



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

**NEXT GRAND ROUNDS WILL BE HELD ON
Thursday, October 7, 2004, 7:30 AM
Clinic Auditorium**

Chad T Lefteris
Hospital Administration

Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative

FROM DIVISIONS

- **Debra Bynum, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine, was awarded a five year Geriatric Academic Career Award from the Bureau of Health Professions.
- The UNC **Digestive Disease Program** is ranked 14th in 2004 by the US News and World Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder to faculty to **complete your conflict of interest and commitment forms**. 140 out of 400 have completed their forms. Deadline: October. www-s3.ais.unc.edu/coi/
- Heart Center Grand Rounds - Monday, September 20, 5:30-6:30pm, Bioinformatics G202. **Estrogen Therapy and CHD - Some Questions Two Years after WHI**. Gerardo Heiss, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Epidemiology, School Public Health.
- The annual **State Employee Combined Campaign Agency Fair** - Wed., Sept 22, 11am-2pm, Eric B. Munson Concourse.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

This week I would like to talk about how much I've enjoyed meeting our new Medicine interns. In the last couple of months I've been able to meet and talk with nearly all of our interns. We are most fortunate to have such a promising group of young physicians. What struck me first, as I began to get to know each one, was the diversity among them. And I don't mean just diversity simply in terms of demographics. Our interns come from all walks of life and have had quite different experiences. Everything varies: childhood surroundings, languages, education, academic interests, intellectual approaches to medicine, future plans. And those differences are surely an asset for our department as we work together to provide the best training we can for these physicians.

For example, I met with several interns who were raised in other countries and came to the US for college or medical school. I met with interns from families with a strong tradition of

medicine and others who were the first in their family to graduate from college. I met people who are writers and musicians and athletes in their spare time. We have individuals with PhDs and MBAs and already have a first career under their belt.

Every physician is drawn to practice medicine for their own reasons. Some deal with painful losses in their families in their early lives and knew from an early age that they would devote their lives to practicing medicine and improving lives. Others chose medicine as a result of observing medical systems, or lack thereof, in underprivileged communities abroad and here in the United States. Many are fascinated by the disease process and the science that underscores the study of medicine.

What I found especially interesting, beyond an individual's decision to practice medicine, are the reasons for choosing internal medicine as a specialty. Nearly every person I met talked about how important it was for them to be involved with patients and their families on a real level, to be committed to helping them through their illnesses no matter what the outcome. Internal medicine provides opportunities to study a wide array of diseases, to really get into the science of diagnosing, and then, most importantly, to communicate and essentially to teach patients about their diseases.

The interns in our program have already made the choice to practice medicine and to study internal medicine with us at UNC. I hope, as a department, we are able to provide a sophisticated training program that truly combines the commitments to science and patients that we value so much. I look forward to meeting again with the second and third year residents and to discuss their experiences with us here at UNC and their plans for the future.

Questions or submissions, contact Rosemary_Simpson@med.unc.edu