



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

GRAND ROUNDS
NO GRAND ROUNDS - Thursday, February 24, 2005

FROM DIVISIONS

- The January/February issue of the *Carolina Alumni Review* features an article on AIDS Research in Malawi. **David Brown**, M.D. and other faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases talk about their work in Africa. To read the article, go to [this link](#).
- **R. Balfour Sartor**, M.D., Gastroenterology and Hepatology, recently received the Margaret W. and Lorimer W. Midgette Distinguished Professorship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- OED Excellence in Teaching Series. "Educational Strategies for Building Learners'- Cultural Competency." Facilitators: Marco Aleman, M.D., Medicine, and Dain Vines, M.D., Family Medicine. Wednesday, March 2, 4-6pm, 238 MacNider.
- Health Sciences Library asks that you test and give input on a new online clinical information resource called [eMedicine](#). Your evaluation of this product is critical to the library's purchase decision. Test by March 31 and send comments via [online evaluation survey](#) or by email to diane_mckenzie@unc.edu.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

Back on track with our tour of the divisions - Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine is next.

This Division provides clinical care to a wide spectrum of patients with lung disease, ranging from genetic disorders like cystic fibrosis to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, to everything in between. **James F. Donohue** is in his third-year as chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and works with 22 outstanding faculty members in all the missions of teaching, research and patient care.

In the area of teaching, this division has had 31 consecutive years of funding of NIH Training grants. Three-four new sub-specialty fellows are brought in each year and many of these same fellows, upon completion of the program, receive funding to continue their research at UNC. Fellows have the advantage of receiving additional training in many areas: pulmonary medicine and critical care as well as certification in sleep medicine. A substantial number of faculty members at UNC, and across the U.S., were at one time, trainees on this training grant. The division also coordinates a variety of teaching endeavors, from core lectures to second-year medical students, to teaching conferences for our house staff and on to specialty-specific conferences that attract attendees from across the campus. For house staff, one of their most intense, yet favorite, rotations is their critical care experience with Drs. **Yankaskas**, **Carson** and colleagues.

As in many of our divisions, there is no practical division between patient care and teaching, and this is certainly the case in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Faculty, fellows and residents see patients in many inpatient and outpatient settings. **James Yankaskas** directs the critical care services and the Medical Progressive Care Unit, a Step-down unit. **Patricia Rivera**, together with colleagues in oncology and surgery, has developed a superb multidisciplinary thoracic oncology program which is nationally recognized for patient care and a highlight of the UNC Healthcare System. **Brian Boehlecke** directs the sleep medicine unit and is in charge of the Office of Employee Health and Occupational Health. The Division is nationally recognized for many special areas of expertise: 1. cystic fibrosis (**Richard Boucher**); 2. alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (**James Donohue**); 3. sarcoidosis (**James Donohue** and **Stephen Tilley**); 4. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease [COPD] (**James Donohue**); 5. multidisciplinary thoracic oncology (**M. Patricia Rivera**); and 6. lung transplant program (**Peadar Noone** and **Isabelle Neuringer**).

Research within the division is intimately intertwined with the Cystic Fibrosis Research Center (CF) and with the Center of Environmental Medicine, Lung and Asthma & Biology (CEMLAB). **Richard Boucher** is Co-Chief of the Division and CF Center Director. The CF Center continues to be at the top of the list world-wide in CF research funding and critical innovations, and Dr. Boucher is listed as one of the top 10 NIH leading investigators. **Mike Knowles** has become an international leader in the application of modern genetic and genomic approaches to human disease, in his case towards better understanding of the etiology and response to therapy of multi-genic lung diseases. **Shannon Carson, Scott Donaldson, Larry Johnson**, and a host of others, form the backbone of this very strong investigative group.

UNC is one of the largest research entities in the field of COPD with numerous clinical trials being done on new bronchodilators, quality of life instruments as well as physiologic studies. **James Donohue** himself is a widely recognized expert in this area, often being called to testify for the FDA, or other governmental organizations, in this important area.

Today's column is really just an introduction to our Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. There is far more excellent work being done than I have space to tell you about, and we are indeed fortunate to have individuals of such a high caliber in this and our other divisions. Until next week...

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