

3/25/2013

SEVEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FACULTY MEMBERS NAMED FIRST TEACHING CHAMPIONS

Frank Church, PhD, Kurt Gilliland, PhD, Edward Kernick, DPM, Marianne Meeker, PhD, Gwendolyn Sancar, PhD, Sarah Street, PhD, and Arrel Toews, PhD were selected as the first cohort of teaching champions.

Faculty members were selected for excellence in teaching the basic sciences to first and second year medical students. Each faculty member will receive salary support for their time in the classroom and with students. They will also have more opportunities for faculty development programs, to attend conferences related to education, and to continue their important work as master teachers. The teaching champions were nominated by their chairs and selected by a committee led by Dr. Warren Newton, Vice Dean for Education. Please join us in celebrating UNC's teaching champions!



Frank Church, PhD
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Church is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. He is an accomplished independent investigator and an award-winning educator. Dr. Church's research focuses on proteases and their inhibitors that are involved in thrombosis and hemostasis and a variety of other disease processes, such as tumor metastasis. He is senior author on most of his numerous publications, with his graduate students and post docs often as first authors. Dr. Church has received a remarkable number of teaching awards, from department-level awards to

University-level honors.

Kurt Gilliland, PhD
Cell and Developmental Biology

Dr. Gilliland is Wallace '69 and Phyllis Baird Medical Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. Dr. Gilliland studies the normal human lens as well as age-related nuclear cataracts using confocal and electron microscopy. He is director of curriculum support and innovation at the School of Medicine and has been honored many times for excellence in teaching and has served as Richard H. Whitehead Lecturer.



Edward Kernick, DPM
Cell and Developmental Biology

Dr. Kernick, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, studies limb development and molecular mechanisms of wound healing. Dr. Kernick teaches Structure and Development and the clinical anatomy elective to medical students; human gross anatomy and functional neuroanatomy to physical therapy students; and gross anatomy and regional human anatomy to dental students at UNC. Dr. Kernick has been recognized many times for teaching, from within the School of Medicine as well as the School of Dentistry and the Student National Medical Association.

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WMS NEWSLETTER

Marianne Meeker, PhD **Cell and Molecular Physiology**

Dr. Meeker is a lecturer in the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology and is interested in exploring the potential of serious gaming in medical education. In her work, Dr. Meeker uses interactive digital formats to engage the twenty-first century student learner in relating basic science knowledge to clinical outcomes. Dr. Meeker has taught a variety of topics in physiology for over a decade to first-year dental students, first-year pharmacy students, and undergraduates, as well as medical students.



Gwendolyn Sancar, PhD **Biochemistry and Biophysics**

Dr. Sancar's research interests are in cellular responses to DNA damage, DNA repair, and elucidation of certain signal transduction pathways. She directs the first medical school course of the first year, Molecules to Cells and teaches scientific writing courses. In recent years, she has taught beginning and advanced graduate students, undergraduates, and allied health students.

Sarah Street, PhD **Cell and Molecular Physiology**

Dr. Street is Research Instructor in the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology. Dr. Street directs a first-year course, Integrative Function and Its Cellular Basis, for which she was awarded the Freshman Basic Science Teaching Award in her first year of leadership. She has also taught graduate students and nursing and pharmacy students. Dr. Street is a postdoctoral fellow in the Zylka laboratory; her current project focuses on determining the function of ectonucleotidases in pain circuits.



Arrel Toews, PhD **Biochemistry and Biophysics**

Dr. Toews, professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, teaches Molecules to Cells, a first-year course. He is a member of many medical school committees related to the medical student experience and teaching. In recent years, Dr. Toews has won University and School of Medicine teaching awards, and delivered the Richard H. Whitehead Lecture.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: UNC BEACON CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAM



Beginning during the 2011-2012 academic year WMS Service has made it a mission to bring all UNC

SOM classes together to support a chosen charity for the year. For the 2012-2013 academic year, the students were asked to vote for the charity that they would like to sup-

port, and UNC Hospital's Beacon Child and Family program was chosen in an overwhelming majority.

Beacon Child and Family Program is a service through UNC Hospitals and its satellite locations that

provide care to patients, families, and employees that have endured various types of violence. It provides services such as evaluation, counseling and referral to proper treatment for children, domestic abuse victims, sexual assault victims, elderly, and many more victims of abuse. Beacon makes it their mission to provide services that help break the genera-

tional cycle of family violence and to encourage caring attitudes in the delivery of patient care.

So far during the 2012-2013 academic year the School of Medicine has been able to raise over \$1500 for

the Beacon Program and will be supporting the program with a clothing drive during the week of March 25th. Be on the lookout for more chances to support Beacon in the upcoming months!

GME: AN ISSUE WE ARE CONSIDERED THE EXPERTS IN

By: Pamela Della Valle

Whether or not you are familiar with Graduate Medical Education (GME) now, it will drastically influence your course to becoming the physician you want to be. GME refers to residency and fellowship training programs, which is funded in large part by government dollars and are currently at risk of being slashed.

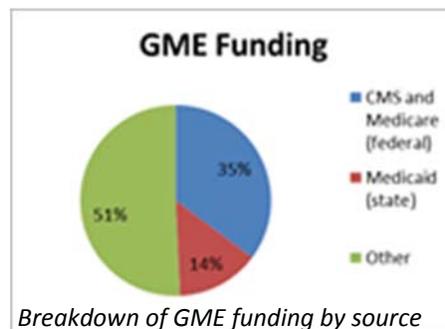
I attended the AMA's Medical Student Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. in February because I wanted to learn how to advocate on behalf of patients. Additionally, I wanted to learn about the current political climate surrounding health care. I didn't know much about GME funding and I certainly didn't travel to D.C. to emphasize to my representatives' legislative assistant why preserving federal GME funding is vital. However, this is an issue in which students are looked to as experts by politicians. This was one of the two issues chosen for us to advocate on.

GME funding was not my motivation to attend the conference; however, what I learned about it on Capitol Hill has left me wanting to advocate more.

GME is currently funded in the following ways:

- It costs about \$100,000 to train one resident for one year and the total cost for GME teaching programs is **\$27 billion/year** nationally
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (federal) contribute **\$9.5 billion** (1.7% of total Medicare budget)

- Medicaid (state) contributes **\$3.8 billion**
- The "other" category usually gets funding by the hospital or institution providing the training. Many specialties that generate larger profits do not rely as heavily on government funding compared to residency programs that have slimmer profit margins, like primary care residencies.



What are the implications?

The 1997 Balanced Budget Act capped Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) payments for GME funding at 100,000 residency slots. Note: 8,987 individual GME programs reported having trained **116,703** residents and fellows in 2011. It doesn't take a lot of number crunching to figure out we are 16,703 residency slots over the "cap" they are hoping to subsidize. It is predicted that by 2015, there will not be sufficient residency spots to accommodate every graduating medical student.

UNC trains us well and our average board scores are high, so I am not worried about myself and you all. I have full confidence we will all match (or at least 99% of us will.)

I am, however, concerned for this nation and its growing population. By 2020, the AAMC estimates a physician shortage of 91,500 (half are primary care physicians). After decades of stagnant class sizes, many medical schools, like UNC, have recently started increasing the number of medical students enrolled each year nationwide. However, the number of residency spots has not increased proportionally. Simply put, we need more doctors and the bottleneck in the system that keeps that from happening is the number of residency slots. Removing the cap is essential to producing trained physicians that can serve America. Our population is aging and 32 million newly-insured Americans will now have access to previously unavailable services. Residents provide care to 28% of all Medicaid hospitalizations. As a future resident (with a family), I am thankful

"It is predicted that by 2015, there will not be sufficient residency spots to accommodate every graduating medical student."

for the recent work hour limits for residents. But the limited work hours plus the limit on residency funding will only continue to exacerbate our need for more providers, particularly by the uninsured, underinsured and Medicaid recipients. Something will have to be done to avoid major consequences.

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A few more facts about the care that residents provide:

- Care of 1 in 5 hospitalized patients in the country.
- 62% of pediatric ICU care
- 80% level 1 trauma center care.

What we (AMA) petitioned for in our Capitol Hill visits:

- To preserve (not cut) CMS funding for GME.
- To lift the GME cap to protect access to care and address physician shortages in underserved specialties and underserved areas

In our meeting with Representative David Price's legislative aid, we learned that with the projected cuts to many government programs due to the fiscal cliff crisis, GME funding would likely get cut. If it isn't cut entirely, there will be attempts to move GME funding

from mandatory spending to discretionary spending, so that it can get downsized year after year through budget balancing.

What can you do?

- **Look** for more information. A good starting point is <http://savegme.org/resources/>
- **Act** now to contact your elected officials about this vital issues, using the simple directions under the "Take Action" tab at www.SaveGME.org"
- **Ask** questions: you can shoot me, Pamela_dellavalle@med.unc.edu, or John Cocker John.Corker@ama-assn.org an email with any questions you may have. John is the Government Relations Advocacy Fellow through the Division of Legislative Counsel of the AMA and is a valuable resource to medical students interested in policy!

- **Talk** to your family and friends back home about the implications of cutting GME funding and maintaining a cap. This isn't just about you, me, or future graduating class fulfilling their dreams; this is about the direction our health care system is headed. Its current path doesn't look sustainable.
- **Join AMA.** AMA is the second largest lobbying entity across all sectors in the nation. We encourage you to actively participate in the ample opportunities to get involved as a student and get your voice heard in shaping the future of medicine. Don't like what you see? Join and engage to be the change you want to see!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the Student Medical Alumni Association!

The Medical Alumni Office is excited to announce a new Student Medical Alumni Association (SMAA) for the UNC School of Medicine! Your involvement with the SMAA will help foster student-alumni collaboration and strengthen lifelong *LOYALTY* to UNC School of Medicine.

Benefits will include (but not limited to) drawings for prizes, First Aid Book for MS2's (2013 edition), ACLS pocket cards for MS3's, special events such as picnics, ball game tickets, and networking socials or dinners.

Join the SMAA and take advantage of services just for you. Visit the UNC Medical Alumni website (<http://www.med.unc.edu/alumni/student-medical-alumni-association>) and complete the registration form. You will need to bring the form, along with a check (*sorry no cash or cards at this time*) made payable to the Medical Foundation of N.C. to our office and pick up your gift.

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Town Hall Meeting w/Dr. Newton

Tuesday, March 26th 12:15pm

Bondurant G100

Upcoming Financial Aid Sessions:

Types of Insurance-Life, Accident, Renters, Homeowners sponsored by Student Life & Activities Center

Wednesday, April 3rd, 5:30-7:00pm

MacNider 321

Understanding Your Loans sponsored by GL Advisor

Wednesday, April 17th, 5:30-7:30pm

MacNider 321

College Cup

Saturday, April 27th, 2:00-6:00pm

Southern Village Community Park

Come join the UNC School of Medicine faculty/staff, students, and families for an afternoon of activities, entertainment,

Have something to share with the rest of the School of Medicine? Email all content submissions and/or comments to Sam Wu, VP of Research and Publications at uncmed.researchpublications@gmail.com