



Jeannette E. South-Paul, MD
Andrew W. Mathieson UPMC
Professor and Chair

Welcome to the Department of Family Medicine (DFM) newsletter! As Family Medicine enters its 20th year as a department in Pitt's School of Medicine, we recognize many accomplishments. Our required 3rd year clerkship and 20 electives provide many opportunities for students to see our approach to family-centered care. Our research in immunization disparities, adolescent pregnancy, and health disparities adds to our understanding of health of challenged populations. Our family health centers have attained NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home certification – the most effective and highest quality model for caring for patients in the 21st century.

Our family medicine and family med/psychiatry residencies and faculty development, geriatrics and sports medicine fellowships based at UPMC St. Margaret's, Shadyside and McKeesport Hospitals and the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC, continue to produce highly qualified family physicians.

West (PA) Meets East: Family Medicine Collaboration in Japan

The DFM has been collaborating with an 1150-bed teaching hospital – Aso-Iizuka Hospital -- in Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan since 2006. Working with the Department of General Internal Medicine there, the department has helped create a Family Medicine residency, design a new Family Medicine Health Center within a newly built primary care-oriented facility – Kaita Hospital, and are now assisting in the launch of a nursing collaboration with AIH and its hospital-based nursing school. We have spoken at medical schools throughout this region of Japan and at medical recruiting conferences to increase the awareness of the contributions Family Medicine makes to the health of individuals, families, and communities.

Several visits have included specialists as well as family physicians spotlighting the benefits of team-oriented care. Below is a traditional tea ceremony that was part of the festivities celebrating the opening of the new North Tower of Aso-Iizuka Hospital. Dr. Tiffany Musick, a Family Medicine trained hospitalist at UPMC East and member of the team, along with Cheryl Brill, VP, Clinical Operations – ICSD, and Ann Mitchell, PhD, RN, Pitt School of Nursing, comprised the team visiting Iizuka in January, 2013.

Japanese faculty are coming to Pittsburgh in November for a faculty development course and chief residents in February for a chief resident administrative skills course.



Drs. South-Paul and Musick participate in a traditional tea ceremony in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan

Residency News: Introducing our Interns

We welcomed the following first-year residents in July:

UPMC McKeesport Family Medicine

Erin Cheng Johnson, MD – Louisiana State U SOM, LA
Jin Cheng, MD (FM/Psych) - LSU SOM, LA
Samridhi Chikersal, MD – Gov't Medical College, India
Jeremy D'Souza, MD – U of Med and Health Sciences, St Kitts
Sivajanani Sivarajah, MD – St. George's U, Grenada
Noopur Tiwari, MD – Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Med College
Konstantinos Turlas, MD – Saba U SOM, Sint Eustatius
Joseph Wakim, MD – University of Balamand, Tripoli
Deborah Sokolowski, DO – Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
Medicine, Erie (LECOM)

UPMC St. Margaret's Family Medicine

Elaine Boron, DO, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Natasha Chadha, MD, Boston University SOM
Edward Ellis, DO, LECOM
Megan Ferderber, MD, Penn State College of Medicine
Peter Ferrara, MD, Penn State College of Medicine
Scott, Heyl, MD, American University of the Caribbean
Gavin McKinnon, MD, U of Michigan Medical School
Laura Maus, MD, U of Minnesota Medical School
Craig Otteni, MD, Warren Albert Med School of Brown U
James Pagana, MD, Penn State College of Medicine
Jason Siegel, MD, St. George's University
Christopher Urbanek, DO, PCOM
Hanna, Xu, MD, Temple University School of Medicine
Emily Ketterer, MD, (FM/Psych)Wayne State U SOM

UPMC Shadyside Family Medicine

Iyunoluwa Agboola, MD, Howard U College of Medicine
Kiana Kouchakzadeh, DO, LECOM
Jonathan Lazaro, MD, U of Santo Tomas, Philippines
Matthew McCarl, DO, LECOM
Amber McCauslin, DO, PCOM
Michelle Rabinovich, DO, LECOM
Hannah Rosenblum, MD, U of Maryland School of Medicine
Diana Sidelko, MD, Northwestern U - The Feinberg SOM
Katie Tadolini, MD, Northeast Ohio Medical University
Veronica Vasquez, MD, U of Washington School of Medicine

Dr. Robin Maier Leads New Longitudinal Project at School of Medicine

A new program called the Longitudinal Alliance Project will pair first-year medical students with moderately complex patients whom they will follow throughout medical school. By experiencing the complex health care system from the patient's and family's point of view, students will appreciate the symmetries and asymmetries in physician-patient relationships and may be able to identify and help bridge gaps in care, miscommunications and systemic problems with our current system.

Dr. Robin Maier, Director of Medical Student Education for the Department, is developing and championing this program. "We are very excited about this opportunity for the Family Medicine Department to lead in this emerging project which will allow students to share in our love for longstanding patient relationships," Maier says.

A small pilot group of first-year medical students will begin the project later this fall; eventually all students will participate. Maier is collaborating with many throughout the medical school community to recruit patients and faculty mentors and to integrate the student-patient alliances into existing curriculum.

Keep us in mind if you have a patient who could use an advocate or student-ally who could be present at physician appointments, help communicate with family, or just walk along with the patient through a difficult medical experience. Family Medicine is proud to be a part of this exciting project.

Medical Student Corner: FMIG/RMIG Spring Activities



Accompanied by Dr. Robin Maier and education coordinator Patti Zahnhausen, the family and rural medicine interest groups organized a spring service in April. Focusing on underserved and rural populations, the 1st and 2nd year students conducted health screenings at an assisted living facility, a food bank, an indoor flea market, and at a community race in Cecil, PA. Their efforts were so successful that they were invited to provide health screenings at the Man Up for Prostate Cancer Father's Day 5K/10K Run/Walk in Pittsburgh. The volunteers won the award for the group with the most participants!

Match Day

The University of Pittsburgh matched 4 talented students into family medicine residency programs this year. Congratulations to Byron Doepker – Group Health Cooperative, Seattle WA; Michelle Garcia – Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine, Augusta ME; Russell Spingarn – University of Minn Med Sch/N Memorial, Minneapolis MN; and Diana Tucci – O'Connor Hospital, San Jose CA

Residency News: Congratulations, Graduates!

UPMC McKeesport Family Medicine

Ereny Eskarous, MD – part-time faculty, McKeesport Fam Med
 Hanika Gupta, MD – FQHC, California
 Sherlyana Helen, MD – Geriatric Fellowship at UPMC St. Margaret's
 Lakshmi Kodey, MD – Family medicine, Etna, PA
 Mary Naguit, MD – Family medicine, Houston, PA
 Bilal Piracha, MD – Hospitalist, Oklahoma City
 Belinda Siu, MD – Geriatric Fellowship – Oregon Health & Science University, Portland
 Nekesha Oliphant, MD (FM/Psych)– Family Medicine/Community Psychiatry Practice – Texas

UPMC St. Margaret's Family Medicine

Lorri-Anne Burke, MD-Family medicine, Greenbelt MD
 Allison Flaherty, MD -- Maternal Child Health Fellowship, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
 Amy Heinzen, MD – Family medicine, Pittsburgh, PA
 Rachel Himm, MD--Family medicine, Natrona Hts, PA
 Richard Hoffmaster, MD – Fac. dev. fellowship, St. Margaret's
 Luke Jesser, MD -- Family medicine, Natrona Hts, PA
 Diana Kelly, MD -- Family medicine, Sewickley, PA
 Robert Koshick, MD--Family medicine, McMurray, PA
 Jonathan Powell, MD -- Family medicine, Pittsburgh
 Zeina Saliba, MD – Healthworks, VA
 Matthew Schaffer, MD—Sports med fellowship, St. Margaret's
 Danielle York -- Family medicine, McMurray, PA

UPMC Shadyside Family Medicine

Tsuneari Hayashi, MD- Geriatric Fellowship University of HI
 Yewah Jung, DO- FQHC, Dallas, TX
 Jason Kirby, DO - Urgent Care at MedExpress, Pittsburgh
 Tomoko Sairenji, MD-Faculty Dev. Fellowship, UPMC Shadyside
 Jose Sioco, MD –Family medicine, WA
 Frances Southwick, DO – FQHC Pittsburgh, PA
 Kathryn Trinidad, MD-Family Medicine, Somerset, PA
 Ria Valencia, MD -- Family Medicine, WA
 Thomas Weiner, MD -- Indian Health Services, AZ

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