



**CONFERENCES & MEETINGS**

**Grand Rounds**  
**Thursday, October 20, 2005, 12:00 Noon**  
**Clinic Auditorium**

**Dhaval Kumar D. Patel, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Professor, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology  
Director, Thurston Arthritis Research Center  
Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology

**New Therapies for Rheumatoid Arthritis**

**FROM DIVISIONS**

- Faculty from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine just had published "[Genetic Modifiers of Lung Disease in Cystic Fibrosis](#)" in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) Oct. 6 issue.
- If you attended the M&M Conference on Oct. 13, titled "Brain Herniation After Lumbar Puncture" with Drs. Greganti, Wohl, and Jaikumar, please email [Denise Wicker](#) to receive CME credit.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Dr. Sanjiv Sur, Prof. of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Microbiology/Immunology at UTMB Galveston presents "Double Whammy Attack on Pollens." [Rheumatology Grand Rounds](#), Friday, Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., 3200 Dickson Conf. Rm., Thurston Arthritis Research Center.
- "The Human Element: Clinical Portraits by Frank H. Netter, MD." Opening Reception on Thurs., Oct. 20, 5:00 - 7:30 pm at UNC Health Sciences Library. Original watercolor paintings and pencil drawings by Dr. Netter will be on display Oct. 21 - Dec. 9.

**FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE**

Today, I want to talk about the School of Medicine's newest center, the UNC Kidney Center, directed by Dr. Ronald Falk, Doc J Thurston Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension.

The UNC Kidney Center's (UNCKC) mission is to reduce both the burden and presence of kidney disease in North Carolina. The Center's strategy to achieve this goal is two-fold. The first part is to educate the citizens and the primary care physicians of North Carolina about the risks factors for

developing chronic kidney disease (CKD) and the importance of early intervention and improved management of CKD. The second is to discover insights about the pathophysiology and therapeutics of kidney diseases.

Nephrologists often encounter new patients who have already progressed to end-stage renal disease (ESRD). The number of North Carolinians who have ESRD or newly diagnosed CKD and who are in need of dialysis each year is alarming. The Center has secured external funding to develop and implement a pilot program, the Kidney Education Outreach Program (KEOP). The KEOP includes four components: (1) community-based focus groups to assess citizens' knowledge about kidney disease; (2) community-based screenings to identify citizens who are at various stages of kidney disease; (3) educational outreach activities administered in partnership with local lay leaders to sustain citizen awareness; and (4) the use of local media to promote the "Hey doc, how are my kidneys?" message. The KEOP, as part of its research mission, will also assess the effectiveness of these programs in influencing the number of North Carolinians who do, in fact, ask "Hey Doc, how are my kidneys?"

The Center is also home to four interdisciplinary research teams whose main focus is kidney diseases, specifically auto-immune diseases. The teams currently include faculty members from the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, and Public Health with plans to include members from the School of Arts & Sciences. The groups will be housed in the renovated Burnett-Womack when it opens. In addition to the outstanding faculty here at UNC, the Center has recruited physician-scientist John Edwards, MD, PhD. Dr. Edwards is an NIH-funded investigator who will be joining UNC on November 1. Graduate students and fellows from different schools are also part of the mix of researchers at the Center.

We're very excited about the potential of the new center and encourage you to take a look at the [Center's web site](http://www.unckidneycenter.org/) (<http://www.unckidneycenter.org/>) to learn more about how the UNCKC seeks to improve clinical care through discovery and education.

Questions or submissions, contact [katie\\_obrien@med.unc.edu](mailto:katie_obrien@med.unc.edu).