



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

M&M Conference
Thursday, December 1, 2005, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Michael A. Hill, MD

Professor
Division of Adult Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry

Linda M. Nicholas, MD

Associate Professor, Director
Division of Adult Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry

M. Andrew Greganti, MD

Professor and Vice Chair
Division of Geriatrics

Evaluation of Suicide Risk in Patients with Depression

FROM DIVISIONS

- **John Vavalle, MD, Willis Wu, MD** and **Lynn Fiscus, MD** have agreed to be Chief Residents for the Department in the 2007-2008 academic year.
- The Division of Pulmonary welcomes their new division administrator, **Linda Chegash**, on January 2, 2006. Linda started her career at UNC in 1983 and most recently comes from the Office of Human Research and Ethics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Drs. Eugene Orringer and Morris Weinberger are hosting two informational sessions for the Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Career Development (K12) Program (MCRCDP) on Tues., Nov. 29, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Clinic Auditorium and Thurs., Dec. 1, 5:00-6:00 p.m., 1001 Kerr Building (School of Pharmacy). Application materials for 2006-07 will soon be available at www.med.unc.edu/researchdev.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

The Division of Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine at UNC, led by Dr. James Donohue, is one of the nation's strongest groups. The expertise in cystic fibrosis is truly unique and internationally renowned. Additionally, we are fortunate to have leaders here in chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, asthma, lung cancer and sarcoidosis, to name a few. In all of these many areas, investigators at UNC are leaders in understanding the pathophysiology of the disease, leading the way in the interface between genetics and human disease, while others lead clinical trials and provide state-of-the-art clinical care.

Moreover, there are ongoing interactions between these different areas that have provided a unique synergy. A recent example these collaborative efforts is Dr. Richard Boucher's new R01 that focuses on studying mucus clearance in acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis. This grant involves interactions between the Pulmonary Division, the Cystic Fibrosis Center and the Center for Environmental Medicine, Allergy and Lung Biology. Faculty from all three sections (John Sheehan, William Bennett, Eduardo Lazarowski, Melissa Miller, Ashley Henderson, Neil Alexis and James Donohue) will participate in these studies.

Other division members have made truly outstanding contributions in the current academic year. Mike Knowles has worked on defining genes that modify the clinical course of cystic fibrosis for a number of years. His work, published this fall in the New England Journal of Medicine, paves the way for better understanding the disease and developing new interventions in the future. Mike is also the research mentor for Marcus Kennedy and Jennifer Taylor (Duke) who placed 2nd and 3rd in the clinical research category at the Second Annual Young Investigator's Forum in Boston.

UNC has benefited greatly from terrific leaders in Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine, two of whom, Ric Boucher and Phil Bromberg, continue to work together with Dr. Donohue towards building the division. In addition, Dr. Donohue has recently asked other highly respected faculty to take on new roles in the immediate future. James Yankaskas will now serve as Associate Division Chief for Academic Affairs and M. Patricia Rivera will become the Director of Clinical Operations. Shannon Carson has agreed to become Director of the Pulmonary/Critical Care Training Program with Steven Tilley who will serve as Associate Director for Basic Research. Peadar Noone, who returned to UNC from Ireland about a year ago, has already taken on duties as the Medical Director of the Lung Transplant Program.

In terms of updates on other division faculty, there is much to report. Steve Tilley, Scott Donaldson and Isabel Neuringer all continue to progress rapidly in their academic/research activities and are among our housestaff's favorite teachers. Robert Aris, Brian Boehlecke and David Henke continue to attain national recognition for research and clinical contributions and the trajectory is high for new faculty appointees, Ray Coakley and Ashley Henderson. All of the division faculty interact with colleagues in other departments and it makes sense to mention some of these interactions, especially those with David Peden, Tom Egan, Ric Fines, Michael Mill, Paul Molina and Al Parker.

This overview represents just a little of the work going on in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine but hopefully it is enough to introduce the division to those of you who are new or have not interacted as much with this important group of our faculty.

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