



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

- Mentees of Joanne Jordan, M.D., Associate Professor, Rheumatology/Immunology have recently received awards:
 - **Lauren Abbate**, an Epidemiology doctoral student, received the highly prestigious 2004-05 American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation Medical/Graduate Student Achievement Award. Lauren also won the Young Investigator Award - Osteoarthritis Research Society International (ORSI).
 - **Gheorghe Luta** won the Young Investigator Award from the Osteoarthritis Research Society International.
(Lauren and Gheorghe will give presentations at the OSRI annual meeting this December. This organization awards 4 young investigator awards annually, and it is unprecedented in the history of the organization that 2 of the 4 awards have gone to the same lab.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **5K Asthma Walk**, Saturday, October 2 - Regency Park, Cary. Sign up by visiting www.lungnc.org. Team Captain: Steve Tilley, M.D., Pulmonary, email: Stephen_tilley@med.unc.edu or phone: 843-2581.
- Heart Center Grand Rounds - Monday, September 27, 5:30-6:30pm, Bioinformatics G202. **Atrial fibrillation: An Evolving Treatment Paradigm**. Brett Sheridan, Asst Prof, Surgery.
- Don't forget! **Fill out your conflict of interest and commitment forms** prior to the October 1 deadline.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

Continuing our tour of Divisions in the Department of Medicine, we will next focus on Endocrinology and Metabolism medicine.med.unc.edu/div/endo/endo.htm This division has a strong tradition of clinical care, research and teaching. Led by Dr. **David Clemmons**, the

outpatient clinics are located at Highgate where patients with all types of endocrine diseases are seen. This includes the Diabetes Center (medicine.med.unc.edu/centers/diab/) which is directed by Dr. John Buse, and is the major site for the care of outpatients with diabetes - ranging from those with straightforward needs to the most complex clinical problems. The endocrine faculty who primarily specialize in diabetes care (Drs. **Benjamin, Braithwaite, Buse, Dostou, and Fasy**) are increasingly involved in clinical studies and have been lead authors and important contributors to recent studies that continue to advance our knowledge in the treatment of this common malady. The teaching mission of the division has been recognized in many different ways. Many residents chose to spend time in endocrinology as an elective during their three years of internal medicine and some of our best residents have subsequently entered a career in endocrinology. In addition, residents typically do very well in this area on their inservice and national board examinations.

Finally, the Endocrinology Division has a broad portfolio of clinical and basic research. Dr. Clemmons is internationally recognized for his work on an important growth factor - insulin-like growth factor 1 - and the roles that this growth factor plays in normal and abnormal vascular function. Based on his work in this area, Dr. Clemmons is the recipient of a MERIT award from the NIH - a recognition bestowed on only a handful of the nation's top investigators. In addition, the National Institute of Aging recently awarded a five year, \$8.6 M (direct costs) grant to UNC for the study of vascular aging. Dr. Clemmons is the PI on this Program Project Grant. Drs. **Brown, Maile, and Sharpless** are also recent recipients of new grant funding from NIH and numerous other sources.

Understanding the complexities of endocrinology can be challenging for anyone, and in particular for those who are not directly involved in the care of these patients. For this reason, I thought you might find it interesting to hear of one example of the blurring of medicine and science with sports. As all of you know, during the recent Olympic Games there was continued controversy on the use of performance-enhancing substances among athletes. All of these substances (such as anabolic steroids) work by modulating the endocrine system and the medical concern is that these substances may have adverse long-term effects. Recall that Dr. Clemmons work focuses on insulin-like growth factor 1, or IGF-1. I found it an interesting commentary on the times to hear announcers discuss the potential abuse of IGF-1, as well as to read this in print in Newsweek and Sports Illustrated. Why IGF-1? The interest in IGF-1 has been stimulated by the finding that mice genetically engineered to produce high levels of IGF-1 (or of other key intermediaries in the pathway) develop into "super mice" which are bigger, stronger and faster than their wild-type littermates. It's one of those circumstances where the lay literature precedes the medical literature in publicizing an area. In reality the interest of athletes in regard to IGF-1 is an epiphenomenon - hopefully one that we will not see in future Olympic Games. However, it is increasingly clear that modulation of IGF-1 and other factors in this growth pathway offers considerable promise for the treatment of a wide array of medical problems, many of which are under investigation by our colleagues here.

I hope you've enjoyed this overview of the Division of Endocrinology and my little soliloquy on the interface between medicine and sports. Until next week...

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