



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Grand Rounds
Thursday, October 12, 2006, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Kim L. Isaacs, MD

Associate Professor
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

John B. Martinie, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor
Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery
Department of Surgery

M. Andrew Greganti, MD

Professor and Vice Chair
Division of Geriatrics

M&M Conference: Evaluation and Management of Acute Colitis

FYI

- Five new funding opportunities are provided by the NIH under the [Genes and Environment Initiative](#) (GEI) Exposure Biology Program. The GEI is a four-year, NIH-wide program, which aims to accelerate understanding of genetic and environmental contributions to health and disease. Information for each of the [funding opportunities](#) is available on the [GEI-Exposure Biology Program](#) website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nominations for [Nursing Recognition Awards](#) will be accepted until Oct. 20. The awards recognize members of the nursing staff who demonstrate excellence in nursing practice, show evidence of caring and compassion, and express a commitment to teaching future health care professionals. Clinical faculty members or housestaff may submit nominations. Medical center employees may write support letters.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

The world of medicine continues to become more integrated. For many of you, this doesn't come as news. Not only is our faculty involved in global health in many different disciplines, but faculty from schools across UNC-CH have a broad interest in global health. This week I wanted to highlight this topic and share examples of initiatives that UNC faculty are involved in. I hope to share more information about what our faculty members are doing in this area, and look forward to hearing back from you. We'll plan to follow up with a column on this topic in the coming weeks.

When I last solicited newsletter columns ideas, there were many responses which had to do with Chancellor Moeser's "[State of the University](#)" speech on September 6th. The Chancellor announced the establishment of a UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases and named our own Mike Cohen as the institute's director. Dr. Cohen brings with him years of experience through his involvement with the infectious diseases programs in China and Malawi, as well as his broader interests in global health. The institute is still in the early stages of development at this time. Dr. Cohen is only one of our many faculty, in both infectious diseases and other disciplines, with interest in international health issues.

A few weeks ago, Sid Smith in Cardiology continued his international work at the World Congress of Cardiology (WCC) in Barcelona, Spain. The WCC is a joint meeting of the World Heart Association and the European Society for Cardiology. The 2006 event brought together 133,000 attendees from all 189 countries. It was probably the largest meeting of cardiovascular disease experts and practitioners ever assembled, and certainly the largest to focus on cardiovascular health research and health care delivery in both developed and developing countries. The WCC meets every two years and provides a unique setting for simultaneous discussion on basic science research presentations from the USA, Western Europe, and other developed countries and health care research from countries with developing economies where 80% of the mortality from CVD now occurs. In developed countries, high-tech research and evolving science, such as gene therapy, are leading to treatment strategies for the wealthier countries world that are not possible for patients in the developing world. Heart transplants or bypass surgeries are not viable options so instead new cost-effective strategies of health care are needed. With this in mind, more aggressive preventative care was a strong theme throughout the WCC. This is not a unique circumstance for cardiovascular diseases. As seen across the disciplines, prevention will give you more bang for your buck and our ties to other countries are of great help as we think about ways to improve prevention for our patients here in North Carolina.

I welcome your insights on the important topic of global health and would be happy to share with everyone information on the work you are doing in these areas. Thanks and see you next week.

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