What’s Up, Doc?

Spring 2011
SUNY Upstate Dept. of Medicine newsletter
Susan DeAngelo- editor
Dr Elliott recently vacationed in Costa Rica. He was generous enough to share a few pictures of the trip he took with his family.
Celebrating birthdays this quarter-


May- Oleg Chepurny, Clay Elliott and George Holz.


Drs. Sheila Lemke and Barbara Krenzer have been selected to receive a Gold Standard Award. This award recognizes faculty who have demonstrated dedication, passion, vision and commitment to their work and to Upstate. The awards were presented by Dr Michael Iannuzzi at the Celebration of the Faculty, Wednesday March 16th, 2011. 4:30-6:00 PM in the IHP Atrium

Congratulations to both!

Quotable quotes:

Medicine to produce health must examine disease; and music, to create harmony must investigate discord.

Plutarch
This is what Dr Timothy Ford had to say about the new Cardiology West outpatient location:

“So MedWest opened January 2011. Dr Danish Siddiqui and I are the main doctors covering. We have a Nurse Practitioner, Jeanne Pietrzak. The office is located at Medical Center West, 5700 West Genesee St. in Camillus. The phone number is 488-2372. We see new patient consultations, follow-up visits and perform diagnostic tests such as echocardiograms, stress echocardiograms, Holter monitors and event recorders. The office is open daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Appointments can be scheduled by calling, and most patients can be accommodated within a day or two.

Sorry, no pictures!”

Please give a warm welcome to Brenda Cannizzaro, who has just started in her position as Marketing Support Co-ordinator at the Foundation for Upstate Medical University. Ms.Cannizzaro’s primary role will be to act as liaison between the Department of Medicine and the Foundation. Her office is located in room 304 of the Campus Activities Building and her number is 464-4281.
Dr Sri Narsipur’s daughter won a prestigious art award in January. Here are the details along with a picture of the winning piece:

2011 CNY Scholastic Art Awards: East
Sonia Narsipur - Leaves on a Vine - Ceramics & Glass - Ceramic Guild - 2nd Place, Sr. High - Jamesville-Dewitt HS.

Here’s what the proud father had to say:

“Her name is Sonia Narsipur, age 16, Jamesville-Dewitt High School 11th grade. She gets all of her talent from herself because neither her mother nor I can do anything like this!”
The European Society for Medical Oncology is pleased to present the

Best Poster Award

to

Stephen Graziano, MD
Syracuse, NY, USA

for the presentation of poster:

389P

LACE-Bio Pooled Analysis of the Prognostic and Predictive Value of p53 Mutations and Expression by Immunohistochemistry (IHC) in Patients with Resected Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

in the category:
Chest tumors

during the 35th ESMO Congress, Milan, Italy, 8 – 12 October 2010

Davide F. Rea
ESMO 2010 President

Rolf F. Sandi
ESMO 2010 Scientific Committee Chair

LACE-Bio Pooled Analysis of the Prognostic and Predictive Value of p53 Mutations and Expression by Immunohistochemistry (IHC) in Patients with Resected Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

Stephen L. Graziano1; Emmanuel Prieur2; Xiaojin Mao3; Jean-Pierre Pignon4; Pierre Hamant5; Miguel Tourné6; Imin S. Tsao7; Robert A. Krasna8; Elizabeth Brambilla8; Jean-Charles Solé9
1SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, USA; 2Institut Gustave-Roussy, Villejuif, France; 3Hôpital Saint-Antoine, AP-HP, France; 4Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI, USA; 5University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA; 6University of Grenoble, Grenoble, France

Objective
• To determine the impact of p53 anomalies on prognosis and benefit from platinum-based adjuvant chemotherapy, we undertook a pooled analysis of 4 randomized clinical trials (EORTC 08967, INT-0103, JPDC-11, and CALGB 93333)

Methods
• p53 IHC expression was assessed on slides obtained from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded biopsies
• p53 mutation analysis was performed using denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography and direct sequencing
• The prognostic and predictive value for benefit from ACT of p53 IHC and mutation on overall survival (OS) and disease-free survival (DFS) was assessed using model stratified by sites and evaluated for clinical and pathological variables

Results
• p53 IHC was successfully performed in 1439/1648 patients (87.0%) 4128 patients (79.9%)
• p53 IHC expression was higher in non-small cell tumors (74.5%) vs. small cell tumors (32.8%)
• There was a non-significant IHC difference in OS benefits from ACT in p53 IHC expression: p53 negative (68.8%, p=0.02); p53 positive (65.0%, p=0.06), interaction p=0.02
• p53 mutations were more common in younger pts (p=0.02), higher T-stage (p=0.05) and N-stage (p<0.001)
• There was a 10% trend for N-stage in p53 mutated pts (HR 1.1, 95% CI 0.9-1.3)
• There was a 8% trend for better OS from ACT in p53 wild-type pts with N-stage >0 (75.4%, p=0.03), interaction p=0.12
• For pts who received ACT, the HR for death was 1.31 (p=0.03 for mutated vs wild-type p53)
• In the squamous cell subgroups, there was a predictive effect both on OS (HR 1.40) and DFS (HR 1.32) with a significant benefit of ACT only in wild-type p53

Conclusions
• In this analysis, neither p53 IHC expression or mutation status was prognostically significant
• There was a trend for improved survival with ACT in patients with wild-type p53, significant in squamous cell pts

References
A WORD ABOUT THE MEDICINE CLERKSHIP  
(by Lisa Oliver-Clerkship Administrator)

It's all systems go for medical student education in the Department of Medicine! We've seen a steady upswing in the number of students going into Internal Medicine over the past few years, and next year will be no exception! A new MS3 innovation for 2011 is the addition of students to Morning Report. Students will observe and join in the discussion on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. We're also introducing pocket cards for the students to carry with them which state the goals and objectives for the clerkship, along with the diagnoses and procedures we would like them to see during the clerkship. Finally, we are working with faculty to standardize the clerkship's expectations for how students should present patients and write notes, as well as the various tasks the students should be responsible for.

And we have not left out the MS1s! Last summer, we launched our Clinical Elective Experience. This experience allowed six students to rotate both inpatient and outpatient services during the summer between their first and second years. It was a huge success, far exceeding our expectations. The students loved it and absorbed every drop of knowledge like student-shaped sponges! This summer, we are doubling the amount of students (from 6 to 12) and so far the demand for slots has been high. Two of the students who did the elective last year spoke at a summer opportunities meeting for the first years and both of them just kept saying "it was awesome" over and over again! They went into details of rotating in the ICU, and on the heme-onc team and the excitement of actually seeing (and treating) the pathology they have read, seeing an arterial puncture, participating in a code or being the first person to interview a patient in an outpatient setting.

Finally, the clerkship scored a whooping 45% “excellent” rating for the quality of education experience on the 2010 AAMC Medical School Graduation Questionnaire. Our 45% was the highest excellent score amongst all the clerkships.

All of these successes are a direct result of the dedication to teaching by the department’s faculty and residents. Keep up the good work! Maybe next year we’ll hit 50% excellent!
The following information is shared on behalf of Dr. Jeremy Shefner:

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Ruth Weinstock has accepted the position of Director of the Clinical Research Unit, starting March 1, 2011. Dr. Weinstock is Director of the Joslin Diabetes Center and has been one of the most active clinical investigators on campus for many years. Her research has included both NIH and industry funded projects, and her interests have included the development of telemedicine in diabetes care as well as other aspects of clinical therapeutics.

Ruth will be replacing Dr. Arnold Moses, who is stepping down as director but who will remain involved as CRU co-director. Dr. Moses has been CRU director for many years, and is primarily responsible for its survival as a hospital supported unit after CTSA certification was lost. He has been fully committed to the success of clinical research at Upstate, and I would like to personally thank him for his unceasing efforts both in leading the unit and in maintaining a focus on the importance of a growing clinical research program at Upstate.

Please join me in congratulating Arnie for his service, and welcoming Ruth in her new role.

Jeremy M. Shefner, MD, PhD
Associate Vice President for Clinical and Translational Research

Fun facts– How the manila folder got it’s name:

The manila component of the name comes from manila hemp or abacá, from which manila folders were originally made. "Manila" refers to the capital of the Philippines, one of the main producers of abacá, which is itself named after the Indigo Tree (Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea) a shrub called "nilad" in Tagalog as the name means "there is nilad".
HAMILTON WHITE LIST INCHES TO NEW RECORD!
With days left in the Upstate Community Giving Campaign, Upstate now has 226 Leadership Gifts of more than $1000 representing $341,212 of the campaign total. Department of Medicine’s, Dave Small and Gene Kaplan came in over the last couple of days. The 226 bests last year’s 220. (This information compliments of Dan Hurley’s “Friends & Advocates, Vol. 14, No. 22) Note: these two faculty members are in addition to those listed in the last newsletter.

Honors & Awards:

1. Roberto Izquierdo, MD, Medicine, received The Guillotine Award for “sticking your neck out” and presenting at the Faculty Development Seminar Series during the 2009-2010 academic year.

2. Roberto Izquierdo, MD, Medicine, received the Diabetes NCQA Recognition Award 2011.

Publications:


Abstracts:


Valentine’s Day Visit– February 2011

Professor Ludwig Stein was invited to come in on Valentine’s Day to tour the new Heart Center at University Hospital. The underlying reason was that the hallways are now graced by the collection of paintings he created for his wife, Dr. Nancy Jermanovich, who died in 2000.

Ludwig Stein is a Syracuse University fine arts Professor. He met his wife Nancy (at the time, a Nephrologist in the Dept. of Medicine) on a blind date on New Year’s 1978. On their second Valentine’s Day, he presented her with a painting with a stylized heart. The next Valentine’s Day, Nancy asked where her painting was, so an annual tradition of heart-themed paintings began, and lasted until Nancy’s death in December 2000.

In 2003, Ludwig Stein donated the Valentines series of 22 to University Hospital in memory of Nancy and their 22 years together. The paintings had been located on the 5th and 6th floors of the East Wing. With the recent opening of the new Heart Center, the Valentine’s Paintings were transplanted there, with the heart-felt appreciation of the staff.

Thank you Professor Stein!
(Story by Patrice Palmieri)
Dr Ali Salah (Cardiology division) and wife Nur welcomed their first baby, a son, in January. Nimeri was born on January 22, 2011 at 9:10 p.m., weight 8 pounds, length 20 inches. Baby Nimeri and Mom Nur are doing very well. Here is a photo for all to enjoy. Congratulations to the very proud parents!
Voluntary Faculty Promotions

Pratibha Kaul, MD, FCCP was promoted to Clinical Professor of Medicine in October 2010. Dr Kaul is an Associate Program Director of the SUNY Upstate Medical University Internal Medicine Residency program. She practices at the Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center, Syracuse, NY where she is the Director of the ICU, Medical Director of the Sleep Lab, and a staff physician in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Dr Kaul is a valued member of the Internal Medicine Residency program. Best wishes to you Dr Kaul!

David Landsberg, MD, FACP, FCCP was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine in March 2011. Dr Landsberg is an Associate Director of Educational Programs at Upstate Medical University. Dr Landsberg practices medicine at Crouse Hospital where he is an Intensivist/ICU Director, Site Coordinator of the Internal Medicine Residency and the Assistant Chief of Medicine. He is a valued asset to our residency program. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!

Congratulations to both of you!
Welcome to the 2011 - 2012 Intern Class, Department of Medicine

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St Patrick’s Day 2011-
In this photo Ann Clancy is trying to turn Dr. Hegazy into a Leprachaun!

The new Department of Medicine office (on the fifth floor of the hospital) nears completion. Dr Iannuzz’s office and the hallway to the administrative assistants’ office are shown below.
COLLEGE BOWL NEWS!

Dr. Sarah Lappin's College Bowl Team won the championship! Fellows Sekou Rawlins, Steven Duffy and Shilpa Kshatriya and residents Shraddha Goyal, R-2, Osman Muhammad Arif, R-2 and Carlos Martinez-Balzano, R-1 (team pictured with Dr Lappin on plaque below) helped lead the team to victory! Congratulations to these folks, and all who participated in the fun, on a job well-done.