



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

M&M/GRAND ROUNDS
Thursday, February 10, 2005, 7:30 AM
Clinic Auditorium

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Assistant Professor
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Could This be Arsenic Poisoning?
How to Recognize Possible Elder Abuse and Mistreatment

FROM DIVISIONS

- The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is holding their Quincentenary celebration that will be organized jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The meeting will feature two named lectures. Both of these prestigious lectures will be given by members of the UNC Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division. Dr. **David Ransohoff** will give the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Quincentenary Lecture on Colon Cancer Screening and Dr. **Balfour Sartor** will give the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Al Hammadi Lecture. The fact that both of the named lectures at the Royal College will be given by members of the GI Division speaks to the international reputation of this group. The fact that the Royal College is having their 500th anniversary is impressive as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology:** The ABC's of GI Disease. April 1-3, Friday Center. Information and registration, go to: www.med.unc.edu/cme/
- Researchers note: **NIH Policy announced on Late Submission of Grant Applications.** grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-05-030.html

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

As I discussed in previous newsletters, over the next month or so, the five year review of the Department of Medicine and my leadership, will be completed. An important part of this process is putting together a document for the review committee which is called a "self-study" document. We are just putting the finishing touches on this document and I thought I would reflect on my thoughts today in the newsletter, as I think this is very relevant to everyone in the department.

First, let me just say that this is just the latest in a long line of complex assignments that Rosemary Simpson has taken on with her usual incredible energy, exceptional organizational skills and always-

present good cheer. Many of you put a tremendous amount of work into this document, as did the team in the central office who collected much of the data requested by the review committee. Rosemary had lots of help this weekend typing and pulling the document together: **Glenda Foushee, Jeremy Powell, and Katie O'Brien** were all hard at it and did whatever it took to get the job done.

The result is a superb review of the past and present status of the Department of Medicine. Once this is all completed, we will be making it available on-line, through the departmental website so that anyone can review it.

The document contains much information about the fiscal health of the department, where we stand in our clinical, research and educational missions, and our goals for the future. In keeping with the decentralized organizational structure of our department, the Chiefs did their usual wonderful work in preparing overviews of each of their divisions. These divisional summaries provide much in-depth information vital to understanding our Department of Medicine.

Like all clinical departments here, and at other academic medical centers, we face challenges for the future as the health care dollar is eroded by increasing costs and administrative overhead. Moreover, often initiatives that are very important for the UNC Health Care System, for instance providing increased capacity in primary care, or in poorly reimbursed specialties, are costly to the Department of Medicine, but necessary. Like other research-intensive departments, the concurrent anticipated decrease in the rate of NIH growth presents an additional level of complexity for our future.

In this document, I have made every effort to clarify those hurdles we see that are generic, and those specific for departments of medicine and our department, in particular. Major issues for us include: 1) the need for additional space, not only for the growth of programs initiated within the last five years but also to provide needed growth for a number of highly successful long-standing programs within the department; 2) innovative solutions to improving the efficiency of our clinical operations and similarly innovative funding mechanisms that serve the interests of the UNC Health Care System and UNC Hospitals, but also to provide needed resources for the Department of Medicine; and 3) how we will develop novel approaches to support our research programs during the next several years when, without a concerted effort, it may be difficult to maintain NIH support at our current levels.

My final assessment is that this is an outstanding department of medicine. During my tenure, thanks to the development funding from the School of Medicine and the Hospital, we have had the opportunity to build new programs and add a substantial number of top-flight faculty. However, as emphasized in the self-study, and as I would like to re-emphasize here, the success of our department has far more to do with extraordinary quality of the faculty and leadership over the past four decades than it does with the last four years. Simply put, with the trajectory of this department was, and remains, outstanding, in largest part due to the long list of terrific faculty and staff and I felt an important goal of this self-study was to enumerate these strengths for you.

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