



## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

**Grand Rounds**  
**Thursday, January 19, 2006, 12:00 Noon**  
**Clinic Auditorium**

**Chip Rich, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Surgery

### North Carolina's Coordinated Medical Response to Hurricane Katrina

## FYI

- Drs. Orringer and Weinberger are offering an Information Session for the Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Career Development (K12) Program (MCRCDP) on Mon., Jan. 23, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Clinic Auditorium. Application materials available [online](#), deadline is March 1, 2006. The MCRCDP will fund young scholars with a career commitment in clinical research.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The North Carolina Biotechnology Center is hosting a conference, "Nanobiotechnology in North Carolina," on Fri., Jan. 20, 2006. [Information](#) and [registration](#) online.
- The Conversational Living Room is a new social and scientific gathering for researchers from various disciplines to discuss projects. On Tues., Feb. 21, researchers will discuss health disparities from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., in the Hooker Atrium, School of Public Health.

## FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

In today's column I'd like to highlight the national and international recognition of two of our faculty, **Dr. John Buse** and **Dr. Robert Sandler**. John is currently Vice President of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and will become President-elect in August. He will then serve as President for part of 2007 and all of 2008. Bob was just elected Vice President of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) for a one-year term. Following that he will become President-elect for a year and then serve President for the following year.

The ADA and AGA are two of the most prominent medical professional societies in the world. Along with the American Heart Association and American Cancer Society, they are the largest research and education organizations in medicine, each with around 15,000 members world-wide. The President of each society is selected from among the most accomplished leaders and contributors in the field. Each organization has active programs for physician and patient education, career development, and

research support. Outside of the NIH, these societies contribute more to research, advocacy, and educational efforts than practically any other organizations, and their impact on the public probably exceeds that of the NIH. (For more information visit: <http://www.diabetes.org/> and <http://www.gastro.org/>.)

To have two such individuals within our department, at the same time, is nothing short of spectacular, particularly when you consider all of the potential candidates in other medical schools, teaching hospitals, and research institutes. This speaks not only for the accomplishments of Drs. Buse and Sandler, but also to those accomplishments of their divisions. To tell you the truth, I can't recall any time in my history of academic medicine that two major medical society Presidents have come from the same Department of Medicine. It's great for John and Bob, for their divisions, for our department, for the SOM, and for the UNC HCS. It's almost as good as winning the NCAA Basketball Championship. I'm sure there will be much press about this in coming months and over the next year or two, but I thought you'd be interested in hearing this now. Until next week...

Questions or submissions, contact [katie\\_obrien@med.unc.edu](mailto:katie_obrien@med.unc.edu).