



**CONFERENCES & MEETINGS**

**Grand Rounds**  
**Thursday, Apr. 22, 2004, 7:30 AM**  
**Clinic Auditorium**

**Betty Diamond, M.D.**

Professor of Microbiology & Immunology  
Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Division of Rheumatology  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Autoreactive B Cells in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**

## FROM DIVISIONS

- **Nora Franceschini**, Nephrology and Hypertension and Department of Epidemiology, UNC School of Public Health, will be presenting the work completed for her MPH thesis at the June Society of Epidemiology Research meeting. Her abstract is entitled, Maternal Urine Albumin Excretion and the Risk for Preterm Birth.
- **Robert S. Sandler**, MD, MPH, Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, has been named the recipient of the 2004 Fiterman Foundation "Joseph B. Kirsner" Clinical Research Award in Gastroenterology. The award, administered by the Foundation for Digestive Health and Nutrition, recognizes excellence in clinical research in hepatology, nutrition or gastroenterology.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SOM 1st Annual "Minority Scholars' day", April 23, MBRB  
2-3:30pm - presentations by outstanding minority scholars. 4-5pm - Distinguished Medical Science Lecturer. **Griffin P. Rodgers**, M.D., F.A.C.P., Chief, Molecular and Clinical Hematology, Deputy Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, "**Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disease: Recent Advances, Future Challenges.**"
- The UNC Office of Postdoctoral Services has a new on-line job listing service for faculty to **list available postdoc positions**. The site is located at: [cfx2.research.unc.edu/postdoc\\_job/](http://cfx2.research.unc.edu/postdoc_job/)
- The **National Institute on Aging (NIA), NIH is instituting a dollar cap on Program Project (P01) applications** go to [grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AG-04-005.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AG-04-005.html).
- The **National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), NIH has just released its 2004-08 Strategic Plan**. To view, go to: [www.ncrr.nih.gov/about\\_ncrr/StrategicPlan2004-08.pdf](http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/about_ncrr/StrategicPlan2004-08.pdf)

## FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

In about one month or so, the Department of Medicine Research Advisory Committee (RAC) will hold our second "Research Symposium." This symposium will focus on population studies and, as with the first symposium, will feature broad representation in the selection of topics and speakers. This second Research Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19 from 8am-6pm in the MBRB ground floor auditorium.

Faculty from eight of our divisions will be giving presentations, complemented by two speakers from outside the department. The majority of the presentations will represent multidisciplinary research between investigators in our department and others at UNC and beyond. The keynote speaker will be Neil Powe, M.D., Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology and Clinical Research at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. To view the complete program for the Frontiers in Medicine - Population Studies Symposium, go to [medicine.med.unc.edu/res/frontier.doc](http://medicine.med.unc.edu/res/frontier.doc).

So why are we having this series when there are already so many symposia, conferences and

workshops being held on this campus. Primarily, we all feel that this is an excellent opportunity to foster interdisciplinary research within our department and beyond. Given the depth and breadth of research going on in the Department of Medicine - from basic and translational research to outcomes studies and everything in between - I believe that presentations of this research in a broad forum will help bring together investigators who might not ordinarily discuss their interests. This concept really originated in our departmental RAC, and is one we can all believe in. The Department's first symposium, held last September, focused on immunological insights and attracted close to 200 researchers from UNC, Duke, NIEHS and RTP and a number of interesting collaborative projects were initiated at that symposium. We hope that the same will occur again following the upcoming symposium on population studies.

Of course, for this to be the case, we need to have great attendance, so please find time in your schedule to hear about your colleagues work and to think about how you might broaden your own investigative efforts. If you have not RSVP'd for the symposium, please go to: [medicine.med.unc.edu/res/register.doc](http://medicine.med.unc.edu/res/register.doc). While registering is not mandatory, it helps us plan so that we can have plenty of food and drink. I sincerely hope you can attend.

Next up, in terms of research symposia, will be a program on genetics, which is currently being developed by RAC. I hope you will join me in thanking this important and dedicated group for bringing forward these symposia. Contact information can be found at: [medicine.med.unc.edu/about/committees.htm](http://medicine.med.unc.edu/about/committees.htm). The RAC consists of one member from each division. Please identify your representative and bring to that individual's attention your ideas or thoughts on any research matter. We particularly want input for future symposia. The RAC is chaired by **David Clemmons**, M.D., Associate Chair for Research and these conferences have been led by member, **Ron Falk**, M.D. Professor and Chief, Nephrology and Hypertension, with much help from other RAC members.

I look forward to seeing you on May 19.

Questions or submissions, contact [Rosemary\\_Simpson@med.unc.edu](mailto:Rosemary_Simpson@med.unc.edu)