



Newsletter

February 15, 2006

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Grand Rounds
Thursday, February 16, 2006, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Susan Braithwaite, MD, FACP, FACE

Professor

Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Thyroid function tests and thyroid function in hospitalized patients

FROM DIVISIONS

- An essay by resident physician Andrew Bomback, MD, titled "Becoming a Physician: The Physical Exam and the Sense of Smell" was published in the Jan. 26 edition of the New England Journal of Medicine.
- The NIH has moved the R01 submission date to Feb. 1, 2007 for Electronic Application Submission. The <u>notice</u> includes a revised timeline for the R01 and all subsequent mechanism submissions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The 30th Annual Internal Medicine Conference, April 5 - 7, at the Friday Center. <u>Brochure</u> and <u>Registration</u> online.
- Surgery Grand Rounds "Plagues, Prevention, Preparedness & Politics: The Life of the Surgeon General," by Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS, Surgeon General of the United States. Wed., Feb. 22, 7:15 a.m., Clinic Auditorium.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

This week I'd like to talk to you about the Division of Geriatrics (our newest division) and the Program on Aging. Led by Jan Busby-Whitehead, the division and POA are making tremendous strides forward many areas.

Historically, there has been little formal emphasis on medical problems specific to the elderly. Education has been a central focus of the division and the POA, and the group is now in its third year of a four-year \$2 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. UNC was one of only 20 schools in the United States to receive this grant. With the grant funding, the division has been responsible for incorporating geriatrics into all levels of the undergraduate and graduate medical school curricula and for training community physicians in geriatrics.

Ellen Roberts, Coordinator of Geriatric Medical Education, and Dr. Busby-Whitehead have been

working diligently on the geriatrics curricula, which has developed over time with the help of many physicians in many departments, including our own: family medicine, psychiatry, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, and social medicine. Working in conjunction with the Office of Educational Development, new selectives and electives are being developed for the third and fourth year undergraduate curricula in the areas of End of Life and Palliative Care, Senior Women's Health, and Cognitive/Behavioral Neurology, Aging, and Dementia, and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI).

The DOM and Family Medicine have already introduced CQI to residents in the care of geriatrics patients by developing CQI modules for delirium in the hospital setting as well as in the outpatient setting. In addition, DOM and Family Medicine residency programs are working together to develop CQI modules in elder abuse, osteoporosis, and prevention of venous thromboembolic events.

Our geriatricians are also out in the community practices with a new web-based "Lunch and Learn" series to teach geriatric issues and geriatric syndromes. Community physicians will soon be able to access the materials discussed at the "Lunch and Learn" on the POA website. The Geriatrics Practicing Leaders (GPL) program has trained 60 community physicians in Incontinence and Falls Risk Assessment in the past two and a half years.

Aging is something that affects all of us and we are fortunate to have leading programs in education, clinical care, and research in geriatrics. I thank Jan, the division, and the POA for all of their accomplishments and continuing work in these areas.

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