News & Notes

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THE FUTURE OF FAMILY MEDICINE PROJECT REPORT – DEFINITELY WORTH A LOOK

The Annals of Family Medicine recently published the Future of Family Medicine Project report in a supplement to its March-April 2004 issue. The report is available online at The Annals of Family Medicine website, http://www.annfammed.org. The report was a joint effort of the Family Practice Working Party and the academic family medicine organizations in order to address our current standing in the U.S. healthcare market. Consultant firms were hired to do qualitative and quantitative research on many different groups of stakeholders. The research findings in and of themselves are very provocative. Perhaps the most provocative finding is that our patients really do not readily recognize who we are and have a very hard time differentiating us from other primary care physician specialities. Indeed, the words, “family” and “practitioner”, often confused our patients, seeming to imply that our discipline lacks a scientific background.

As the report addressed many areas of concern, it is definitely worth a read. The one I would like to emphasize in this article is the basket of services that all family medical physicians should provide, if we are truly to operationalize the new model of family medicine that the report advocates. The full basket of services is listed below in Table 1:

Table 1. Basket of Services in the New Model of Family Medicine

- Health care provided to children and adults
- Integration of personal healthcare
- Health assessment
- Disease prevention
- Health promotion
- Patient education and support for healthcare
- Diagnosis and management of acute illnesses and injuries
- Diagnosis and management of chronic diseases
- Supportive care, including end of life care
- Maternity care
- Hospital care
- Primary mental health care
- Consultation and referral services, as necessary
- Advocacy for the patient within the healthcare system
- Quality improvement and practice-based research

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In order to be branded as a family medicine physician, each physician would be responsible for providing this basket of services either directly or through established ongoing relationships with experienced clinicians in the community. If outside clinicians are providers of services listed above, then the family physician would still be responsible for those outcomes. Thus, teamwork and coordination of care would be vital skills under this new model.

Clearly the inclusion of maternity care, hospital care and primary mental health care will spark a great deal of controversy among us. Additionally, “branding” this basket of services would require accreditation from an outside agency. It may be that every family medicine practice will have to be visited on a 3-5 year basis to ensure that these services are provided adequately and that outcomes from our patients who utilize these services are good. In order to justify the establishment of another bureaucracy, better reimbursement will have to be in place, better information systems to capture and track outcome data, and a greater openness of the practitioner community to practice-based research will be needed.

The implications for both undergraduate and graduate medical education are profound. Medical education is still very much content -- not skill -- driven, whereas graduate medical education continues to focus on clinical, rather than organizational, competencies. Additionally, many of our residency programs find it difficult to provide accreditation mandated services, much less the expanded basket of services advocated in the new model of family medicine. As many residency programs across this country already operate at a loss, where the additional training dollars will come from to support this effort is unclear.

The other barrier to integrating this new basket of services into our educational effort is that whenever we have attempted to present this new knowledge to medical students, our lecturers, while very competent, are almost universally panned as providing information that is not on the boards and thus not cared about by the students. The culture of medical education is now so focused on passing the board exams that it is going to be very difficult to expand the students’ views and provide them a larger perspective on the challenges confronting the U.S. healthcare system.

I am personally taking the long view in seeing this as a twenty year effort in which we need to engage in order to not only improve our discipline but the overall U.S. healthcare system. Strains on the U.S. healthcare system are evident as costs and the number of uninsured continue to climb, while health disparities are still great. It is time for those of us in family medicine who have the energy and competence to begin conducting experiments to address some of these larger issues as well as undertake change efforts within our residency programs and clinical practices to see if integrating some of the findings of the Future of Family Medicine Project into our professional lives will indeed help our patients. Until the money is there; however, I don’t think any of us should get too far ahead of this particular curve. I still have painful memories of the time when many of us embraced managed care in the 1990s only to see managed care executives and stockholders take the profits for our hard work, and, rather than reinvest them in the healthcare system, leave us to take the blame for the hated “gatekeeper” model of managed care.

Mark B. Mengel, MD, MPH

DEPARTMENT CHANGES

Michael Railey, MD, the Director of Predoctoral Education, has left the University. He has been named Director of the Transitional Residency Program at Forest Park Hospital. Assistant Professor Kimberly Zoberi, MD, is the new Director of the Family Medicine Clerkship. Michael Cannon, MD, will serve as Co-Director of the Clerkship and as advisor for the Family Medicine Interest Group. Horng-Shuann Wu, PhD, has left the department to pursue a post-doc at the Center for Symptom Management in the School of Nursing at the University of California-San Francisco. Judy Moran is now serving as the department’s part-time business manager. Best wishes to all these individuals in their new positions!
**Faculty Receive Additional Training**

Shelly Harkins, MD, Assistant Professor, has completed a faculty development fellowship from Michigan State University. Dr. Harkins chose the curriculum development track as her area of concentration during her twelve months of training. Her final project revised the Evidence Based Medicine curriculum for the Family Medicine Residency program. The title of her paper is "Improving Knowledge and Attitudes in EBM Curriculum for Family Medicine Residency Programs". Dr. Harkins is now one of four faculty members who are faculty development trained in the program.

Matthew Ulven, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, graduated from the Saint Louis University School of Public Health Masters of Public Health program in May 2004. Dr. Ulven has worked hard over the last three years to complete this post-graduate program in order to enhance his research skills. Congratulations to both Dr. Harkins and Dr. Ulven for a job well done!

**New Arrival to the Belleville Family Medicine Residency Program**

We are so excited to announce a new addition to the department family! Patricia Goodemote, MD, Assistant Professor, delivered a beautiful little girl. She and her husband, Rod, have selected the name, Bethany Hope Goodemote, for their little blessing. Happy rocking to Patricia and Rod Goodemote!

**Dr. Amyot Selected as Associate Program Director**

We are pleased to announce Major Kathleen Amyot, MD, Assistant Professor, has been named as Associate Program Director for the residency program. Dr. Amyot will replace Colonel Kenneth Reinert, MD, who will retire from the U.S. Air Force this winter. Dr. Amyot possesses the vision, courage, conviction, and moral integrity to inspire others to strive for excellence. She knows how to lead people and, more importantly, where to take them! Dr. Amyot has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments and is exceptionally well-qualified to lead the program. Best of luck to Dr. Amyot in her new position. We know she will fill the role well.

**Sports Medicine Fellowship Approved**

Recently, Saint Louis University and St. Elizabeth’s Hospital approved the start of a Sports Medicine Fellowship as an expansion of the training options offered through the Belleville Family Medicine Residency Program. Peter Seidenberg, MD, Assistant Professor, will oversee the Sports Medicine curriculum as Program Director along with the help of Jay Noffsinger, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, and David Kieffer, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Orthopedics. Candidates for the two fellowship positions will be recruited this academic year and selected to start their training in July 2005.

**Two Family Medicine Clerkship Preceptors Awarded 2004 Pfizer Teacher Development Award**

Denise Hooks-Anderson, MD, and Jennifer Sewing, DO, were two of 15 preceptors from across the country awarded the 2004 Pfizer Teacher Development Award by the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (AAFP). This year, the award acknowledges extraordinary young teaching physicians who graduated from family medicine residency programs between 1997 and 2003, are members of the AAFP, and teach on a part-time basis voluntarily or for little compensation. As recipients, they will each receive a cash award of $2,000, travel expenses to attend the AAFP Assembly in Orlando in October, and special recognition at the AAFP Opening Ceremony.

The Department nominated these two young physicians who have participated as preceptors in our family medicine clerkship for the last several years. Dr. Hooks-Anderson’s supervisor commented that “her teaching style is very gentle yet provocative. She compels her students to think for themselves and be good problem solvers yet she does this without being confrontational and with profound respect.” A colleague observed that “after spending time with Dr. Sewing, students have greatly developed their knowledge of family medicine, as well as improved upon their interactions with patients. In doing this they seem to leave with an increased confidence in themselves and their ability to help others.” We are so proud that the AAFP rewarded the excellent teaching qualities that we have observed in these two outstanding young physicians! Bravo, Dr. Hooks-Anderson and Dr. Sewing!
13 Graduate from Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Family Practice Residency Program (Belleville)

The following physicians graduated from the Saint Louis University School of Medicine Family Practice Residency Program (Belleville) on June 18, 2004, in ceremonies held at The Scott Club, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois:

Michael O. Barron, MD  
Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Bean, MD  
Major Kenneth J. Boomgaard, MD  
Captain John M. Crowe, MD  
Shobha Dayal, MD  
Captain Patrick S. Lovegrove, DO  
Captain Jeffrey S. Nelson, DO  
Captain Nathan H. Pekar, MD  
Sarita H. Prajapati, MD  
Captain Christopher O. Restad, DO  
Captain Richard “Levi” Sundermeyer, MD  
Alana C. Thompson, MD  
Zheng Wu, MD

Drs. Barron, Crowe, Pekar, and Prajapati were also recognized for service as “Chief Resident” during their final year of residency. Following commencement exercises, various awards were presented including: “Outstanding Family Physician of the Year” to Captain Nathan Pekar, MD; “Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Resident Teacher of the Year” to Major Kenneth J. Boomgaard, MD; Family Practice Teacher of the Year” to Major Patricia L. Goodemote, MD; Volunteer Faculty of the Year” to Robert Haake, Jr., DO, and “Intern of the Year” to Patrick Riley, MD.

These graduates will join the nation’s 75,000+ practicing family physicians in providing comprehensive care to patients of all ages and both sexes. A unique component of the family physician’s specialized training is a focus on prevention: the art and science of maintaining a family’s lifelong health, all the way from care of the pregnant woman, babies and children, through adulthood, to geriatric care.

The new graduates will be continuing their careers at the following locations:

Michael O. Barron, MD  
Lt. Col. Richard J. Bean, MD  
Major Kenneth J. Boomgaard, MD  
Captain John M. Crowe, MD  
Shobha Dayal, MD  
Captain Patrick S. Lovegrove, DO  
Captain Jeffrey S. Nelson, DO  
Captain Nathan H. Pekar, MD  
Sarita H. Prajapati, MD  
Saint Louis University O’Fallon Family Practice Center  
O’Fallon, Illinois  
Eielson Air Force Base – Alaska  
Elmendorf Air Force Base – Alaska  
Rhein Mein Air Force Base – Germany  
Carbondale, IL  
Osan Air Base – Korea  
Ramstein Air Base – Germany  
Little Rock Air Force Base – Arkansas  
Faculty Development and Public Health Fellowship –  
University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Hickam Air Force Base - Hawaii  
Eielson Air Force Base – Alaska  
St. Elizabeth’s Hospital – Belleville, IL  
Emergency Medicine – Highland, IL  
Urgent Care – O’Fallon, IL

Congratulations to our 2004 graduates in this next step in their careers!

More Department Baby News!

Amy Orf, RMA, the medical assistant at our SLU Care Primary Care and Prevention Center welcomed William Matthew on June 16th. Matthew weighed in at 7 lbs, 4 oz. He and his proud parents, Amy and Steven, and big sister, Lizzie, are enjoying their time together at home. We wish the Orfs a good night’s sleep and lots of happiness with their new baby boy!
FAMILY MEDICINE STUDENT NEWS

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
FAMILY MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP
RECOGNIZED AS TOP TEN PROGRAM

The Saint Louis University Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) has earned the 2004 Program of Excellence (PoE) Award. This AAFP award goes to the top ten FMIG programs in the country. It recognizes FMIGs for their efforts in stimulating interest in family practice and family practice programming. The award is presented to those groups who exhibit exemplary efforts in all of the following areas: infrastructure, student involvement and retention, family practice advocacy, community outreach, and patient advocacy. An extensive application process was submitted detailing all the activities of Saint Louis University’s Interest Group. Led by Julie Kunkel and Marcos Machado (both MS2s at the time), the FMIG held monthly programs ranging from family medicine promotion to procedural workshops.

The Group will be recognized with a plaque at the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students in Kansas City. Kimberly Zoheri, MD, and Carrie Venable-Byrd, MS, served as advisors for the group in 2003-04.

FIVE STUDENTS RECEIVE AAFP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Five Saint Louis University students received scholarship awards made possible by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation. This competitive scholarship program awards funds for students to attend the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students in Kansas City. Students are selected based upon 500-word essays. We are proud to recognize: Melanie Gordon, MS4; Marcos Machado, MS3; Lynn Morski, MS4; Renee Poole, MS4; and Kenyon Railey, MS4.

NINE SLU 2004 GRADUATES CHOOSE FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Congratulations to the Class of 2004 who graduated from the School of Medicine in May and will begin their residency programs on July 1, 2004. Nine students were accepted into family medicine residency programs scattered throughout the country.

These prospective family medicine physicians will be continuing their training at the residency programs listed below:

- Eddy del Rio, Mercy Family Medicine, St. Louis, MO
- Heather Edwards, University of Utah FP, Salt Lake City, UT
- Jacqueline Hellewege, St. Louis University FP, Belleville, IL
- James Hollis, Puget Sound FM, Bremerton, WA
- Emile Pierre, E. Jefferson General Hospital, Metairie, LA
- Monica Rawlinson, Palmetto Health Alliance, Columbia, SC
- Lisa Richardson, West Suburban FP, River Forest, IL
- Kulwinder Sekhon, Crozer-Keystone FP, Springfield, PA
- Natasha Simmons, Memorial FP, Houston, TX

Heather Edwards was recognized as the top student in family medicine at the graduation ceremony. She was also awarded a plaque and $500 check as the top graduating medical student entering family medicine from the Family Health Foundation of Missouri.

We wish these new physicians well as they begin their residencies in family medicine.

!!Alert to Our Community Agency Partners!!

In the layoffs and budget cutbacks that the University experienced in March 2004, the position of Director of Community and International Programs was eliminated. What that means is that Cassandra Griffin, MA, left the department in March. Her responsibilities have been delegated to several other individuals in the department: Margaret Ulione, PhD, (Research Division Director and Director of Predoctoral Programs), Toni Garrison, MHA (AHEC Program Office Deputy Director) and Carrie Venable-Byrd, MS (Education Coordinator). If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dr. Ulione at (314)977-8480.
Web-Based Teaching Tips!

PDA Portal

The American College of Physicians (ACP) has a growing list of free clinical tools and resources, including decision support tools, algorithms, drug and laboratory information, and patient tips available at its PDA (personal digital assistant) Portal. Included in this collection are tips from the book Teaching in Your Office, a comprehensive resource for physicians interested in improving their techniques in office-based teaching. You can download these resources from www.acponline.org/pda