In a partnership between the US Air Force and Saint Louis University, health care personnel are being prepared for battle medical response. Combat Surgical Training and Response (C-STAR) utilizes the departments of anesthesiology, emergency medicine and surgery. Residents and faculty are participating in a two week intensive training in the Saint Louis University Hospital ER and ICU with an emphasis on triage, stabilization, fluid management and resuscitation.

They will also train on emergency procedures such as chest tube placement and central venous access.

Drs. James Haynes, Joshua Hodge, Lowell Sensintaffar, and Brian Shaner of the Belleville residency are first slated to get this experience, which is available to all trainees.

An additional focus of the residency is disaster preparedness training.

Both civilian and military staff and physicians are involved in a seminar focusing on triage, biological, radiological and chemical exposures and decontamination and trauma held quarterly. Leadership in health team response and care of the psychological effects of disasters are also featured in this training which is quarterly. This is built upon the existing requirements for ACLS, ALSO and NRP required training and optional ATLS and PALS training.
The Belleville Family Practice Residency (FPR) is developing its full-scope training program as a rural health focus. The same skills needed for a military graduate to practice independently in a remote clinic, to assess the needs of a community with limited health resources, and to provide the procedures that might otherwise be done by a referral specialist, are the same skills a civilian physician needs to practice in a rural underserved area.

Building on the 3-year grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health, a rural rotation in Randolph County, Illinois has been established. Roxanne Fahrenwald, M.D., Residency Director of Montana Family Practice and Residency Assistance Program (RAP) consultant, completed a one day site visit to provide guidance and insight. Meeting with the entire faculty and residents, she commented that the Belleville program has a robust clinical experience necessary for rural practice, highlighting the procedural and obstetrics training. Over half of the residents she surveyed expressed an interest in rural practice skills. The current experience in Sparta, Illinois provides a look at practice in a community of 8,000. Dr. Fahrenwald suggested that the program look at the possibility of an “immersion” experience with the trainee living in the rural community for 2-4 weeks.

Future directions for this experience will be under the direction of Matt Ulven, M.D. Dr. Ulven is currently the Chair of the Rural Health Committee of the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians and will participate in the National Rural Health Conference in May 2003. Plans include sending Michael Jones, D.O., a PGY-1 who plans to join a rural practice after residency, to the Rural Health Conference.

The same skills needed for a military graduate to practice independently in a remote clinic... are the same skills a civilian physician needs to practice in a rural underserved area.

**Why Family Medicine? . . . .**

**A Prospective Graduate Explains His Choice**

I spent my third year of medical school enjoying most of my rotations. I had considered various specialties including surgery, obstetrics, and psychiatry. I had a wonderful experience during my family medicine clerkship working with Kenneth Ross, D.O. in House Springs, Missouri. It was not, however, until the last rotation of my third year that I realized my calling: Adolescent Medicine. During my pediatric clerkship, I found that the patients that I really enjoyed working with were teenagers. I feel that I can make a difference with these individuals as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood.

I chose family medicine as my route to adolescent medicine for several reasons. Some of these include the exposure to sports medicine, mental health, and gynecology, which are all large components of adolescent health. I also felt that by choosing family medicine, I would be prepared to provide help with all problems that a teenager may encounter. Finally, I enjoy the biopsychosocial approach to health and illness that is utilized in family medicine training. After my upcoming residency, I plan to complete a fellowship in adolescent medicine.

**Patrick Riley, MS4**

Patrick will graduate in May 2003 and has been accepted for residency training in the Saint Louis University Family Medicine Residency at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Belleville, Illinois.
It has been another busy quarter here in the department! Some news:

Our biggest success this quarter was the restoration of Title VII funding by Congress. Title VII supports grants which fund our predoctoral division, research division, and Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Many of our faculty lobbied their congressional representatives and I want to thank all of you for those efforts – they really helped!

Our Area Health Education Center program has had several transitions recently. Our deputy director, Deborah McGruder, M.P.H. moved to Washington, DC in search of “greener pastures.” Deborah did an outstanding job organizing the program office and she will be missed. I am proud to announce that Barbara Bowman has accepted the position of director of ECMO (East Central Missouri) AHEC. Barbara was formerly the comptroller for the Urban League and we look forward to working with her as she assembles her staff.

The Des Peres clinical practice continues to grow. Michael Cannon, M.D. will be joining the practice this summer or fall and will expand his role within the predoctoral division, including developing a family practice sports medicine elective.

Our endowment campaign has generated several significant contributions. All those interested in more information regarding the endowed chair campaign, please do not hesitate to call me.

The Regional Health Commission is set to release its situational analysis regarding health care for the underserved in St. Louis City and County. I serve on both the Provider Services Advisory Board and Measurement Working Group and have found the process to be stimulating. The Regional Health Commission has gathered together a group of highly energetic individuals who, I think, will make a difference in the care of the underserved in our metropolitan area. I would urge all of you to get a copy of its March Situational Analysis Report as well as its June Strategic Planning Report.

In February, I participated as a representative for the Association of Departments of Family Medicine to a new ad hoc committee established by the American Board of Family Practice. This committee is charged to examine the “blue print” for the board exam which has not been revised since 1970. All of the representatives were very excited about this endeavor and we got off to a good start during the weekend.

Last, as reported in the Research Division article elsewhere in this newsletter, we have submitted three letters of intent (LOI) this quarter for research projects. As I was forming teams for these letters of intent it was nice to see so many departmental faculty interested in research.
Personnel Notes

Carrie Lee Venable, M.S. is wearing lots of hats these days. In addition to her duties as Education Coordinator for the pre-doctoral division and AHEC program office in the department, she has taken on the role as the National Health Service Corp Ambassador for Missouri. In her spare minute, she has also agreed to serve as Region 4-West Knowledge Community Chair for SAPAA (Student Affairs Professionals Working in and with Academic Affairs) for NASPA, a national organization for Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education. In that capacity, she recently attended the NASPA national convention here in St. Louis and came away with lots of good ideas. Congratulations to Carrie Lee on her new roles!

Michael T. Railey, M.D. has been selected as a distinguished finalist for the 2002 Humanitarian in Medicine Award, an annual award sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) through the support of the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. Dr. Railey is one of 53 honorees from across the nation nominated by the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives, based on five defining characteristics of humanism in medical education: positive mentoring skills, active in community service, compassion/sensitivity, collaboration and observance of professional ethics.

On a very sad note, our partner and friend, Tamra Lisy Aloush, former director of ECMO AHEC, passed away on March 2nd after a valiant battle with cancer. She leaves behind her son, Noah, and an army of family and friends who supported her in her unconventional struggle to regain her health. She was a person of great warmth and humor and we will miss her stories of Noah and her commitment to creating educational opportunities for prospective health professionals.

Research Developments

This winter Dr. Mark Mengel submitted two letters of intent (LOIs) in response to the CDC 2003 Potential Extramural Projects. We recently learned that "Improving Health Behavior by Using a Family History Tool" with Margaret Ulione, Ph.D., Rob Nicholson Ph.D., H. Russell Searight, Ph.D., Matthew Ulven, M.D. and Kathleen Amyot, M.D. has been selected for full application.

We are still awaiting word on another project entitled, "A Social Marketing Approach to Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy Among African Americans," with Dr. Ulione, Leigh Tenkku, MPH and Debra Smith-Shurn, CEO of Marketing Works, Inc. We plan to collaborate on this project with the Maternal Child and Family Health Coalition and the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Partnership.

Several faculty members, Dr. Mengel, Kathleen Tarr, M.D., Ph.D. and Elizabeth Laffey, M.D. have submitted LOIs in response to an e-technology call for proposals for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Matthew Ulven has begun his project entitled "What Do Rural Family Physicians Want in a Computer Assisted Learning Device for their Diabetic Patients?" A survey was sent out in early March to 463 family practice physicians in Illinois and we are beginning to get responses. Dr. Ulven has also submitted a grant to the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.

Dr. Kim Zoberi has begun her project, "Correlation of Calcium Intake and Obesity in African American Females". Subjects in an urban public health clinic are being interviewed about their food choices using a food frequency questionnaire. Dr. Zoberi has submitted this grant to the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.

Tamra Lisy Aloush was a person of great warmth and humor and we will miss her.
**Match Results**

The Match results for the Class of 2003 have been released. Eight students have selected Family Medicine for residency and five of those students will be joining our own residency program in Belleville.

The graduates selecting family medicine are:

- Gregory Climaco  
  Saint Louis University SOM – Belleville
- Hannah Echalier  
  U. of Kansas SOM – Kansas City
- Kelly Jones  
  Saint Louis University SOM – Belleville
- Anne Webster Nash  
  Saint Louis University SOM – Belleville
- Michael Nash  
  Scott Medical Center – Belleville
- Erin Piontek  
  University Hospital – Columbia, MO
- Patrick Riley  
  Saint Louis University SOM – Belleville
- Leah Swartwout  
  St. John’s Mercy Medical Center – St. Louis

The largest percentage of students from this class chose internal medicine (23%). After internal medicine, the most selected specialties ranked in this order: pediatrics (15%), anesthesia (8%), emergency medicine (7.6%), family medicine (6%), OB/GYN (6%), ophthalmology (5%), diagnostic radiology (5%), and surgery (4.6%).

We will be having our department’s annual Pinning Ceremony and reception for the family medicine graduates and their families on Wednesday, May 14th. Please plan to join us as we celebrate our new family medicine grads. Details will be forthcoming!

**Jennifer Burke Receives Second Place Award**

Jennifer Burke, MS2 and department research assistant, received second prize for her poster presentation on “Altering the Perceived Seriousness of Diabetes Through Peer Health Counselor Support” at the SLU Graduate Student Associate Research Symposium on March 21st. Her project was based on data collected in Dr. Kathleen Tarr’s study of the effects of peer health coaching on diabetes patients. Congratulations, Jennifer!

**Department’s New Vision Statement**

The Department has recently adopted the following Vision Statement:

Our department will work toward the creation of a health care system that is:

- Built on a primary care base with family physicians assuming a leadership role.
- Composed of diverse, culturally competent health care practitioners willing to practice in underserved areas.
- Consistently obtaining high-quality outcomes with fewer health disparities.
- Offering community-based and population-based services available to prevent disease, and once disease develops, minimize complications.
- Cost effective and affordable.
- Improving quality of care through research.

Where resources and skills match the need, we will provide leadership in our local and regional area to conduct projects in order to realize the above vision.

We welcome your comments.
Grand Rounds Presentations

Save the Date!

Learning Resource Center, Auditorium C, 6-7 p.m.

4/15/03 Health Disparities in Urban Communities
by Judith Bentley, CEO
Community Health-In-Partnership Services (CHIPS)

5/13/03 Student Community Health Project Presentation

6/17/03 Culture and Competence in Medical Practice