



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

GRAND ROUNDS
Thursday, May 5, 2005, 7:30 AM
Clinic Auditorium

David Isenberg, M.D.,
ARC Diamond Jubilee Professor of Rheumatology
University College of London

Lupus - Its Origins and Outcomes

FROM DIVISIONS

- **Cam Patterson, M.D.**, Professor, Cardiology, co-edited a book entitled, "Ubiquitin-Proteasome Protocols", published by Humana Press, April 2005. For details, go to: www.humanapress.com/Index.pasp
- **Tom Shea, M.D.**, has been nominated to run as UNC's representative to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Man of the Year contest. This means that he must raise more money than anyone else in the Triangle. To help Tom reach his goal, Tom needs your help. Please go to: medicine.med.unc.edu/patient/moty_1ls.htm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Black Student Movement has given the Diabetes Care Center a money donation** to be used for research.
- WebCIS 2.5 is now in use, featuring creation and routing of an electronic inpatient consult note. For more: medicine.med.unc.edu/uncpa/webcis.doc

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

Every once and awhile, I need to bring up an issue we deal with administratively and this week I thought I would outline the University policies on consulting. Consulting and the use of University resources have attracted increasing scrutiny here, largely as a result of the national focus on this topic. Many of our faculty have important relationships with private industry and other entities and consult with these organizations. In general, these relationships bring much to the university, as well as the individual, and allow us to be where we are - a leader in medical research.

By "consulting," I refer to any paid external activity you engage in that involves application of your professional knowledge, experience or abilities. "Consulting" does not include rendering of patient care (including expert testimony) by clinical faculty, nor does it include compensated external activity that does not involve your professional knowledge or expertise. (In other words, we don't need to approve your opening a pizza parlor!) In addition, "secondary duties" such as service to

professional associations and learned societies; membership on professional review or advisory panels; presentation of lectures or papers; and participation in seminars and conferences, do not constitute "consulting."

As all of you know who consult, there are required forms that must be signed off by me before your consulting project begins. I need to know what the activity is and that the amount of time you propose to spend on it is reasonable in light of your primary obligations to the University. (This is a separate and distinct process from the annual conflict of interest statements that we all must complete. Believe it or not, we have great difficulty in collecting the COI forms. Yes, I say that "tongue-in-cheek" since it isn't easy to collect forms from over 300 faculty for any reason. But the conflict of interest forms are as important for you as they are for the university, so when this request comes to you, please respond promptly.)

The specific form that must be completed before beginning external consulting is called "External Professional Activities for Pay Form." It can be found at the following url: <http://www.unc.edu/policies/externalpolicy.pdf>. You are also required to update the form each July 1 to summarize the past fiscal year's consulting activities.

You should exercise caution about using University resources and facilities in consulting projects. It is permissible to use all kinds of university services, facilities, equipment, supplies or personnel - if they fall into the category of items that are freely available for use by the general public. Otherwise, you are not permitted to use UNC property - software, copy machines, telephone, letterhead, postage, staff time, equipment, supplies, space, vehicles, etc. - for external consulting. In addition, industry consultants cannot use University space to do business. And we all recognize that because of conflict of interest concerns it is not appropriate to involve your students and trainees in consulting activities without prior written approval.

Many of you routinely donate your consulting income to the University for use by your Division, sometimes by having the income paid directly to the University for deposit in a trust account. You should be aware that the IRS considers that consulting income to be your taxable personal income even if it is paid directly to the University. Provided you do not control the expenditure of the donated funds by the University, you can probably take a charitable deduction for the donation of your consulting income to the University, but you should consult your tax advisor for more information.

If you have further questions about consulting policies at UNC, please contact David Parker at the Office of University Counsel, 962-7246.

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