



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

M&M Conference
Thursday, November 10, 2005, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Xuemei Huang, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Neurology

Mary Roth, PharmD, MHS
Assistant Professor
School of Pharmacy

M. Andrew Greganti, MD
Professor and Vice Chair
Division of Geriatrics

Drug Induced Cognitive Dysfunction and Extrapyrarnidal Syndromes

FYI

- The NC Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW) is now operational. This service is available to all NC tobacco users who are ready to quit. Specialists are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - midnight, to assist callers, answer medication questions, and mail information to callers. Specialists will stay in contact with those ready to quit. Spanish-speaking specialists and information in Spanish is available. For more information visit www.quitnownc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Frontiers in Medicine symposium series continues with "[Complications of Diabetes Mellitus: Clinical Challenges and Research Advances](#)." Wed., Nov. 30th, Registration and Breakfast 7:30, lectures 8:00 a.m. - 5:15 p.m. in MBRB-G202. Meals are provided and reception to follow symposium. Please RSVP to [Jill Cunnup](#) (966-2276 ext 222) by Nov. 15. Please contact [Jill Cunnup](#) or [Ermine Hastings](#) (843-4913) for more information.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

On September 28, 2005, UNC officials and staff, along with a number of North Carolina politicians, broke ground for the new North Carolina Cancer Hospital. An important goal for the Division of Hematology and Oncology is to build our faculty in anticipation of the hospital's 2009 opening. Under Rich Goldberg's direction, in collaboration with UNC Hospitals and the UNC HCS, we are well

underway. In the past year we have added Neil Hayes from Tufts and Harvard (head & neck and lung cancer, with research interests in the use and analysis of DNA microarrays as predictive and prognostic factors), Peter Voorhees from UNC (hematologic malignancies, with research interests in clinical trials in hematologic malignancies), Jeff Peppercorn from Harvard (breast cancer, with research interests in clinical breast cancer care issues, medical ethics, and medical economics), and William Kim from Harvard (GU malignancies, with research interests in HIF-1 α signaling and Von Hippel Lindau Syndrome).

In addition, we recently recruited Nigel Key as the first Harold Roberts Professor. Nigel will be joining us in December and will continue to build on our expertise in hematology and thrombosis. Nigel will also serve as Section Chief of Hematology. He is a world leader in hemophilia and the role of tissue factor in this and related diseases. We also have also done our part to cross-pollinate with other academic centers with the departure of Gil White to run the Blood Institute of Wisconsin, Beverly Mitchell to be Deputy Director of the Stanford University Cancer Center, Maria Baggstrom to Washington University, and Christine Kempton to Emory University.

The clinical program, as assessed by the number of outpatient visits, grew by 13.5% from 2004 to 2005. We were evaluated by the ACGME, and with no issues raised by the auditors regarding our educational program, we were accredited for five years. Since then we applied for and were approved to increase the size of our fellowship from three to five fellows per year. We continue to participate actively in teaching fellows, residents, and students under the direction of our Associate Fellowship Program Directors, Alice Ma and Fran Collichio, along with Fellowship Director Tom Shea. Our faculty members continue to serve as frequent cultural ambassadors as they present their research findings at major meetings in the US and elsewhere.

The Division's research programs remain strong, with too many new grants to mention all of them here. Perhaps the most important one awarded this year is the Cancer Center core grant. After receiving the best rating ever assigned through peer review for a matrix cancer center, it was re-funded for five years. A number of other major grants have also been awarded this year to individuals or consortia. Under the direction of Joel Tepper, UNC received the only new Special Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in GI cancer. This award complements the long-standing Breast Cancer SPORE, both of which are very dependant on the cross-discipline efforts of multiple faculty members. Paul Godley, Director of the UNC Program on Ethnicity, Culture and Health Outcomes and the Carolina Community Network, received a grant in excess of \$700,000 annually to investigate and address health disparities among African Americans with cancer as compared to Caucasians with cancer. Division members have also been published in a number of high impact journals this year, including NEJM, JAMA, Blood, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, The Journal of Clinical Oncology, and The Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Our division continues to thrive through the energetic efforts of our faculty, the infusion of new faculty, and the support of the school and the state for the new hospital. Our biggest challenge is finding ways to accommodate the increasing patient load in the Gravelly building between now and 2009.

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