair for Quality and Innovation
UMMS FastForward Implementation
Complete 3rd Floor Taubman renovations
Philanthropy-Capital Campaign 2013-2018
MiChart Inpatient and ICD10 implementation
Northville Ambulatory Expansion
Allergy and Pulmonary Division Chief Searches

Department of Internal Medicine: The Crown Jewel of the Medical School

- Largest Department—people, budget, clinical revenue, research grants, discharges, outpatient visits
- Collaboration across departments and with VAAAHS
- Driver of innovation
- Driver of clinical activity across departments
- Major educator of students, GME, CME
- Faculty leaders: award recognition locally, nationally, globally
New Professorships

Dr. Joseph M. Messana named the Richard D. Swartz, MD, Collegiate Professor of Nephrology

On Wednesday, October 23, 2013, at the University of Michigan Medical School, the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology appointed Joseph M. Messana, MD, as holder of the Richard D. Swartz, MD, Collegiate Professorship in Nephrology.

Joseph M. Messana, MD, was born and raised in the Detroit area he grew up in a family where the value of education was stressed. After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, he attended the University of Michigan Medical School, receiving his medical degree in 1982. After completing training in internal medicine and nephrology, he was appointed to the Division of Nephrology faculty in 1988. Dr. Messana was tenured in 2003, and achieved full professor status in 2011. He is a renowned clinical nephrologist, who has served UMHS in several clinical administrative roles over the course of his career. He has supervised chronic dialysis, including peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis services for more than 25 years at UMHS.

Since 2004, Dr. Messana has been a member of the U-M Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC) team. His research at UM-KECC has focused on payment policy for Medicare's End Stage Renal Disease Program as well as on quality measure development and reporting for chronic dialysis facilities in the United States. Dr. Messana’s work on these and other Medicare projects will continue to have an effect on health policy and clinical care for nearly 500,000 patients with ESRD for many years to come. “For those that consider my career as having included notable accomplishments, I ask that they direct the credit to those who deserve it, namely my parents, my teachers at the University of Michigan, and in particular, Dr. Richard D. Swartz,” says Dr. Messana. “I probably would not have chosen nephrology as a career if I had not encountered Rick Swartz when I did. I certainly would not have been as good a nephrologist if I hadn’t had the privilege and honor to work with and learn from him for 30 years. In this context, being named the first Swartz Collegiate Professor of Nephrology is an extraordinary and poignant honor, but also carries with it an extraordinary burden. I must commit the full measure of my energies to pass on to another generation of nephrologists and would-be nephrologists what has been passed on to me by this unique and passionate physician.

About the Professorship

The Richard D. Swartz, MD, Collegiate Professorship in Nephrology was established through the Department of Internal Medicine and generous donations from Swartz as well as from many colleagues, grateful patients, families and trainees who recognize his tireless commitment and passion for medicine and medical education.

Says Swartz, “I am proud of the opportunity to establish this award, and am delighted that my long-time colleague, Joe Messana, has been chosen as the first occupant of this chair. Thank you to the division, department, Medical School, and university for this poignant recognition. Most of all, I want to recognize my wife, June, and sons, Vaughn and Sam, who knew deep down how important it was to me not only to be a physician but to be the kind of physician I needed to be. Their patience, tolerance, and even occasional participation, have been pivotal in giving me the leeway to do the job that needs to be done.”
Welcome New Faculty

Gastroenterology

Nobuhiko Kamada, PhD, Assistant Professor. He recently completed four years of post-doctoral training with Dr. Gabriel Nuñez in the Department of Pathology. He received his PhD from Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan. His research focuses on the interaction between host immunity and resident microbes in the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease.

Andrew Rhim, MD, Assistant Professor. He completed his medical education and was the Sir William Osler MD Fellow in Medicine and Gastroenterology at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his post-doctoral fellowship in Genetics in the laboratory of Dr. Ben Z. Stanger and established lineage-labeled genetic mouse models of pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer to study regeneration, invasion, dissemination and metastasis. His research focus is on the basic biology of pre-cancerous lesions of the pancreas and the molecular and cellular events that occur during transition to pancreatic cancer (PDAC). He will be seeing patients in the multidisciplinary pancreatic cancer clinic.

HemOnc

Mary Mansour Riwes, DO, Assistant Professor. Dr. Riwes joined the faculty from University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL where she recently completed her HemOnc fellowship and an advanced postgraduate program in clinical investigation.

Dr. Riwes earned her medical degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Old Westbury, NY. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio, followed by her fellowship training in Florida.

Dr. Riwes clinical interest is in Leukemia and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. She will be seeing patients in the Bone Marrow Transplant clinic and at the VA in Ann Arbor.

Infectious Diseases

Marisa Miceli, MD, Assistant Professor. Dr. Miceli graduated medical school from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. She completed her residency training in Internal Medicine (Hospital General Belgrano) and fellowship training in Infectious Diseases (CEMIC- University Hospital) followed by specific training in Infectious Diseases in Hematological Cancer patients (FUNDALEU) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Miceli spent several years conducting research on infectious complications in myeloma patients at the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She then completed her Internal Medicine Residency at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn-Michigan, Infectious Diseases Fellowship at the University of New Mexico, and Transplant Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Dr. Miceli’s practice focuses on infectious complications in the immunocompromised host, including solid-organ and hematopoietic stem-cell transplant recipients. Her research interest includes the epidemiology and management of emerging opportunistic infections in the immunocompromised host with a particular interest in invasive fungal infections.
Welcome New Faculty

**MEND**

**Greg Clines, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor.** Dr. Clines began his education at the University of Texas, where he received his MD and PhD from Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He completed his internship and residency at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, after which he served an endocrinology and metabolism fellowship at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, Virginia. He began his academic career as an assistant professor in Charlottesville, then was Assistant Professor of Medicine and Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

Dr. Clines’ primary research interest is in the endocrinology of bone metastasis. He has received several grants from the NIH and various foundations. His research lab is at the VA. He is launching a metabolic bone disease clinical practice here at U-M.

Along with **Christin Carter-Su, PhD** (see article on page 7), MEND also welcomed two additional secondary faculty this fall, Drs. Moenter and Schipani.

**Sue Moenter, PhD** is a Professor in the departments of Molecular & Integrative Physiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Research Professor in the Reproductive Sciences Program of the Medical School. The overall goal of her laboratory’s research is to determine the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying episodic gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) secretion, as well as to understand the role of GnRH in presentation of various forms of hypothalamic infertility.

**Ernestina Schipani, MD, PhD** is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. Her research involves the study of bone development, using cartilage and bone tissues as models to establish important principles in the broader fields of receptor and hypoxia biology.

Originally from Italy, Dr. Schipani came to the U.S. as a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Internal Medicine, Bone Division, at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She also held several fellowships and then was hired at Harvard Medical School’s Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine. Before coming to Michigan, Dr. Schipani was Professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Department of Internal Medicine, at the Indiana University Medical School in Indianapolis.

---

**Eric Mullen appointed Director of Finance**

I am very pleased to announce that **Eric Mullen** has accepted our offer to serve as the Director of Finance for the Department of Internal Medicine.

Eric brings significant hospital and healthcare financial and administrative experience to this position. With over 20 years of financial experience, both within and outside the Health System, Eric has the skill set which will allow him to very effectively support our Department’s needs. In his financial manager roles in Health System Finance, Eric led his teams on financial planning, implementation of new forecasting and decision support systems and capital planning.

His most recent position has been as the Administrator for the Division of Nephrology, where he has successfully partnered with Dr. Frank Brosius in the management of their administrative and financial operations. This experience, which encompasses activities within the Medical School, Hospital and Ambulatory Care, has given him the opportunity to understand some of the challenges and opportunities faced by our divisions, and to work first hand with our faculty on their clinical, educational and research needs. He has the right mix of experience to make him the ideal candidate for this position.

We are all very excited that Eric has accepted our offer, and we are confident in his ability to partner effectively with all of you. Please join us in congratulating him on his new position.
Geriatrics remembers Margaret Terpenning, MD

Dr. Margaret Terpenning, the first Geriatric Medicine fellow at the University of Michigan, and a faculty member in the Division of Geriatric Medicine for over 20 years, passed away on October 29, 2013. “This is a very sad and premature loss of a wonderful geriatrician, who helped start many of our clinical programs,” says Dr. Jeffrey Halter, Director of the Geriatrics Center.

Margaret Sparling Terpenning was born in Euclid, Ohio on May 15, 1952 to Helen Sparling Terpenning and Walter A. Terpenning, Jr. She grew up in Kirkwood, MO and graduated from Chagrin Falls High School in 1970 as valedictorian. In 1974, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Denison University with a major in chemistry and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She attended medical school at the University of Michigan, graduating with the class of 1978 and stayed at U-M for her Residency in Internal Medicine. Earning a fellowship from U-M in 1982, Dr. Terpenning was board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine.

During her tenure at U-M, Dr. Terpenning was Medical Director of the Turner Geriatric Clinic, Associate Director of the Ann Arbor VA Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center, and Director of the VA Fellowship in Advanced Geriatrics. She was an important contributor to the growth and reputation of the U-M Division of Geriatric Medicine and the fellowship program. She had 36 published articles in the areas of geriatric disease, infectious disease, endocarditis, oral medicine and other areas. She is particularly known for her important research into the relationship of dental disease and coronary heart disease. Well-respected as a dedicated teacher and colleague, Dr. Terpenning also epitomized the thoughtful and compassionate approach to caregiving that is the hallmark of geriatric medical practice.

Dr. Terpenning was a talented musician, playing the piano, singing in and accompanying choirs and playing the clarinet. Known for playing spirited ragtime piano, she would sometimes spontaneously perform in the hospital, playing piano in lobbies and patient areas. Dr. Terpenning loved kayaking on the River Raisin. She loved reading, literature and poetry and wrote her own poems. A life-long Christian, Dr. Terpenning was a member of Northside Community Church in Ann Arbor where she sang with the choir.

Tragically, Dr. Terpenning suffered a debilitating stroke in 2007 and experienced a long and difficult decline. Lovingly cared for at Rainbow Neurological Rehabilitation Center in Farmington Hills, she will be missed by the staff and volunteers. Dr. Terpenning was a loyal friend, respected colleague, loving family member and was generous with her time and her resources. Margaret is survived by her life partner, Wilson Tuttle, loving friend, Fran Mayes; brother, Peter; sister-in-law, Laura; her beloved nieces, Esther and Rebecca; numerous cousins and friends. Dr. Terpenning died at Rainbow Neuro-Rehab Center on October 29, 2013.

If you would like to make a gift in her honor to the Geriatrics Center, there is a Terpenning Fund that was set up when she retired and targets support of the fellowship program.

Link to Full obituary

Admin Updates

ASSIST for Multi-Project Applications

NIH now requires electronic submission for all P01, P20, P50 and U19 applications for due dates on or after September 25, 2013. A number of other activity codes with due dates on or after January 25, 2014 will be transitioning to electronic submission as well. Please click on the link for the timeline, activity codes transitioning, and pilot RFAs on the ASSIST system.

2014 Deadline calculator for grants available

Please email Susan Wagner at pwagner@umich.edu if you would like a copy.

Unfunded Agreements transition to eRPM System

Effective 12/02/2013 all unfunded agreements (UFAs) -- including Material Transfer Agreements, Data Use Agreements, Non-disclosure and other agreements --- have moved to eResearch. The Department has given Division Administrators authority for unit approval of these agreements. For further details about this change and step-by-step instructions, please click on this link.
Honors, Awards & Recognition

**VAAAHS named VA Research Center of Innovation**

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System’s (VAAAHS) Center for Clinical Management Research (CCMR) has been named one of 19 new VA Centers of Innovation (COINs), launched in October by VA’s Office of Research and Development (VA Research).

The purpose of a VA COIN is to foster more timely and relevant research to address the needs of key stakeholders, including patients and providers, as well as the leaders and managers of healthcare systems. This unique approach to research requires effective partnerships with these stakeholders to ensure the research addresses the most critical questions and has the greatest possible impact on healthcare practices, VHA policies, and most importantly, healthcare quality and outcomes for Veterans.

“We are very excited to transition to a Center of Innovation,” says Eve A. Kerr, MD, MPH, VA CCMR director and U-M professor of internal medicine. “With this designation, VA Health Services Research and Development has recognized CCMR and its researchers for their exceptional track record of conducting research that makes a difference in the lives of Veterans. As a COIN, we will continue to seek innovative solutions to common and costly clinical management challenges facing our nation’s Veterans.”

Throughout its nearly 90-year history, the role of VA Research within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has enabled investigators – many of whom are also clinicians – to interact directly with patients in identifying new areas of study and assessing new therapies and treatments. By partnering with VA operational areas (e.g., mental health operations, patient-centered care and cultural transformation, patient safety, primary care, quality improvement, telehealth), VA is taking research innovation and internal collaboration to new levels.

**2013 Medical School Dean’s Awards**

Recipients of the 2013 U-M Medical School Dean’s Awards were honored on October 30th at a dinner in the Omenn Atrium of the A. Alfred Taubman Biomedical Science Research Building. Read about each of these remarkable awardees and see their photos by clicking on their names below.

**Distinguished Faculty Lectureship Award in Biomedical Research**

*John A. Williams, MD, PhD*  
Horace W. Davenport Collegiate Professor of Physiology,  
Professor, Departments of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, and Internal Medicine (Gastroenterology)

**Medical School Community Service Award**

*Robert C. Hyzy, MD*, Associate Professor, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

**Outstanding Clinician Award**

*Paula L. Bockenstedt, MD*, Associate Professor, Hematology/Oncology  
*David M. Williams, MD*, Professor, Departments of Radiology and Internal Medicine (CVM)

**Professional Staff of the Year Honorable Mention**

Kara J. Milliron, MSC, lead genetic counselor, Breast and Ovarian Cancer Risk Evaluation Clinic

[Read more](#)
Honors, Awards & Recognition

Christin Carter-Su named a Distinguished University Professor

Christin Carter-Su, PhD, was among nine faculty members who received one of the university’s top honors as Distinguished University Professors. The appointments were effective September 1. Distinguished University Professorships, established in 1947, recognize full or associate professors for exceptional scholarly and/or creative achievement, national and international reputation, and superior teaching skills.

Each professorship bears a name determined by the appointive professor in consultation with her or his dean. Dr. Carter-Su was named the Anita H. Payne Distinguished University Professor of Physiology. She is also the Henry Sewall Collegiate Professor of Physiology, and Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology.

Additionally, Dr. Carter-Su was recently appointed a secondary faculty member in the MEND Division. She also serves several roles in the Michigan Diabetes Research Center (MDRC): Associate Director, Director of the Pilot and Feasibility Study Program, and Director of the Enrichment Program.

Carole Dodge honored with ARHP Ann Kunkel Advocacy Award

Carole Dodge, BS, (Rheumatology) Occupational Therapy Supervisor Clinical Specialist, will receive the Ann Kunkel Advocacy Award at this year’s American College of Rheumatology/Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals (ACR/ARHP) National Meeting. This award is presented to an ARHP member who has provided extraordinary service to advocate for patients with arthritis/rheumatic diseases or for health professionals in rheumatology, and is limited to no more than two recipients per year.

Through her work with individual patients Carole exemplifies the value of expert assessment of hand mechanics and function, prevention of deformities and functional loss, and rehabilitation of a damaged hand in the patient with arthritis. She is an outstanding advocate as an educator, having trained and mentored many occupational therapists and other health professionals. A guest lecturer at several other universities, she has also participated in a global health project led by Vladimir Ogdenovski, MD, with funding support ILAR, aimed at developing rheumatology care in Macedonia, the poorest country in Europe where arthritis treatment has been rudimentary.

Barb French Retires

Barbara French, Administrative Assistant for Dr. Frank Brosius (Nephrology), has retired after 13 years of dedicated service to the University of Michigan. Barbara has been with the Division of Nephrology since January 2007. Barbara is looking forward to taking some classes, particularly classes on how to speak French, joining a Community Theatre and hitting the Gym.

Mark Kaminski honored by ICCS

Congratulations to Mark S. Kaminski, MD, (HemOnc) who presented the W. H. Coulter Distinguished Lecture at the International Clinical Cytometry Society (ICCS) meeting in Fort Lauderdale commemorating the 100th birthday of Wallace Coulter, the inventor of the Coulter counter. Each year the ICCS presents the Wallace H. Coulter Award, sponsored by the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, to an individual from anywhere in the world, to recognize his or her lifetime contributions to the science, education and practice of Clinical Cytometry. The award carries with in an honorarium, and the awardee presents the Keynote lecture at the annual Clinical Cytometry meeting.

David Humes awarded Kolff Prize

H. David Humes, MD, professor of internal medicine, (Nephrology) recently received the Kolff Prize which is named in honor of the resourceful Dutch physician Willem Kolff who invented the first artificial kidney and artificial heart.

Humes is revolutionizing the treatment of kidney failure in which patients need a new kidney or kidney dialysis to live. In the footsteps of Kolff, Humes has developed a dialysis apparatus that makes use of living cells. The new development may go a long way in controlling complications of acute renal failure and has potential to reduce the mortality rate from acute renal failure by 50 to 70 percent. Humes is in charge of the biotech companies Innovative BioTherapies and

(Continued on page 8)
Cyto Pherx. The Kolff prize is awarded by Biomedical Materials, a public private partnership to promote regenerative medicine, to those demonstrating exceptional work in organ replacement therapy. [Press Release]

**Jason Knight Promoted**

Jason Knight, MD, PhD, (Rheumatology) has accepted an appointment to the rank of Assistant Professor (physician scientist in the tenure track), effective January 1, 2014. Dr. Knight’s research looks at the interplay between antiphospholipid antibodies, netting neutrophils, and platelets in the accelerated vascular complications inherent to the rheumatologic diseases.

**Two from Internal Medicine elected to ACCA Society**

Daniel Hayes, MD (HemOnc) and David Markovitz, MD (Infectious Diseases) were recently elected to membership in the American Clinical and Climatological Association. The American Clinical and Climatological Association was organized in 1884 by a group of physicians and scientists who set about to improve medical education, research and practice in this country. Its initial concern was with tuberculosis and its treatment by residence in a suitable climate, but it has expanded its interests to all scientific and clinical aspects of medicine. Its membership comprises outstanding physicians selected on the basis of their leadership and their excellence in their chosen field. Active membership is limited to 250 physicians.

**Bethany Moore honored by ATS**

At the American Thoracic Society’s 2014 International Conference, The Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments, which recognizes researchers for either scientific contributions throughout their careers or for major contributions at a particular point in their careers, will be given to Bethany Moore, PhD (Pulmonary). Moore is being awarded for her work on the mechanisms underlying lung fibrosis and pulmonary host defense following bone marrow transplant. More information on the award is available at the conference website.

**Bishr Omary selected as AAAS Fellow**

M. Bishr Omary, MD, PhD, is among eight U-M researchers selected as 2013 American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows. He is honored for distinguished contributions to the field of gastroenterology, physiology and cell biology, including defining the function, regulation and disease association of keratins in digestive organs. Dr. Omary is the H. Marvin Pollard Professor of Gastroenterology and professor of internal medicine, and professor and chair of molecular and integrative physiology, all in the Medical School.

**Omenn wins national award from AAMC**

Gilbert S. Omenn, MD, PhD has been honored with the David E. Rogers Award by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The award was presented at the AAMC’s meeting in Philadelphia. Fittingly, Omenn was inspired early in his career by the physician leader for whom the award is named – and went on to make the major contributions to improving the health and health care of the American people that the award recognizes. For more on Omenn’s work, and achievements, see the AAMC award profile.

**Dr. Pop-Busui honored at Romanian Diabetes Society’s National Congress**

Rodica Pop-Busui, MD, PhD, was given a surprise award at the 39th National Congress of the Romanian Society of Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases in Sibiu, Romania. She was lauded for “outstanding contributions in the development of international and Romanian diabetology.”

During the Congress, Dr. Pop-Busui also was endowed as an honorary member of the Romanian Society of Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases for her contribution to diabetes research and clinical care. She is internationally recognized as an expert in the research of diabetes complications.

(Continued on page 9)
Honors, Awards & Recognition

(Continued from page 8)

Dr. Pop-Busui also was a presenter at the “Past, Present and Future in Diabetes Complications Research” symposium in Bucharest, Romania, which took place just prior to the Congress.

Dr. Pop-Busui is Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the MEND Division and Co-Director of the Michigan Peripheral Neuropathy Center. She has been involved in seminal diabetes clinical research studies during her career, such as the Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC), a follow-up to the landmark Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT), both of which found that intensive glucose control was superior to conventional control in delaying or preventing the complications of type 1 diabetes. The January issue of Diabetes Care honors the 30th anniversary of the DCCT/EDIC trial, for which Dr. Pop-Busui, Catherine Martin, and Jim Albers wrote the neuropathy findings.

Nephrology Emeritus Professor Receives Kidney Foundation Award

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has announced that our colleague Fritz Port, MD, MS, will be the recipient of the 2014 David M. Hume Memorial Award. This award is the NKF’s highest honor given to a distinguished scientist-clinician in the field of kidney and urologic diseases. Each year the NKF presents this award to an individual who exemplifies the high ideals of scholarship and humanitarianism in an outstanding manner.

For over 40 years, Fritz has made important contributions to improving lives for patients with kidney disease. Currently a Distinguished Research Scientist at Arbor Research Collaborative for Health, he is Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at U-M and was President of Arbor Research from 2002 to 2009. Fritz was Principal Investigator for the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS), the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR), and demonstration projects for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

He served as the Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health-funded United States Renal Data System (USRDS) Coordinating Center from 1988 to 1999. He has authored/co-authored more than 400 scientific publications, most of them focused on identifying and highlighting practices that may benefit care and outcomes for patients with kidney disease. His contributions have been recognized with the American Society of Nephrology’s Scribner Award (2004) and now the National Kidney Foundation’s highest honor for scientist-clinicians.

Bruce Richardson named ACR Master

Bruce Richardson MD, PhD, (Rheumatology) will receive the honor of being named Master of the American College of Rheumatology at this year’s National Meeting in San Diego. Recognition as a Master of the ACR is one of the highest honors the College bestows. The designation of Master is conferred on ACR members, age 65 or older, who have made outstanding contributions to the field of rheumatology through scholarly achievement and/or service to their patients, students, and profession. This honor is usually bestowed upon no more than 15 members per year. A Master is not required to pay annual fees, dues, or assessments and has the privilege of attending the ACR annual meeting without payment of registration fees. A Master has all the rights and privileges of membership, including the right to vote, hold office, and serve on any committee of the ACR.

Dr. Richardson pioneered the study of epigenetics in autoimmune disease, beginning with the premise that environmental triggers of lupus could fundamentally alter immune processes critical to the pathogenesis of this disease. He has also pursued a remarkable series of investigations that examine gender differences in lupus, a highly significant contribution in understanding gender differences in susceptibility to lupus, consistent with the heightened incidence of lupus in males with two X chromosomes.

An Important First for the Division of Rheumatology

Amr Sawalha, MD, has been appointed an Affiliate Faculty member of the Center for Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics (CCMB), by their Executive Committee, effective September, 2013. Dr. Sawalha’s research studies the genomics and epigenomics of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, with
a primary focus on lupus and systemic vasculitis, with solid experience designing, performing, and analyzing large data sets within a collaborative setting with multiple national and international centers. His work is supported by a rich environment for genomic and epigenomic studies at Michigan with state-of-the-art next generation sequencing and genotyping cores.

**ABWA-Maia Businesswoman of the Year**

Sharon Walker, Administrative Supervisor for the Nephrology Division, has been honored as the 2013-2014 Businesswoman of the Year for the Ann Arbor chapter of the ABWA. The American Business Women’s Association (ABWA) is a national organization with numerous chapters throughout the country. Each year a chapter selects a top candidate as their businesswoman of the year based on criteria such as leadership, mentoring, professional accomplishments and community service. Sharon has been with U-M for 29 years, her most recent year with Nephrology, and the Businesswoman of the Year award was well deserved.

Sharon was recently elected to serve as Secretary of the ABWA’s Ann Arbor Chapter. She takes a lot of pride in being a leader and mentor to other working women and describes her recognition as “wonderful that people actually thought highly enough of my qualities and character to nominate me for this.” We are fortunate to have her on the Internal Medicine team.

Sharon has also recently accepted the role of contributing editor to this newsletter for the Nephrology Division. Congratulations and welcome to Sharon!

**Distinguished Achievement Award for Nephrology Medical Assistant**

Nancy Winslow has been a medical assistant for 16 years in the Taubman Center, Area C clinic. Nancy is a Medical Assistant Specialist Senior for the Nephrology Division and was recently awarded the Distinguished Achievement Award by the Michigan State Society of American Medical Technologists (MSSAMT). This award is given to Medical Assistants that demonstrate dedication and leadership in their profession through mentorship, education and excellent customer service.

The MSSAMT was established 58 years ago to assist medical professionals with training, education, certification and career placement opportunities. Nancy, a member of MSSAMT for nine years, currently serves on the board of directors, was recently elected Treasurer of the Michigan Chapter, and donates her time as a proctor in the Medical Assistant Certification process.

The Distinguished Achievement Award is high praise for Nancy Winslow. When asked what the award means to her she reflected, “I am proud of the achievement and it means a lot to help with the education and advancement of other AMT members throughout Michigan”. Nancy encourages all medical assistants to visit the website and become a member.

---

**Save the Date … Come be a Victor for Medicine**

The University of Michigan Health System is creating the future of health care through discovery. Never before have we been better positioned to cure diseases, improve treatments and offer new hope to patients. Our Victors for Michigan campaign with its ambitious $1 billion goal will fuel these breakthroughs but we can’t do it alone. Our success depends on the generous support of our partners through philanthropy. On Saturday, April 26, 2014, under the stars, in a beautiful clear tent at Mitchell Field, with panoramic views of the University of Michigan Hospital campus, UMHS will host the Discovery Ball to raise funds to help continue our stellar reputation as leaders and best. This black-tie gala fundraiser will benefit the newly created “Discovery Fund” which will fund innovative and ground breaking research being done here at UMHS. For more information about the Discovery Ball please contact Lori Hirshman, Director of Internal Medicine Development, hirshmal@umich.edu
We are very excited to announce that Vikas Parekh, MD has taken on the new role of UMHS Medical Director for Care Management and Clinical Effectiveness which became effective November 1st, 2013. In this role, which reports to the Chief Medical Officer, he will help provide a physician voice to the hospital’s reorganization of discharge planning, social work and related services to improve care coordination and transitions of care in the hospital. In addition, he will also focus on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of patient care processes in the inpatient setting to ensure the provision of high value care to all our patients.

Vikas will transition out of his role in the residency program over the next 6 months but will retain his roles as associate director of the hospitalist program and assistant chair for clinical programs.

Vikas has been a long term friend and associate who has played a critical role in the program over the years as we have implemented innumerable changes in our inpatient services for the betterment of learning and compliance with the ever changing world of duty hours. In addition, he has played a key role in all facets of our program, extending from recruitment, curriculum development and resident mentoring. We are all in his debt for the major contributions he has made to the program. Please join me in congratulating Vikas in his new role and thanking him for his intense labor with the program.

Welcome Sarah Hartley, as one of our new Assistant Program Directors. Sarah has been recognized as an outstanding hospitalist as well as a superb educator in both UME and GME. Sarah will work directly with Vikas as he transitions to his new role in hospital leadership, taking on Vikas’s job, overseeing the inpatient component of our program. Please join me in welcoming Sarah into her new role.

Mr. and Mrs. Kughn Honored in Ceremony
Unveiling Kughn Clinic

Richard and Linda Kughn were honored in a ceremony unveiling the Kughn Clinics at the Taubman Center, the site to which their U-M Hospital naming had been relocated. In attendance were Drs. Carethers, Hyzy, Flaherty, Han, Chan and Lama. Originally, the Clinical Research Center was located on Level 7 and named in recognition of the Kughns’ generous gift to University Hospital. Their gift was a result of their deep commitment to continuing quality health care at the university and their dedication to the wellbeing of the patients and families they serve. Since the Clinical Research Center was moved, it was the Kughns’ admiration for the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine that lead them to choose this new location to bear their name. This admiration was borne out of the Kughns’ firsthand experience at the clinic where Richard received lifesaving care. This was a very joyful celebration for all who attended.
National lipid guidelines changed in no small part due to efforts of Michigan faculty member

A fundamental change in how national lipid guidelines are designed occurred recently due to efforts over seven years by Internal Medicine faculty member, Rod Hayward, in collaboration with a number of other department faculty. The NEJM Journal Watch story highlights the need to combine scientific work with political and policy work to get entrenched systems to change, as well as some of the challenges faced in the process. Starting with an article in Annals of Internal Medicine in 2006 and a follow-up in 2010, Hayward and collaborators proposed that specific lipid targets and monitoring be dropped in favor of a simple strategy of targeting moderate dose statins to people with higher cardiovascular risk. This strategy was shown to be a much more efficient way to reduce cardiovascular events and may well be a model for treatment algorithms and guidelines in other areas such as hypertension.

Providing the scientific justification was only the first step, as a concerted and sustained political and policy strategy engineered by Dr. Hayward along with Dr. Harlan Krumholz from Yale, was required to convince those involved in drawing up the guidelines that this approach was better than the decades old treat-to-target approach. Road-blocks along the way included the decision by National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the long time lipid guideline sponsors, to abandon the ATP-IV development efforts and hand the task over to the American Heart Association (AHA), perhaps not wanting to take the flack for such a radical redesign of the guidelines.

Handing off ideas to those in charge of implementing them also does not always go smoothly. Like the Affordable Care Act roll-out, the launch of the new guidelines has been further compromised by a less than carefully designed IT tool, in this case to calculate cardiovascular risk as a support to clinicians who are following the risk based approach. The final product has also been criticized by some people who argue that the risk threshold for treatment is overly aggressive. It all goes to show that rationalizing clinical care in our system requires dedication over the long-haul and has to be thought of as a work in progress.

Link to 2010 journal article
Link to Guidelines

EndoBarrier: A New Approach to Type 2 Diabetes Treatment Without Surgery

Researchers in the MEND Division are involved in a clinical trial to evaluate a new approach to type 2 diabetes treatment: The EndoBarrier, a thin, flexible, tube-shaped liner that is designed to change the way the body responds to food by forming a physical barrier between food and a portion of the wall of the intestine. Leading the trial at U-M is Elif Oral, MD, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the MEND Division, Director of the MEND Post-Bariatric Surgery Clinic, and Medical Director of the UMHS Bariatric Surgery Program.

“Given the severe and growing diabetes epidemic, there is a substantial need to develop new, more effective therapies,” Dr. Oral states. “Many people do not respond fully to diet and lifestyle modification alone or become resistant to the effects of oral medications, thus requiring additional treatments to manage their disease. EndoBarrier provides a potential new approach to treating type 2 diabetes.”

The ENDO Trial (“ENDO” is an acronym for “EndoBarrier: a Novel therapy for type 2 Diabetes in Obese adults”) will assess the safety and efficacy of the EndoBarrier in patients who have uncontrolled type 2 diabetes and are obese, with improvement in HbA1c (a measure of blood sugar) as the primary study endpoint. Secondary evaluation measures include weight loss and improvements in select cardiovascular risk factors, including cholesterol and blood pressure.

The study will enroll approximately 500 patients at up to 25 clinical sites in the United States, and U-M is currently looking to enroll 20 patients. Results of this study will be important in determining EndoBarrier’s potential approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

More information about the ENDO Trial can be found locally at umclinicalstudies.org/HUM00070226 or www.endobarriertrial.com or by calling 1-888-9STUDY9 (1-888-978-8399).
Updated diabetes patient education materials available to clinical staff

Diabetes 101: Taking Charge! Guidebook helps patients and providers

The team of the MEND Division’s Adult Outpatient Diabetes Education Program has published a comprehensive new guide to managing diabetes called *Diabetes 101: Taking Charge!* This educational handbook covers topics such as meal planning, carbohydrate counting, monitoring blood sugar, exercise, medications, stress management, how to manage sick days, and much more.

The guidebook was first introduced this fall at a statewide meeting of the Michigan Chapter of the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE), to much acclaim.

This 56-page guide was written by the certified diabetes educators, registered dietitians, physicians, and staff of the MEND Clinic, with contributions from patient groups. The information is designed to be easy for anyone to understand and use.

"We hope the Diabetes 101 guidebook will be used throughout the U-M Health System as THE standard diabetes education handout for patients newly diagnosed, as well as those needing additional information," said Sacha Uelmen, RD, CDE, director of the Adult Outpatient Diabetes Education Program. "It’s appropriate for type 1 or type 2 patients as a basic reference meant to enhance learning, but not a replacement for diabetes education classes."

**How to Order**

To buy printed books for your patients by shortcode or by check, go to [uofmhealth.org/diabetes101](http://uofmhealth.org/diabetes101). You also may view or download a free digital copy there. Free PDF copies are also available at the [Patient Education Clearinghouse](http://www.patienteducationclearinghouse.org) for UMHS staff and on the Open Michigan website for the public.

Updated patient handouts available on Patient Clearinghouse

The U-M Comprehensive Diabetes Center’s Adult Outpatient Diabetes Education Program (MEND Division) recently published a series of new and updated patient education handouts on the Patient Clearinghouse. The handouts cover a broad range of topics, providing essential education and information that people with diabetes need to know in order to perform self-care and improve quality-of-life. Topics include:

- diet, including meal plans
- blood glucose monitoring
- preparing for outpatient procedures
- a variety of psychosocial issues

All UMHS clinicians can access the handouts on the [UMHS Patient Clearinghouse Comprehensive Diabetes Center section](http://www.med.umich.edu/careguides). The section also includes several videos that have been reviewed and approved by UMHS Diabetes educators. Refer your patients and families to: [www.med.umich.edu/careguides](http://www.med.umich.edu/careguides) to access the handouts and videos at home. Please contact Ruti Volk, UMHS patient education librarian, to order Education Rx forms to help you refer your patients to the Care Guides site.

Previously published in Headlines, courtesy Ruti Volk

---

**Advancement Resources Philanthropy Workshops**

In February 2013, the UMHS Medical Development office held its first training for faculty members on responding to patient gratitude. In this first of several sessions being led by Advancement Resources, 20 faculty members had a chance to learn more about the tactics, strategy and psychology behind moving from a "thank you" in the clinical setting, to opening the door, to further conversation that is supported by our UMHS gift officers. Since that initial February training session, the UMHS Office of Medical Development has sponsored a number of training sessions throughout the year and are planning to conduct more in 2014. For more information about attending an Advancement Resource training sessions please contact Internal Medicine Director of Development Lori Hirshman at 734-763-6080 or [hirshmal@umich.edu](mailto:hirshmal@umich.edu).
Improving the hospitalization experience for older adults: the UM-SJMH Acute Care for Elders unit

On May 28th, 2013, after almost a year of planning, a unique collaboration between U-M and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor came to fruition with the opening of the new 16-bed Acute Care for Elders inpatient medical unit in the St. Joseph Hospital Ann Arbor 10 East Tower. Dr. Karen Hall, who is the unit Medical Director, and a Professor in the Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, said, “I was very proud to officiate at the ribbon cutting ceremony, and excited about the prospects of improving hospital care for our frail elderly.”

The “ACE unit,” as it is usually called, is a specialized medical unit for acutely ill geriatric patients. Our ACE follows a national model of care shown to increase the likelihood of a shorter average length of stay, preservation of physical and mental functions, and reduced rates of hospital readmission compared to care in traditional hospital units.

To date, over 150 patients have been admitted from a variety of different sites, including the Emergency Departments of the U-M Hospital, and St. Joe’s, and direct admissions from geriatric clinics, physician offices and sub-acute rehabilitation facilities.

Watch a YouTube video about the ACE Unit

Patient Care at the ACE unit

The ACE unit focuses on a family-centered approach to care, with input from patients, their loved ones and caregivers. The physical space is designed to be geriatric-friendly, with spacious private rooms, and interventions to prevent falls and injuries. The medical problems treated span the gamut of disease, with serious infections such as pneumonia, urinary infections and cellulitis, acute confusion, falls, acute kidney impairment, and heart failure as primary diagnoses in approximately 2/3 of admissions. The interdisciplinary care team includes U-M geriatricians, nurses with geriatric training, and a dietician, pharmacist and social worker. The team places particular emphasis on discharge planning and communication with patients’ primary care providers, to decrease readmissions.

Although the ACE unit has only been in operation for six months, it has already demonstrated important and positive patient outcomes:

- Patients stay an average of 4.3 days, which is lower than either hospital’s average length of stay for their age group (65 and older).
- Rates of adverse outcomes of hospitalization such as falls (3%), new skin ulcers (1%), and hospital-acquired urinary infections (0.6%) are low, despite the fact that the unit cohorts vulnerable elderly patients at high risk for these complications.
- Thirty-day hospital readmission rate is 9.7% for ACE unit patients, lower than the average rates in both healthcare systems for this patient population (13-19%).
- Patient and family satisfaction with the individualized geriatric-focused care has been very high, with many patients asking “how can I get back here if I need to be hospitalized?”
- Staff are very happy with the working environment, which promotes shared care between physicians and other medical providers, and keeps the same staff on the unit to provide continuity of care for the patients.

How do patients get admitted into the ACE unit?

Providers wishing to admit a patient to the ACE unit should contact the ACE Charge Nurse at 734-712-9080 and give their call-back number and a brief description of the situation. The attending geriatrician discusses the case with the provider, and determines admission suitability and whether the patient can come directly to the unit, or should go to the emergency room at UMHS or SJMHAA. If the patient is sent to either ED, we will notify the physicians there about the patient so that if they meet criteria for hospital admission, they can be admitted to the ACE unit.

This collaboration between two separate medical systems has resulted in development of new procedures that address requirements of the Affordable Care Act for continuity of care between systems, and has forged strong connections between the UMHS and SJMHAA.

For general questions about the ACE Unit call 1-800-211-8181.
Initiatives & Updates

**Brehm/Kellogg Trainee Poster Session showcases post-doc and grad student research**

During the academic year, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows working in the Kellogg Eye Center and the Brehm Center for Diabetes Research (both housed in the Brehm Tower building) get together for monthly Trainee Chalk Talks organized by Emi-lynn Alejandro, PhD, and Caroline Walsh, BS. During these informal meetings, one or two trainees present their work to the group. Alejandro is a Research Fellow in the lab of Ernesto Bernal-Mizrachi in the MEND Division. Walsh is a Neuroscience PhD student of mentor Peter Hitchcock in Ophthalmology.

The organizers stated in an email message, “These gatherings are a great opportunity for trainees to get to know one another, share expertise, troubleshoot, and practice speaking to and obtain feedback from not only their peers, but colleagues outside of their home department.”

To kick-off the 2013-2014 Chalk Talk Series, Alejandro and Walsh organized a Poster Session/Social Hour on October 9, 2013 from 3:30-5pm. The event showcased state-of-the-art research done by Brehm/Kellogg graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, who presented their work in the form of their most recent poster or printed panels of their data. The goal was to foster faculty/trainee collaboration across disciplines as well as to serve as an opportunity to “display the high-quality Ophthalmology and Obesity/Diabetes research ongoing in the Brehm and Kellogg laboratories!”

The Poster Session was well-attended and featured displays of research by several dozen post-docs and students. This event was a successful mix of social and scientific purposes!

---

**What Did You Do on Sabbatical?**

**Martin Myers’ Unusual Sabbatical**

*Martin Myers, Jr., MD, PhD,*

seems to do everything in an exceptional way. Not only meant in terms of excellence - which is also applicable, since in a short span of time, he won the Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award from The Obesity Society, the Outstanding Scientific Achievement (Lilly) Award from the American Diabetes Association, and the Ernst Openheimer Award from the Endocrine Society - but also in terms of “the exception to the rule.”

When Myers decided to take a six-month sabbatical from his work as an obesity researcher in the MEND Division, he chose a path that is different from most. Actually, two paths.

Myers is the Marilyn H. Vincent Professor of Diabetes Research, Professor of Internal Medicine, and director of the Michigan Diabetes Research Center, as well as holding a secondary appointment as Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology.

For the first leg of his sabbatical, which began at the end of June, he elected to “spend several months in a cabin in Nova Scotia with scientist friends stopping by, and writing.” Myers says that this was an enjoyable and fruitful experience, with some very good science discussions. There was another cabin with plenty of room for visitors to stay while they visited him, including some of his lab members.

The second part of Myers’s sabbatical began a few months later, when he returned to work with mice in his own lab. That’s right, he spent the other half of his sabbatical working in his own lab! Myers explained, “Since I was a cell culturist while training for my career and didn’t work with animals directly, I wanted to experience what is involved in working with animals.”

What did he think of his tenure as a lab rat? “It was fun!” said Myers. “It’s been 10 years since I was in the lab, and I never worked on animals or in the brain.” He paused and added, “I never had to! When you have talented people working in your lab, they can train each other.”

The answer to my final question is probably obvious. When I asked him, “Isn’t this an unusual thing to do for a sabbatical?” "Probably so," he grinned.

*By Amy Garber, MEND Division*
Grants

Global Challenges

Kemp Cease, MD (HemOnc, VAAAHS) (top photo) has been notified by the Provost that he and Jon Oscherwitz, MD (bottom photo), have been awarded a Global Challenges for a Third Century Global Challenge Phase I grant. The title is "Opt In: A Personal Fertility Control Vaccine." The project team is multidisciplinary and includes people in several other departments. The total award is $297,618 for one year. This grant builds on work that Jon and Kemp have been doing in vaccine research and development, especially on their recent next-generation anthrax vaccine work.

More on the Third Century Initiative and Global Challenges Grant can be found at this link.

Cancer

University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center researcher Maha Hussain, MD, (HemOnc) received one of six grant awards from the Movember-Prostate Cancer Foundation Challenge. The projects chosen represent a range of focus and expertise that will tackle the most challenging problems that prostate cancer patients face in the clinic. Funds for the awards were made possible through a generous $7.7 million contribution from PCF’s partner, Movember, the global men’s health charity that gets men to grow the moustache for thirty days each November to raise funds and awareness for cancers affecting men.

Hussain, along with U-M co-investigator Felix Feng, MD, received $1 million. Her project will seek to determine if men with hormone-sensitive, metastatic prostate cancer who are given a novel combination of drugs can delay the onset of resistance to androgen deprivation therapy, and thus delay progression to end-stage disease.

Ryan Wilcox, MD, PhD, (HemOnc) received a $200,000 V Scholar Grant award from the V Foundation for Cancer Research, one of the nation’s leading cancer research funding organizations. These grants are awarded to fund “rising star” scientists. Wilcox’s research focuses on the role of the T-Cell transcription factor GATA-3 in cutaneous T-Cell lymphomas.

The V Scholar Program is designed to identify, retain and further the careers of talented young cancer investigators. The 2013 V Scholar grants, $200,000 two-year commitments for each recipient, are provided to the best and brightest young researchers who are developing their own independent laboratory research projects. The recipients gain the competitive edge necessary to earn additional funding from other sources in the future.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research was founded in 1993 by ESPN and the late Jim Valvano, legendary North Carolina State basketball coach and ESPN commentator. For more information on The V Foundation, visit www.jimmyv.org.

Infectious Diseases

Casey Theriot, PhD (Infectious Diseases) received The Mentored Research Scientist Development Award in Metabolomics (K01). In her grant entitled, “Shifts in the Gastrointestinal Metabolome During Clostridium difficile Infection” she proposes to define metabolites associated with changes in the gut microbiota that contribute to C. difficile colonization and pathogenesis. C. difficile infection (CDI) is the leading cause of antibiotic-associated colitis and is responsible for significant morbidity, mortality and increased healthcare costs. With the help of her two mentors, Dr. Vincent Young and Dr. Charles Burant, she is interested in understanding how the gastrointestinal tract microbiota mediates colonization resistance against C. difficile. The rationale for the proposed research is that understanding the role the gastrointestinal metabolome plays in C. difficile pathogenesis has the potential to improve preventative and therapeutic approaches for this infection. The proposed research is significant, because it will lead to the identification of novel biomarkers and potential targets for therapeutic interventions to prevent or treat CDI.
Grants

**Diabetes & Kidney Disease**

A consortium that includes the U-M Medical School was awarded **$24.3 million by the National Institutes of Health** for a clinical trial to study a potential kidney disease treatment for people with type 1 diabetes.

The trial will be conducted by the institutions that comprise the Preventing Early Renal Function Loss in Diabetes (PERL) Consortium: Joslin Diabetes Center (grant holder), University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Colorado, University of Toronto, Northwestern University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the Steno Diabetes Center in Denmark. In addition, a data center will be housed at U-M.

Rodica Pop-Busui, MD, PhD, (top photo) Associate Professor of Internal Medicine in the MEND Division and Co-Director of the Michigan Peripheral Neuropathy Center, is the Principal Investigator for the Michigan site. Her co-PI is Frank Brosius, III, MD, (bottom photo) Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief, Division of Nephrology; Professor of Molecular & Integrative Physiology; and Director of the national Diabetic Complications Consortium.

The is a five-year randomized clinical trial that will evaluate whether allopurinol, an inexpensive and safe FDA-approved drug for treating elevated uric acid (gout), is effective in reducing or slowing down kidney function loss among people with type 1 diabetes. The study stems from findings linking higher levels of serum uric acid to the risk of kidney complications in diabetes. Dr. Pop-Busui said that they will need to recruit 60 patients here at the U-M site. For more information on the study and participant requirements, contact Dr. Pop-Busui at rpbusui@med.umich.edu.

*Includes information taken from a press release by the Joslin Diabetes Center*

---

**Nephrology**

**CureGN Data Coordinating Center (Glomerular Disease)**

*Principal Investigator: Matthias Kretzler, MD*

Primary glomerular disease causes significant suffering, chronic health challenges, and progressive loss of kidney function over many years contributing to 10% of new end stage kidney disease (ESRD) patients per year in the USA. Despite the health burden imposed by glomerular disease, significant gaps exist in diagnosis, monitoring, and research that support the effective treatment of these conditions. The National Institutes of Health has awarded to Drs. Kretzler, Robinson and Gipson at the University of Michigan and Arbor Research the data coordinating center for the CureGN consortium ($3.2M for five years) to focus on four of those diseases, minimal change disease (MCD), focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), Immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN), and idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN). The resources generated from CureGN’s 2,400 cases and controls will support a research program involving many areas of science and medicine, empower the network of scientists working with the consortium to accelerate their research based on the rich resources, specimens, scientific and analytics managed through a coordinated data center. Success of the CureGN network will be measured by advances in disease understanding and therapeutic pathways, identification and validation of outcomes relevant to patients and clinicians, testing of innovative therapies and effective partnership across disciplines between patients and providers.

**University of Michigan O’Brien Kidney Translational Core Center**

*Principal Investigator: Frank C. Brosius III, MD*

As kidney research becomes more translational and incorporates new technologies that are helping to redefine the whole spectrum of chronic kidney disease, researchers require state-of-the-art translational research support to help them identify new pathways responsible for disease progression and new targets for treatment of a host of kidney diseases. The National Institutes of Health has awarded Dr. Brosius and his collaborative team $4M to provide such research support for the large UM kidney research community, as well as researchers around the globe, with a unique platform of systems biological tools, bioinformatic analysis and clinical cohort biosamples to promote bench to bedside (and back) research that will have both short and long-term impact on kidney disease diagnosis and treatment. Using web based tools, the Center provides a unique compendium of human gene expression data that is available to every kidney investigator in the public and private sector worldwide.
Discoveries & Publications

Review Article Makes Cover of Discovery Medicine

The Quest for Better Understanding of HLA-disease Association: Scenes from a Road Less Traveled.” by author Joseph Holoshitz, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine/Rheumatology.

“Dozens of human diseases and health traits are significantly more common among individuals carrying particular human leukocyte antigens (HLA) alleles. The underlying mechanism of this phenomenon, commonly referred to as “HLA-disease association,” has been the subject of a decades-long debate. The prevailing hypotheses implicate an auto-aggressive immune response due to aberrant presentation of self-, self-mimicking-, or altered self-antigens by HLA molecules. However, the identity of such putative antigens remains elusive in the vast majority of HLA-associated diseases. Moreover, antigen presentation-based hypotheses are difficult to reconcile with epidemiologic data and functional characteristics of HLA molecules. To provide better answers to these inconsistencies an alternative theory involving allele-based, antigen presentation-independent mechanism is proposed here. Recent research findings in rheumatoid arthritis, an emblematic HLA-associated disease, lend support to the proposed theory.”

Link to journal article

Dr. Richard Miller: diabetes drug helped male mice live longer

Research led by the University of Michigan, the Jackson Laboratory in Maine and the University of Texas Health Sciences Center has found that a drug commonly used to treat type 2 diabetes increases the median lifespan of male mice by 22 percent.

The effects of the drug known as acarbose were smaller in female mice, producing only a 5 percent increase in lifespan, according to the findings that appear in Aging Cell.

“The new results on acarbose support the idea that drugs may someday be developed to prevent many diseases while also slowing the aging process itself,” says senior author Richard Miller, MD, PhD, professor of pathology at the U-M Medical School and associate director of research for the U-M Geriatrics Center.

The study also found that the effect on maximum lifespan was similar in male and female mice, increasing longevity by 11 percent and 9 percent, respectively. The research was done as part of the National Institute on Aging’s Intervention Testing Program (ITP).

Acarbose, suggested for the study by scientists at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, is believed to work by slowing the digestion of starches, which prevent rapid increases in blood sugar levels after meals. Most of the mice in the study die of some form of cancer. Authors say the longer lifespan of the acarbose-treated mice suggests that the drug may, through unknown pathways, help to prevent cancer as aging proceeds.

Miller says that because acarbose is known to be safe for long-term human use, it may be possible for clinical researchers to evaluate its effects on aging and age-related diseases, both in people who take the drug to treat their diabetes, and in healthy volunteers.

“Further studies in mice may shed light on how the cellular and physiological connections between acarbose and control of glucose levels may influence the pace of aging,” says Miller.

Authors also say that the differences in results between male and female mice reinforce the idea that some interventions have gender-specific effects.

Read more
Link to journal article
Discoveries & Publications

**Staph infections and eczema: What’s the connection?** Findings published in the journal *Nature*

**Drs. Jon Oscherwitz and Kemp Cease** (HemOnc), (photo page 16) together with colleagues from the U-M Department of Pathology, the Laboratory of Human Bacterial Pathogenesis at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; the University of Western Ontario; and the Indiana University School of Medicine, published their findings in the journal Nature.

The study identifies *Staphylococcus aureus* δ-toxin as a potent inducer of mast cell degranulation, and provides evidence that this is an important mechanism in atopic dermatitis, a chronic inflammatory skin disease that affects 15-30% of children and approximately 5% of adults. The paper develops the story from several angles including *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies distinguishing the mast cell degranulating effect of δ-toxin from the effects of other *S. aureus*-derived molecules, showing that genetic deletions of δ-toxin in *S. aureus* in fact eliminates the effects, and showing that lesions in a mouse model of atopic dermatitis are dependent on both mast cells and δ-toxin. Experiments conducted in the course of these studies also showed that antibody raised against an engineered δ-toxin immunogen can neutralize δ-toxin's mast cell degranulating activity.

This study provides new insight into an important mechanism underlying atopic dermatitis, and moreover, may point the way to novel approaches for preventing and treating atopic dermatitis with small molecule therapeutics, antibody therapeutics, or an anti-δ-toxin vaccine.

This kind of research is what U-M’s new Host Microbiome Initiative is all about. With new funding from the Medical School’s Strategic Research Initiative, the researchers will accelerate their research in coming months and years. Read more Link to journal article

---

**Important findings in human bladder cancer published in Molecular Medicine**

Bladder cancer is a common cancer, can be fatal, and has not benefited from therapeutic advances over two decades. Researchers at the University of Michigan Translational Oncology Program (TOP) located at the North Campus Research Complex (NCRC), were able to generate important preclinical data demonstrating the significant activity of a next-generation compound in human models of bladder cancer. This biologic compound, which is also being tested in patients with lung cancer, inhibits biologic pathways that are considered involved in the development and progression of bladder cancer.

The data, recently published in *Molecular Medicine* by **Drs. Petros Grivas** (HemOnc), **Maha Hussain** (HemOnc), and several colleagues, have supported the design of an investigator-initiated clinical trial that aims to evaluate the safety of this compound in combination with chemotherapy (gemcitabine/cisplatin) in patients with advanced bladder cancer. This will be the first trial to assess the activity of this inhibitor in patients with this disease, and evaluate its combination with this specific chemotherapy regimen in humans.

This is a characteristic example of the mission, vision and goals of the TOP, which was created to bridge effectively the gap between the laboratory and the clinic. Considering the challenging research funding environment, this is an important advancement and sets the tone for further impactful translational paradigms by the University of Michigan."

Read more about TOP at U-M

Link to journal article

---

**Petros Grivas**
**Discoveries & Publications**

**Rothberg paper chosen for symposium of cutting-edge research during Obesity Week**

A paper by Amy Rothberg, MD, PhD, was one of six winning manuscripts submitted to the journal *Obesity* that was chosen to be showcased for Obesity Week’s First Annual Journal Symposium. Obesity Week is sponsored by the Obesity Society and American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) and took place November 11-16 in Atlanta, GA.

The symposium was conceived to highlight the cutting edge of obesity research. Priority was given to novel studies that expand scientific knowledge of: the mechanisms underlying obesity, prevention and treatment of obesity, or translation of findings from the lab to the clinic and from the clinic to the community.

Dr. Rothberg’s manuscript was titled, “The impact of a managed care obesity intervention program on clinical outcomes and costs: A prospective observational study.”

The authors of the winning papers gave an oral presentation of their research and, in addition, the papers were published in a special section of the November issue of *Obesity*.

Dr. Rothberg is Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine in the MEND Division and Director of the MEND Weight Management Program. Link to journal article
Link to Weight Management Program website

---

**Ao-Lin Hsu:**

**Lessons from the worm – how the elderly can live an active life**

When the tiny roundworm C. elegans reaches middle age — at about two weeks old — it can’t quite move like it did in the bloom of youth. But rather than imposing an exercise regimen to rebuild the worm’s body-wall muscles, researchers can bring the wriggle back by stimulating the animal’s neurons. And, they say, pharmaceuticals might have a similar effect in mammals.

Scientists at the U-M Life Sciences Institute and Medical School have found that the loss of motor ability associated with aging begins in neurons and spreads to muscles, and that chemically stimulating neurons could “rejuvenate” old roundworms by improving the animals’ motor function.

Researchers in the lab of Shawn Xu, LSI faculty member and Bernard W. Agranoff Collegiate Professor in the Life Sciences Institute and Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, in collaboration with Ao-Lin Hsu in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, at the Medical School, determined that the motor decline in older worms had roots in early changes in the function of the nervous system that began long before visible deterioration in the structure of the animals’ tissues. They were able to reverse the decline in motor ability by giving the worms arecoline, an alkaloid found in the areca nut.

In parts of India and Southeast Asia, where the areca palm grows, people chew the nut as a stimulant, often combined with betel leaf and other ingredients. However, the practice is associated with cancer.

“The pharmacological stimulation of neurons with the chemical improved motor functions in old animals,” Xu said. “Understanding the neuron-to-muscle sequence can help find treatments for motor decline in humans. It would be ridiculous to chew areca nuts in hopes of rejuvenating muscle, of course, but the findings suggest that there’s potential to develop a drug that works in a similar way for humans.”

The research was published online Sept. 3 in *Cell Metabolism*.

Aging is characterized by gradual, progressive declines in performance of multiple tissues, called functional aging, which ultimately lead to death. But while much research has illuminated how genes and the environment affect life span, the mechanisms underlying functional aging in tissues throughout the body have been largely elusive, Xu said.

In order to understand the role of tissue deterioration in motor function decline in aging animals, Xu’s lab, in collaboration with Hsu, evaluated the functional status of neurons and muscles in the roundworm C. elegans throughout the worms’ entire lifespan, which is about three weeks.

Read more
Link to journal article
Discoveries & Publications

Dr. Lillian Min: Geriatric care may help older patients find independence after trauma

Older patients who received extra geriatric care following a traumatic injury were able to return to roughly two thirds more daily activities than those without a consultation, according to a new study led by researchers from the University of Michigan Health System and University of California, Los Angeles.

Patients in the study were 65 or over and had experienced injuries ranging from a minor rib fracture from a bad fall to a serious head injury or multiple fractures as a driver, passenger, or pedestrian in a motor vehicle accident.

A year after discharge from the hospital, patients were questioned about how well they were able to return to independence in regular activities, including walking, bathing, managing finances, light housework and simple shopping trips.

Those who saw an additional geriatrician during their hospital stay were less dependent on others a year later – most notably in their ability to leave the house to shop for personal items – according to the research that appears in the Journal of the American Medical Association Surgery.

“Trauma surgeons have long struggled with the fragility of their older trauma patients who have much greater health risks for the same injuries experienced by younger patients,” says senior author Lillian Min, MD, MSHS, assistant professor of internal medicine, Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine at the U-M Medical School. “We've come a long way in improving our survival rates of these patients but what we didn’t know was whether we were returning them to their homes and communities sicker than they were before.”

“What we found was that geriatric interventions helped older patients take better care of themselves and be more independent.”

Adults aged 65 and over are estimated to comprise 40 percent of all trauma patients over the next four decades.

Read more
Link to journal article

Dr. Kenneth Langa: Good news on the Alzheimer’s epidemic – risk for older adults on the decline

People are less likely to experience dementia and Alzheimer's disease today than they were 20 years ago – and those who do may be developing it later in life – says a new perspective article in the New England Journal of Medicine that examines the positive trends in dementia.

Authors examined five recent studies that suggest a decrease in the prevalence of dementia, crediting the positive trend to improvements in education levels, health care and lifestyle.

“We're very encouraged to see a growing number of studies from around the world that suggest that the risk of dementia may be falling due to rising levels of education and better prevention and treatment of key cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure and cholesterol,” says co-author Kenneth Langa, MD, PhD, a professor of Internal Medicine at the U-M Medical School and research investigator at the Center for Clinical Management Research (CCMR), VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

“Our findings suggest that, even if we don’t find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, there are social and lifestyle factors we can address to decrease our risk.”

“The growing number of older adults in the U.S. and around the world means we will undoubtedly see a significant growth in the number of people with dementia, however the good news is they appear to be living longer without experiencing it,” says Langa, who is also a member of the U-M Institute for Social Research, Institute of Gerontology and Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation.

“We are seeing a positive trend that suggests that improving our physical and mental health go hand in hand with fighting off this devastating condition.”

Read more
Link to journal article

Read a related blog post by Dr. Langa “On the list of possible dementia busters: An educated mom, robust social life and delaying retirement.”
Discoveries & Publications

Dr. Scott Pletcher: Fruit flies with better sex lives live longer

Sex may in fact be one of the secrets to good health, youth and a longer life – at least for fruit flies – suggests a new University of Michigan study that appears in the journal *Science*.

Male fruit flies that perceived sexual pheromones of their female counterparts – without the opportunity to mate – experienced more stress and rapid decreases in fat stores and resistance to starvation. The sexually frustrated flies lived shorter lives.

Mating, on the other hand, partially reversed the negative effects on health and aging.

"Fruit flies are model organisms for understanding molecular mechanisms of aging. These findings give us a better understanding about how sensory perception and physiological state may be integrated in the brain to affect long-term health and lifespan," says senior author Scott D. Pletcher, PhD, professor in the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology at the U-M Medical School and research professor at the U-M Geriatrics Center.

"The cutting-edge genetics and neurobiology used in this research suggests to us that for fruit flies at least, it may not be a myth that sexual frustration is a health issue. Expecting sex without any sexual reward was detrimental to their health and cut their lives short."

U-M scientists used sensory manipulations to give the common male fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, the perception that they were in a sexually rich environment by exposing them to genetically engineered males that produced female pheromones. They were also able to manipulate the specific neurons responsible for pheromone perception as well as parts of the brain linked to sexual reward (secreting a group of compounds associated with anxiety and sex drive).

"These data may provide the first direct evidence that aging and physiology are influenced by how the brain processes expectations and rewards," Pletcher says. "In this case, sexual rewards specifically promoted healthy aging."

Read more Link to journal article

Community & Development

Geriatrics Center receives $1M endowment gift from Bernard Osher Foundation

The process of learning does not end with graduation from school, but is a lifelong endeavor. The Bernard Osher Foundation, which supports lifelong learning around the country, has generously made a $1 million endowment gift (in two installments) to the University of Michigan Geriatrics Center to support the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at U-M.

The Foundation provides this level of funding only upon demonstrated success, and this is the second such endowment the Osher Foundation has made to OLLI, for a total of $2.2 million in support.

OLLI at U-M is a community program that offers a variety of educational opportunities for area residents age 50 and over. It evolved from a program called Learning in Retirement, which was established in 1987 by a dedicated group of Geriatrics Center social workers and volunteers, to encourage adults to continue their learning long after formal schooling is done. The success of Learning in Retirement gained recognition from the Osher Foundation, and the program was renamed in appreciation of the Foundation’s support.

OLLI has just completed its 25th year, and has over 1200 members. This year’s programs feature more than 150 courses, study groups, lectures, and day-long travel excursions to Midwest venues. Speakers are typically U-M faculty or community experts, and topics range from philosophy to politics to history to literature and the arts, and more.

David Blazevich, senior program officer of the Osher Foundation, expressed his enthusiasm. "We’re delighted to support all the fine work being done, and I congratulate everyone involved with the program. We applaud the institute’s continued success and many remarkable accomplishments over the past year,” he said.

(Continued on page 23)
Community & Development

(Continued from page 22)

The Osher Foundation sponsors lifelong learning institutes at 117 colleges and universities across the country, although OLLI at U-M is one of only three in the state of Michigan, and one of the few associated with a major Geriatrics Center. Created in 1977 by businessman Bernard Osher, the foundation seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts.

OLLI at U-M activities are coordinated by a very dedicated and involved volunteer board, who have helped to guide the program to greater levels of excellence and additional support from the Osher Foundation.

“We are thrilled to be recognized with this second endowment, which underscores the quality of our offerings and is a reflection of the enthusiastic support of our members,” said current OLLI at U-M Board President Fran Weinstein.

Jeffrey Halter, MD, director of the U-M Geriatrics Center, said, “I’m confident the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at U-M is among the very top programs of its kind in the country, and that’s due to the dedication of all its volunteers and staff. This generous endowment gift comes thanks to their high quality work.”

“We’re very excited for this recognition and support,” said Darlene Racz, Geriatrics Center associate director for Social Work and Community Programs. “This will help ensure that we can keep offering these educational opportunities for older adults in the community.”

The University of Michigan Geriatrics Center is a national leader in aging research and clinical care for older adults, as well as in the training of health professionals in the special needs of the elderly population. The center also has a strong mission of community service, providing social, cultural and educational programming through the Turner Senior Resource Center in Ann Arbor, where OLLI is located.

Read more

Want more information? Visit http://olli.umich.org, or contact Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson or Lisa Barton at 734-998-9351 or email olli.info@umich.edu

The Scleroderma Cure Fund Spaghetti Dinner

On October 19, 2013, at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia, Michigan, the MAAS (Mothers of ALL Ages) group along with the Detroit Marathon Relay Team hosted their first annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser in support of the University of Michigan Scleroderma Program.

Over 125 people attended this charity event, which featured dinner, movies for kids and a silent auction, as well as remarks by Elena Schiopu, MD. Proceeds from Scleroderma Cure Fund Spaghetti Dinner will support the Scleroderma Cure Fund benefiting the Michigan Scleroderma Program.

For more information about the Scleroderma Cure Fund or the Scleroderma Program please visit their Facebook page or website.

The Rugiero Casino Royale Fundraiser

On November 1, 2013, at the Italian American Club of Livonia, the Rugiero family hosted the 4th annual Casino Royale Fundraiser charity event in honor and in memory of Antonio Rugiero Sr.

More than 400 people attended this charity event, which featured a strolling dinner, casino, entertainment and dancing, silent auction and prizes, as well as remarks by Massimo “Max” Pietropaolo, MD and Peter Arvan, MD, PhD. Proceeds from The Rugiero Casino Royale will support the Antonio Rugiero Diabetes Research Fund at the U-M Brehm Center for Diabetes Research.

For more information about next year’s Casino Royale please check out the website.
### Community & Development

**Victors for Michigan Campaign Kickoff Luncheon**

On November 8, 2013, more than 320 supporters, faculty and staff as well as patients and students were in attendance to share why they are Victors for Michigan. Those who were present experienced an inspiring program that shared stories about amazing work being done here at UMHS. At the luncheon it was announced that A. Alfred Taubman and Richard Rogel would co-chair and chair the Victors for Michigan campaign for our health system. Their leadership is critical as we embark on the challenges of meeting our goal of $1 billion. The Victors for Michigan campaign will enable our physicians and scientists to take on the greatest health care challenges of our time — on an unprecedented scale.

As of September 30th UMHS has raised 40% of our ambitious goal.

Looking ahead, the Health System will celebrate the Victors for Michigan campaign the weekend of April 25 — 26, 2014. We hope to reach 50% of our campaign goal by that weekend. Activities will include a TEDx conference, the launch of the faculty and staff giving campaign, and the UMHS Discovery Ball. The ball will be the first black-tie gala and will benefit the newly created “Discovery Fund" to support innovative and groundbreaking research being done at UMHS.

### Targeted Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Target Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Innovative Environments Facilities</td>
<td>$100,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit and Retain Extraordinary Minds Faculty Support</td>
<td>$100,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transform Patient Care Programmatic Support</td>
<td>$200,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerate Discovery Research Support</td>
<td>$515,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Leaders Student Support</td>
<td>$85,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Department of Internal Medicine Continuing Medical Education 2014 Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Update on Advanced Cardiac Imaging: What Referring Providers Need to Know</td>
<td>Saturday, March 8, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algorithms for Modern Venous Care</td>
<td>Saturday, March 15, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing Outpatient Diabetes Care</td>
<td>Saturday, April 26, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updates in Nephrology for the Primary Care Provider</td>
<td>Saturday, May 3, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine Spring Review</td>
<td>Friday - Saturday, May 9-10, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Annual Advanced Liver Disease and Liver Transplantation Update</td>
<td>Friday, May 16, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update on Arrhythmias and Syncope</td>
<td>Saturday, June 7, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd Annual Internal Medicine Update</td>
<td>Friday - Sunday, July 25-27, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Annual Cardiology Update</td>
<td>Friday - Sunday, August 15-17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Annual Pediatric Board Review</td>
<td>Sunday - Friday, August 24-29, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of the Art: Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation</td>
<td>Thursday, September 11, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Issues in the Care of Older Adults</td>
<td>Thursday, September 18, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Solutions to Common GI Problems: What the Internist Really Needs to Know</td>
<td>Saturday, October 4, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Management</td>
<td>Saturday, October 18, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Annual IBD Update for the Practicing Physician</td>
<td>Saturday, November 8, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Annual Update in Pulmonary &amp; Critical Care Medicine</td>
<td>Friday - Saturday, November 14-15, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th Annual Liver Disease Wrap-Up</td>
<td>Saturday, December 6, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information and to register visit: www.med.umich.edu/intmed/cme
Division of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan present

World Kidney Day 2014

Thursday, March 13, 2014
Dow Auditorium, Towsley Center
10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.
The theme of this year’s event:

“Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Aging”

The mission of World Kidney Day is to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

World Kidney Day Website

You’re invited!

Did we miss something? You’re invited to send your news, articles and photos to the editor representing your division listed at the right-hand side of this page. Suggestions always welcome!

Susan Urba, MD (HemOnc) crossing the finish line at the Chicago Marathon on October 13, 2013. She participated as part of her church group, raising money for the international charity, World Vision. This was Dr. Urba’s first marathon—she trained for eight months, and power-walked the marathon, averaging a 14-minute mile. Her group raised more than $50,000 for their charity!

Congratulations to a very M-Healthy Susan Urba!